

Celebrating Christ Becoming a Man, Fulfilling the Ram Caught in the Thicket

Friday, September 11, 2026, 6–7:40 PM at Murray and Susan's home
Evening beginning Yom Teruah, Rosh Hashanah

In the greatest event in human history, Christ Jesus became human for us, destined to be our redeemer. **On that day, “although He existed in the form of God,” He “did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men” (Phil 2:6–7).**¹ Today's gathering celebrates that great event!

Principal anniversary

Simultaneously, “a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; and she was with child” (Rev 12:1–2a).² **Mary conceived Jesus!** Both occurred at the evening prayers on the day of blowing the shofar, the ram's horn trumpet, symbolizing that the Lord would provide a deliverer: Yom Teruah, Wednesday, September 11, 3 BC. Just like the Lord provided a substitute for Isaac, He provided a substitute for us: Jesus, “caught in the thicket of humanity.”

Jesus' conception on Yom Teruah probably occurred close to when Mary arrived at Zacharias' (the father of John the Baptist) and his wife Elizabeth's house: **Luke 1:41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² And she cried out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ “And how has it *happened* to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? ⁴⁴ “For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. ⁴⁵ “And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.” ⁴⁶ And Mary said: My soul exalts the Lord, ⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. ⁴⁸ “For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; ... ⁵⁴ “He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy, ⁵⁵ As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his descendants forever.”**

About three and one-half months later, a couple of weeks after Mary departed his house, Zacharias' speech returned after naming John, prophesying **“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of David His servant” (Luke 1:68–69).**³

¹ NASB-95 for this and all quotations, excluding added purple parenthetical text and underlining. *Italics* indicate words not in the original languages but inferred in translation.

² The astronomy alignment described in Rev 12:1 pins the date and time of Christ's conception to 2 hours and 44 minutes before the Jerusalem sunset on the Day of Trumpets 3 BC (section 2.2.1 and figures 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 in *Finding the Messiah, What the Magi Saw and Much More*, Murray Thorson, 2023). This date is further collaborated by (1) Christ's birth 279 days later during Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks, with that region's most spectacular merger of Jupiter and Venus ever, (2) Jupiter's trace in the background stars during Mary's pregnancy matching Jacob and Balaam's prophecies, and (3) the astronomy alignment as Jesus was presented to the Lord at the temple 40 days after His birth matching the predecessor event when the men of Israel were presented to the Lord at Mount Sinai.

³ This prophecy of Zacharias refers to Jesus, not John, since Jesus was from the house of David, but John was from the house of Aaron. The term *horn* (κέρας) is an animal's horn, such as the shofar, the ram's horn blown in the temple services; and, in this context, refers to the shofar repetitively blown on Yom Teruah at Christ's conception.

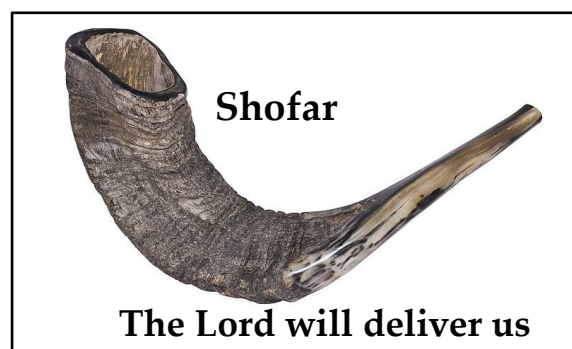
Probable dual anniversary

About 2,053 years before Jesus' conception (assuming Isaac was 13 years old when Genesis 22 occurred), God told Abraham, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you" (Gen 22:2; site of the later Jerusalem temple).

The whole sequence, including Abraham seeing his son as good as dead for three days, pictured humanity's coming deliverance through Jesus—the Son of God, seen as good as dead for three days. Deliverance came when the angel of the LORD interceded and "Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son" (Gen 22:13).



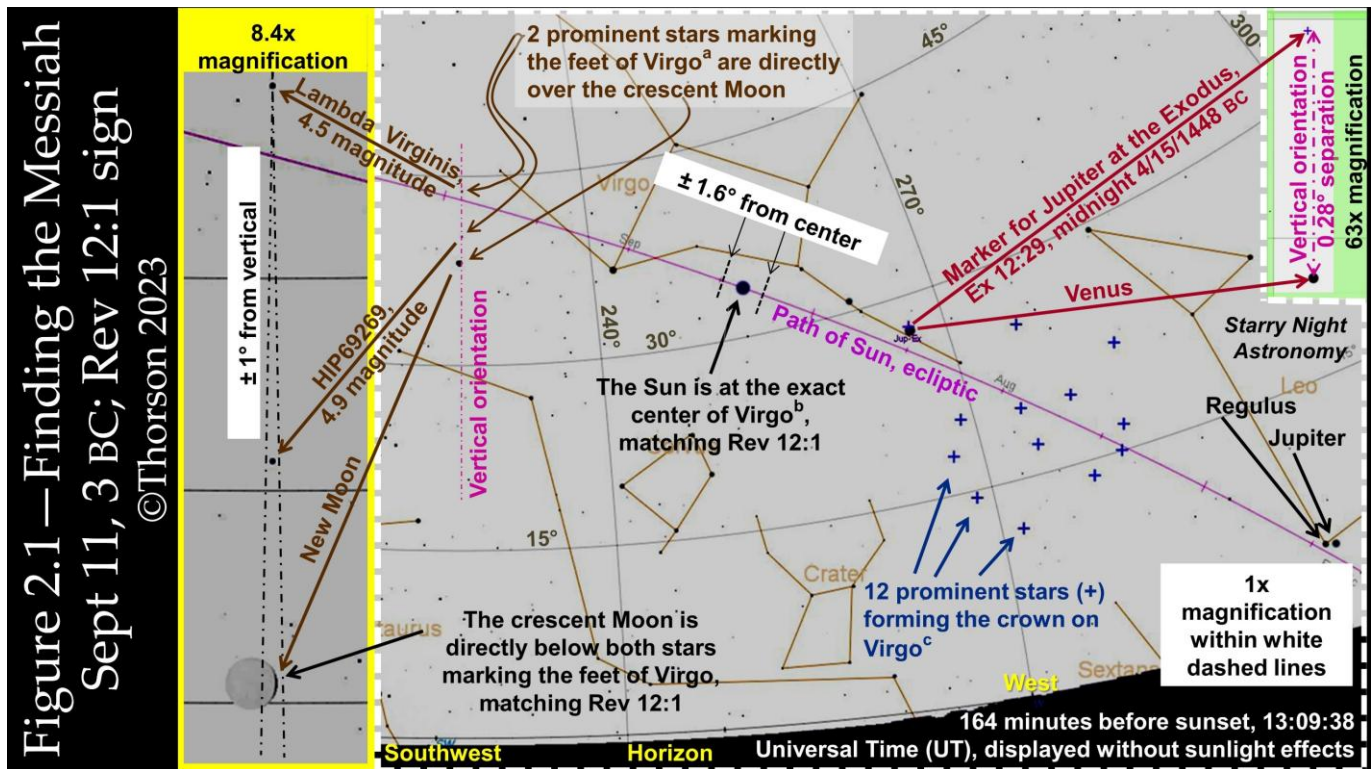
More than 600 years later, God designated Yom Teruah, the first day of the seventh lunar month counting from spring, as a rest day for Israel, "a reminder by blowing of trumpets (teruah of shofar), a holy convocation ... you shall present an offering by fire to the LORD" (Lev 23:24-25). The whole sequence calls on God for help and serves as a reminder "of you (Israel) before God" (Num 10:10).



The original ram caught in the thicket probably occurred on the same date (the first day of the seventh lunar month counting from spring), setting up the typology that Christ fulfilled.

Jesus became human so He could become our substitute, just as the ram became caught in the thicket as Isaac's substitute. Jesus "humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:8)—for us! At the midnight before His crucifixion, 34 years and 6-1/2 months after His conception, His prayer displayed His humility: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will." ... "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done." (Matt 26:39b, 42b)





^a Sections 2.2.1.1 and 8.11 describe locating the feet of Virgo. Figures 2.9, 5.11, 5.12, and 8.8 illustrate.

^b Section 2.2.1.3 describes locating the center of Virgo. Figures 2.9, 5.11, and 5.12 illustrate the alignment of Virgo's head and feet relative to her midpoint with references to sections that further describe the bases for each designation.

^c Section 2.2.1.2 describes locating the crown of Virgo. Figures 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, and 5.12 illustrate.

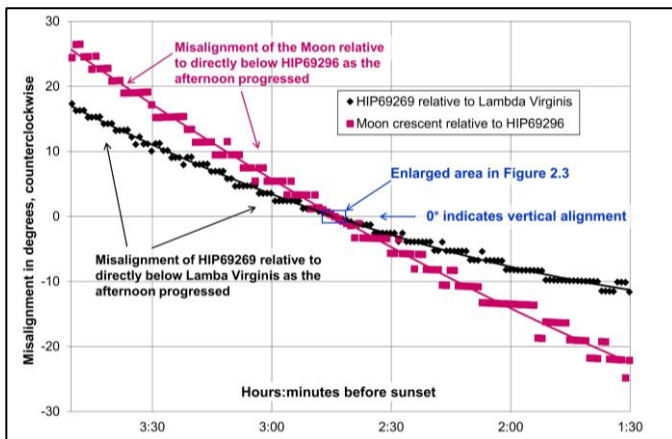


Figure 2.2, above. Angle between the stars of Virgo's feet (Lambda Virginis and HIP69269) and the crescent Moon on September 11, 3 BC, viewed from Jerusalem. ©Thorson 2023.

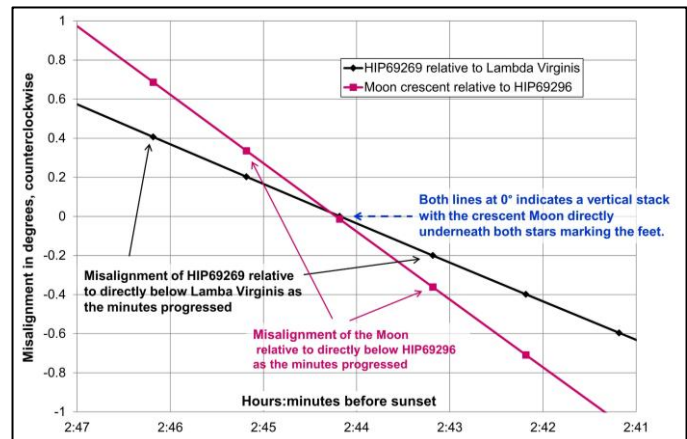
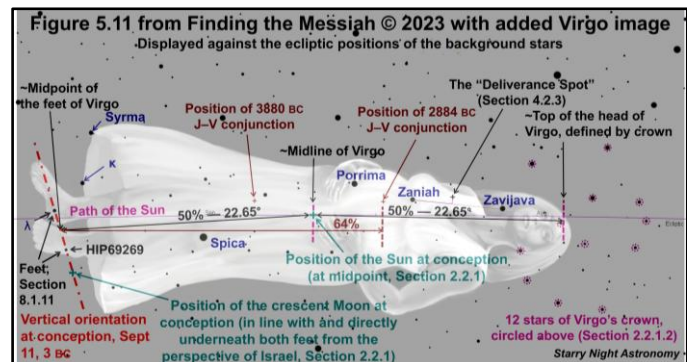
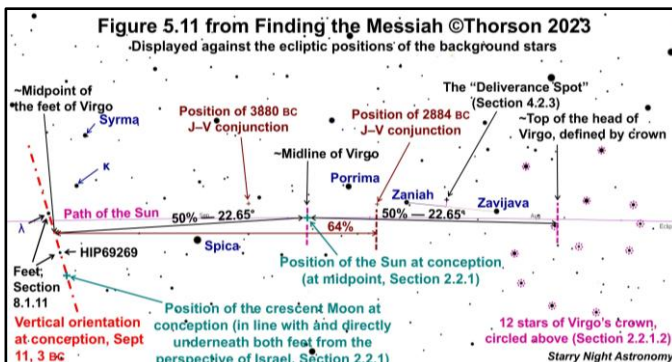


Figure 2.3, above. Exact time of vertical alignment between the stars of Virgo's feet (Lambda Virginis and HIP69269) and the crescent Moon on September 11, 3 BC, viewed from Jerusalem. ©Thorson 2023.



All sing *Immanuel* by Michael Card:

A sign shall be given
A virgin will conceive
A human baby bearing undiminished Deity
The glory of the nations
A light for all to see
And hope for all who will embrace His warm
reality

[Chorus]
Immanuel
Our God is with us
And if God is with us
Who could stand against us?
Our God is with us
Immanuel

For all those who live in the shadow of death
A glorious light has dawned
For all those who stumble in the darkness
Behold your light has come

[Chorus]
Immanuel
Our God is with us
And if God is with us
Who could stand against us?

Our God is with us
Immanuel

So what will be your answer?
Oh, will you hear the call
Of Him who did not spare His Son
But gave Him for us all?
On Earth there is no power
There is no depth or height
That could ever separate us
From the love of God in Christ

[Chorus]
Immanuel
Our God is with us
And if God is with us
Who could stand against us?
Our God is with us
Immanuel
Immanuel
Our God is with us
If God is with us
Who could stand against us?
Our God is with us
Immanuel