

December 26, 2021

Jesus Is Waiting

Revelation 3:20-4:11

“You can’t see the stars if you’re not looking up.” My husband is fond of saying this. He’s an amateur astronomer, and he loves looking up. He loves sitting in the back yard on a cold December night at 11:00 PM waiting to catch a glimpse of a meteor shower or to see Venus dancing (slowly) with a crescent moon. If it’s early enough in the evening, he’ll run inside, give me a full account of what he’s seen, fail at convincing me to go outside, and race back out. December has been full of these accounts. It’s been an active month in the night sky, and I missed all of it. My husband, however, did not. He was looking up.

“December 2021 is full of celestial events. In this month, Venus, Saturn, and Jupiter will appear in the night sky. Celestial events that will take place in December 2021 include the passing of a comet, the appearance of Venus, Saturn, and Jupiter and the moon this week and Geminid meteors showers.”¹ There was even a total solar eclipse! (Granted, it was only visible from Antarctica, but that’s still pretty cool.) December is also when we *finally* celebrate Christmas and the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. The waiting is over! The time is here! The bright guiding star is in the sky, guiding shepherds to the manger.

In order to follow that star, all we have to do is look up. Jesus is there waiting, knocking. The student book author writes, “During the four weeks of Advent, we have anticipated the coming of the Christ Child. But we have also spent time reflecting on our anticipation of his second coming. The church has been waiting for over 2,000 years, but this text reminds us Jesus stands at the door of each heart, patiently waiting, every day. He knocks because he wants us to invite him in.”² It’s time to open the door.

1. Have you observed any remarkable astronomical events? How did seeing them make you feel?
2. Now that the wait for Christmas is over, what are you most looking forward to?
3. What are some ways you can “open the door” to Christ in the coming year?

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¹From [latestly.com/technology/science/december-2021-celestial-events-from-moon-visiting-venus-saturn-and-jupiter-to-geminid-meteor-shower-list-of-astronomical-events-for-skywatchers-3139430.html](https://www.latestly.com/technology/science/december-2021-celestial-events-from-moon-visiting-venus-saturn-and-jupiter-to-geminid-meteor-shower-list-of-astronomical-events-for-skywatchers-3139430.html).

²From *Adult Bible Studies*, Winter 2021–2022, by Gary Thompson (Cokesbury, 2021); page 47.