

Biblical Astronomy

November/December 2010

Editor – Robert Scott Wadsworth <> P.O. Box 2272, Oregon City, OR 97045
Phone (503) 655-7430 <> e-mail – starguy1@comcast.net <> Website – www.biblicalastronomy.com

NEW MOON REPORTS

Nehemia Gordon from Jerusalem, Israel compiled the following New Moon Reports for the months of October and November 2010 and the beginning of the Eighth and Ninth Biblical Months.

October – “On Saturday October 9, 2010 the new moon was sighted from Israel. The moon was first sighted from Jerusalem by David Cachicas at 5:08pm and shortly thereafter by Nehemia Gordon, Yoel HaLevi, Klaus Binder, Rick Busenbark, Devorah Gordon, Willie Ondricek, and Peter Vandenbeukl. The moon was also sighted from Mevaseret Tziyon by Dina Marcus at 5:17pm and shortly thereafter by Avi Marcus.” Photos of the new moon over Jerusalem are posted at: <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=237156&id=371892568628>

November – “On Sunday Nov 7, 2010 the new moon was sighted from Israel. The moon was first sighted from Jerusalem by Devorah Gordon at 5:05pm. The moon was also sighted from elsewhere in Jerusalem by Willie Ondricek and Terry Telligman at 5:17 p.m.”

The next New Moon is expected to be visible from Jerusalem near sunset on December 7, 2010 when the moon will be 3.77% illuminated and 15.43° above the horizon at 5 minutes past sunset.

I know this newsletter is real late in getting to you. My stepfather fell asleep on November 14, and was gravely ill for about a week before that. I have just been able to gather my thoughts together at this time to write this issue of *Biblical Astronomy*. I was able to notify the online subscribers of my situation shortly after my stepfather fell asleep, but only now could I notify the postal subscribers. I have been doing ten

newsletters per year for a number of years, instead of twelve. This helps to make up the difference in increased postage fees and prices in paper, ink, envelopes and other supplies. I usually do a March/April issue, but this year hope to do one issue in March and the other in April to help make up for this double issue.

Thank you all who have sent e-mails to me with your condolences and prayers. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

MARS/ANTARES CONJUNCTION

The planet *Adom* (*Mars*) passed 4° above the star *Antares* in the constellation *Scorpius* on November 9, 2010. *Mars* passes *Antares* about every two years. When *Mars* goes into retrograde motion when it is close to *Antares* it can pass it up to three times while moving back and forth over the star. This year, *Mars* passes *Antares* only once. In one of its portrayals, *Adom* represents Michael the warrior angel. It can also represent blood and war. The name *Antares* means *rival of Mars*. *Ares* is the ancient name for *Mars*. Ant or Anti means rival or opposition such as in Antichrist. The name *Antares* also means *the wounding (of the enemy)*. The main theme of the Sign Scorpius is *The Redeemer's conflict*. The Hebrew name for this constellation is *Akrab*, which means *the conflict* or *war*.

It is the archangel Michael who with his angels, defeat the Dragon and his angels in Revelation 12, and casts the devil and his angels to the earth.

This will most certainly happen in the not so far future.

Chart 539 shows the position of *Mars* in *Scorpius* two days before its conjunction with *Antares*. This chart shows the position of the first crescent new moon, *Mars*, and *Mercury* at 5:17 pm as seen from Jerusalem on November 7, 2010. The

planet *Mercury* (*Catab*) represents the archangel Gabriel. Here the two archangels are seen above and below the crescent new moon at the start of the Ninth Biblical Month.

THE LION GIVES A SOFT ROAR

This year's annual Leonids meteor shower was pretty much a dud. At its peak on November 17, it only produced around 20 or fewer meteors per hour as seen under a dark sky from most areas on Earth and many of those were difficult to see because of the bright moonlight, at least for viewing before midnight.

The Leonid Meteor Shower peaks every year in the early morning hours on November 17. The radiant of the shower is in the head of Leo the Lion. In Hebrew this constellation is named *Arieh* and represents the *Lion of the Tribe of Judah*.



In some years, this meteor shower puts on a good to great show. In 1833 it rained down hundreds of meteors per second. In good years the Leonid's meteor rate is around 100 per hour. One estimate in 1833 was that 240,000 meteors fell in 15 minutes or close to a rate of one million meteors per hour. This meteor storm occurred over the United States. Most of those who viewed it were horrified. Many of the meteors were very bright and left large trails. I believe that most people would be horrified today to see such a spectacle. All the stars of heaven appeared to be falling from the sky.

This brings to mind what is written in the Scriptures concerning the stars falling from the heavens such as in Matthew 24:29 and Mark 13:25.

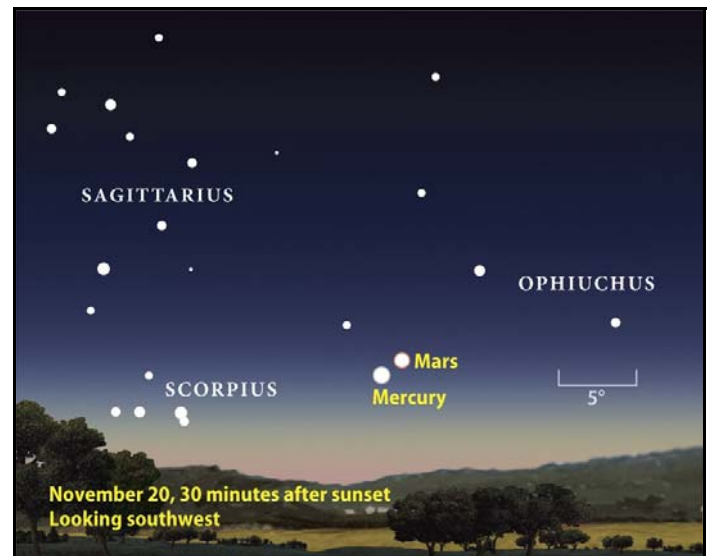
MARS AND MERCURY IN CONJUNCTION

On November 20, 2010 the planet *Catab* (*Mercury*) passed 1.7° south of *Adom* (*Mars*). This was the closest approach of the two planets in 2010.

Chart 540 shows the position of Mars and Mercury in the constellation Scorpius at the time of the conjunction as seen from Jerusalem in the early evening sky on November 20, 2010.

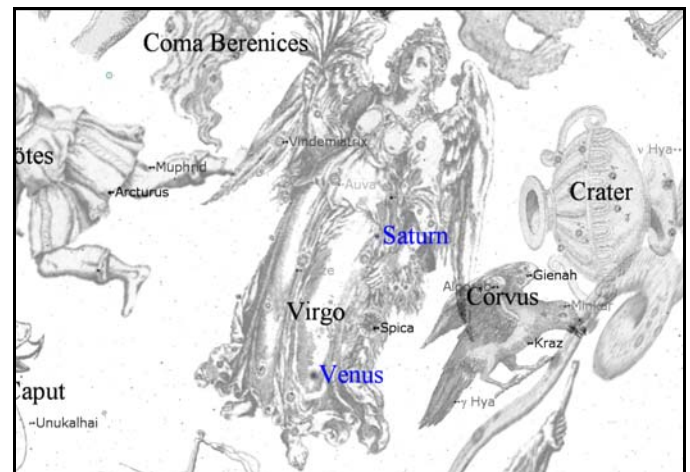
Perhaps Michael and Gabriel got together for a meeting on that day. At least the planets that represent them did.

The simulation of the event shown below is from Astronomy.com



VENUS AT GREATEST BRILLIANCY

Venus will be at its greatest brilliancy at magnitude -4.9 at 5:00 a.m. EST on December 4, 2010. It will be in *Bethulah* (*Virgo*) when this occurs as shown in the chart below.



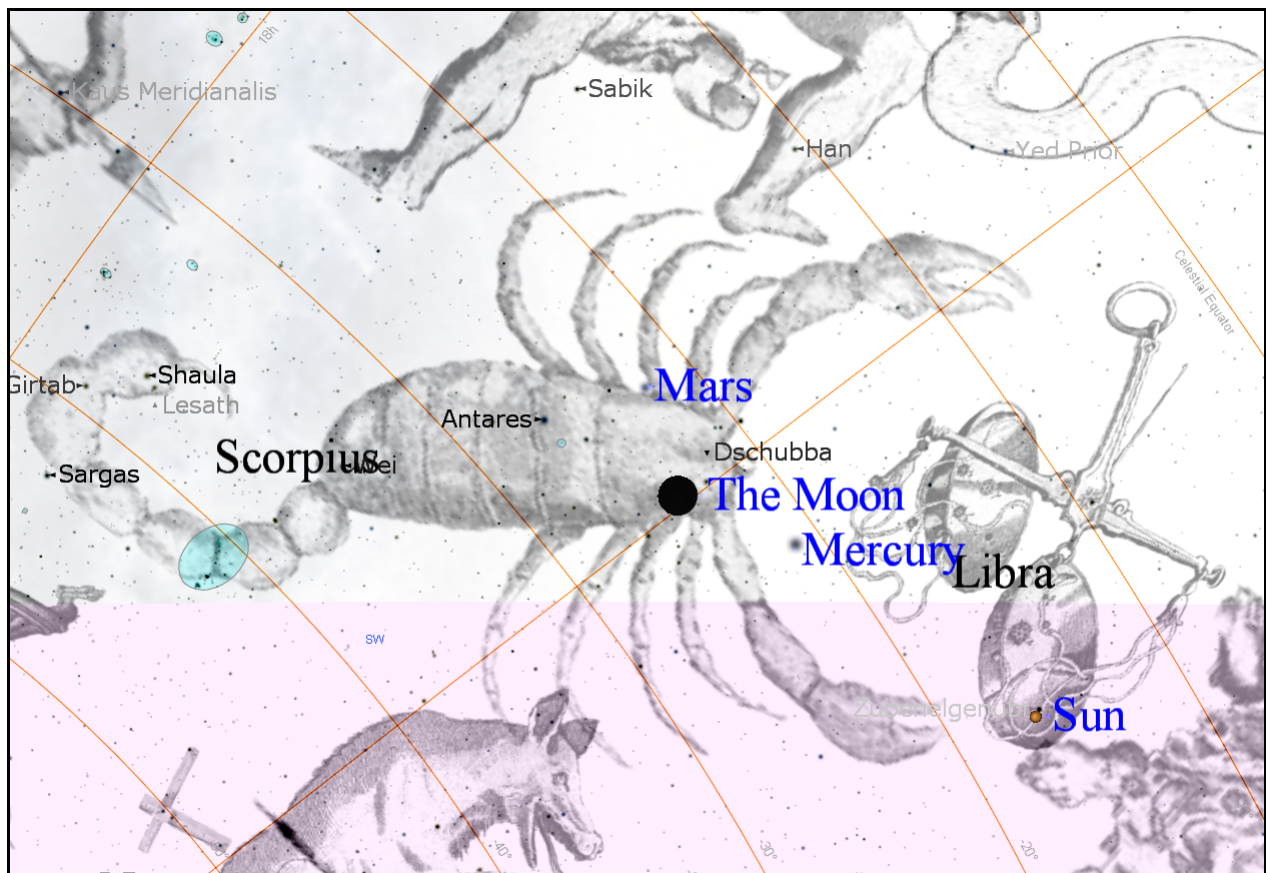


Chart 539 – First crescent New Moon, Mars and Mercury in Scorpius on November 7, 2010

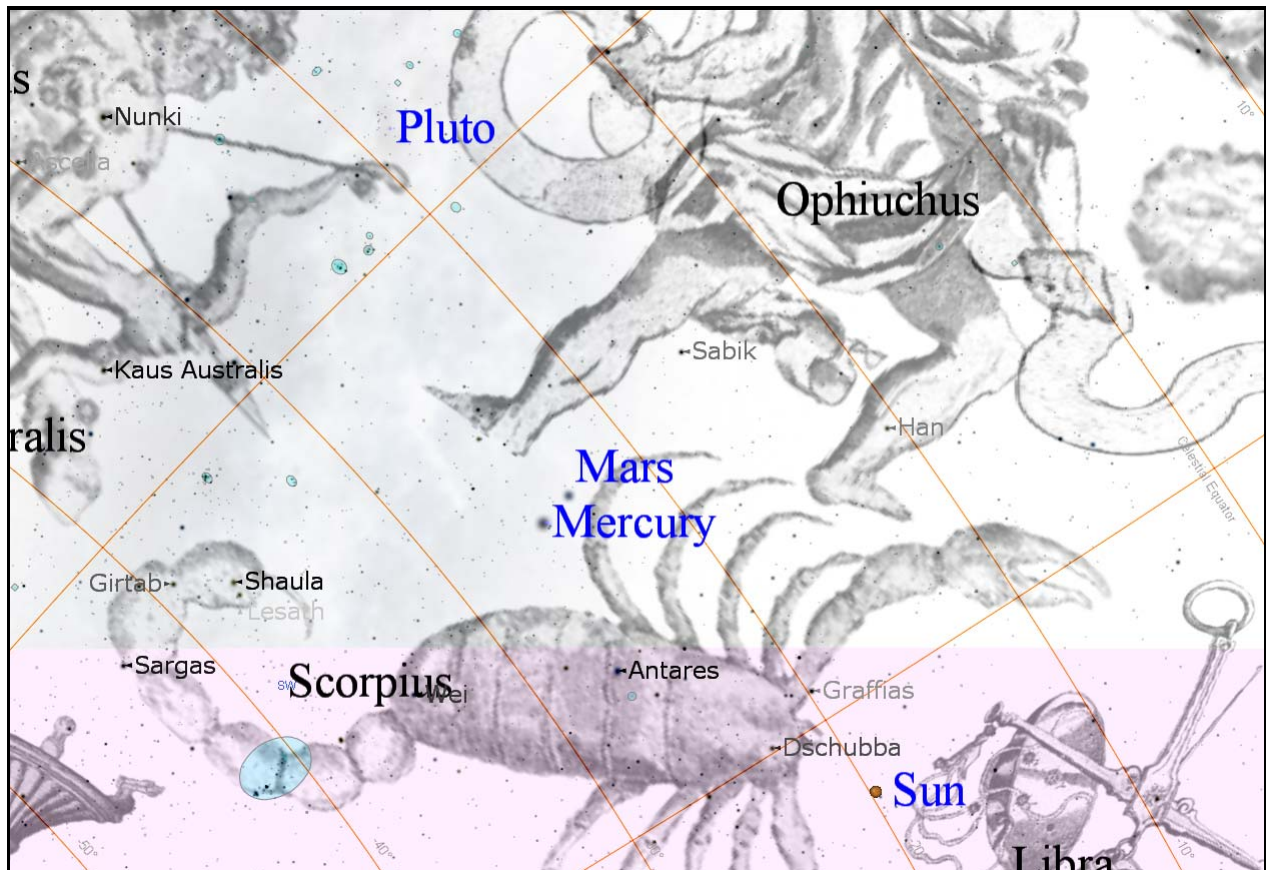


Chart 540 – Mars and Mercury in closest conjunction of the two planets for 2010 on Nov. 20

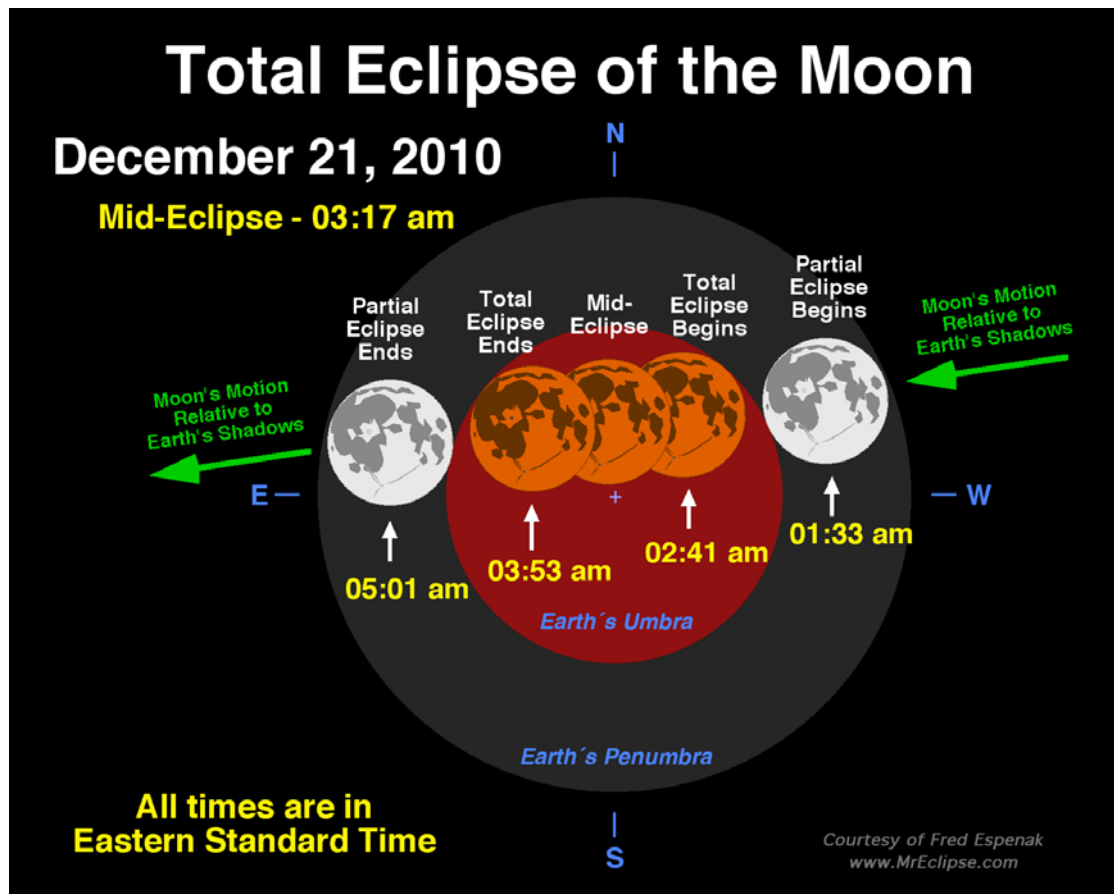


Chart 541 – Times and stages of the Total Lunar Eclipse on December 21, 2010

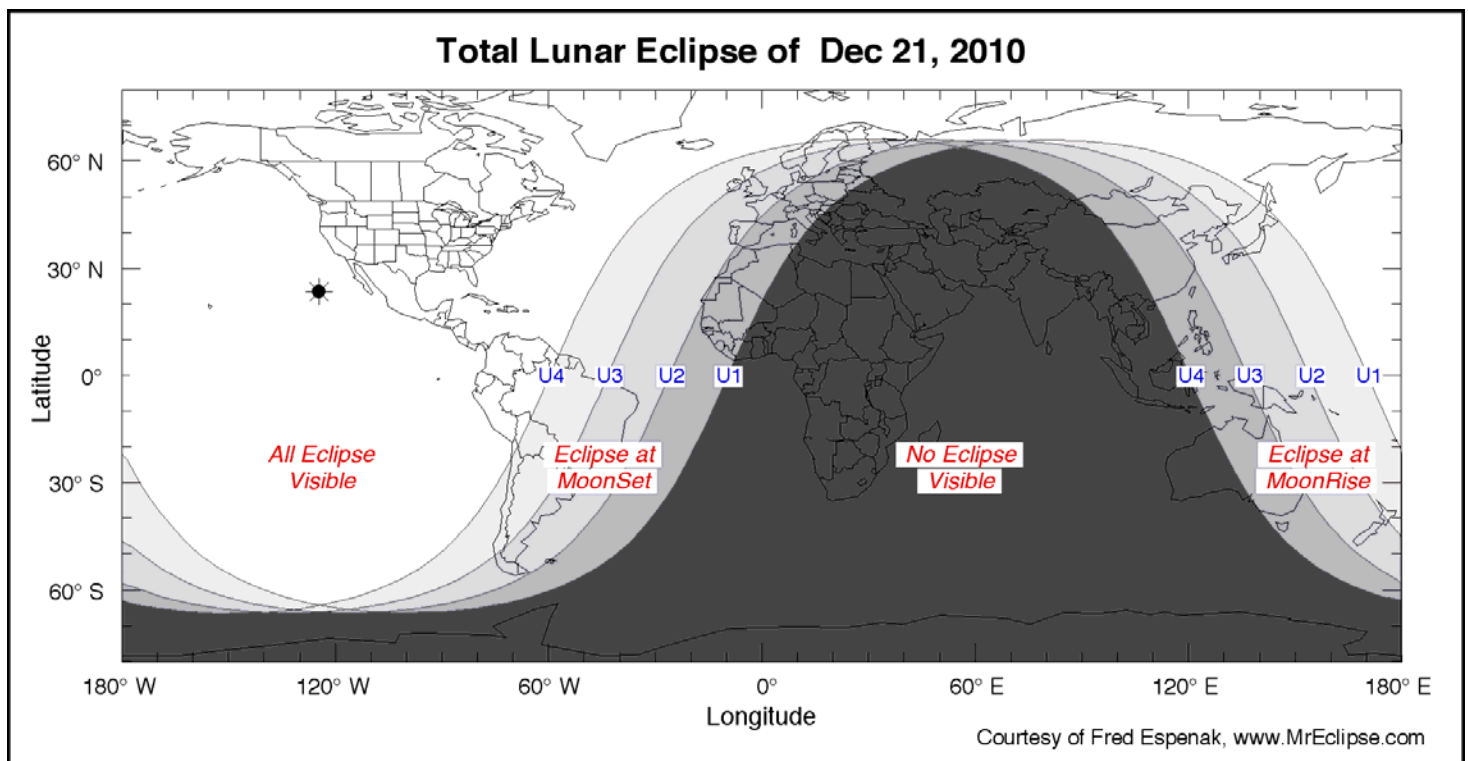


Chart 542 – Areas where the lunar eclipse will be visible either totally or partially on December 21, 2010. The black sun mark is where the eclipse will be seen at its darkest during its peak. It should appear reddish in color at its peak throughout most of the United States, though it will be at its darkest red or grayish black where the sun mark is.

TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE

There will be a total lunar eclipse that will be visible throughout all of North America on December 21, 2010. This is the first total lunar eclipse visible from North America since February 2008.

Chart 541 shows the stages and times for the stages of the eclipse for Eastern Standard Time. For those living in the Central Time Zone, subtract one hour for when you will see the stages of the eclipse in the chart. For Mountain Time subtract two hours and for Pacific Time subtract 3 hours.

The chart below shows the moon in the club of Orion at the peak of the eclipse as seen from Portland, Oregon at 12:17 a.m. PST.



From many areas the eclipse is visible, it will most likely appear reddish in color during its peak. It also may appear dark gray. It will be well worth your while to go outside to view this eclipse. Pray for clear skies.

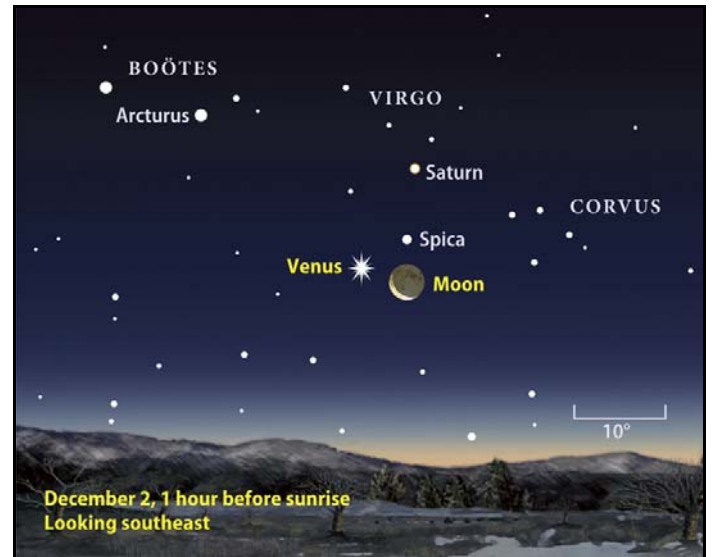
As you can see on **Chart 542**, this eclipse will not be visible from Israel.

A blood red eclipse can represent the atoning blood of Messiah or blood and war against the enemies of Yahweh. Here, the possible blood red moon is in the club of Orion. The picture of the head of Orion in the chart above is backwards. Orion should be looking at the Woolly hair area in the head of Taurus, which represents the wrath of Yahweh pushing or rushing forth against His enemies. The club of Orion is also an instrument of wrath and is like a double whammy on Yahweh's enemies.

Yahweh's enemies include all those who reject Messiah and His atoning blood. There will be blood on the club on December 21, 2010.

VENUS AND CRESCENT MOON

On December 31, Nogah (Venus) the Bright and Morning Star will be shining brightly next to a bright crescent moon in the early morning hours in the dawn sky about an hour before sunrise. A similar event occurred on December 2, 2010. The simulation below from Astronomy.com shows that event.



The event on December 31, should look very similar to the above event, except Venus and the crescent moon will be in Libra at that time and not in Virgo as seen in the simulation above.

COMET HARTLEY UPDATE

Comet Hartley put on a pretty good showing in October and November for binocular or telescope observer, reaching a peak magnitude of around magnitude 5.0. This brightness is within unaided eye visibility but for the average person, it is difficult to very difficult to find without the help of binoculars or telescopes. I was not able to see it due mostly to cloud cover throughout October and early November. Though I did not look intensely for the comet.

The following article on the comet by Kelly Beatty was posted on SkyandTelescope.com on November 4, 2010.

Mr. Hartley's Amazing Comet

"Today the Deep Impact spacecraft zipped past Comet 103P/Hartley 2 at a distance of about 435 miles (700 km) at 6:59:47 a.m. PDT (13:59:47

Universal Time). After confirming that the spacecraft had survived its 27,000-mile-per-hour brush with this icy interloper, the scientists and engineers who'd gathered at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California held their collective breath for about 20 minutes while waiting for the [first images](#) to be radioed to the ground.

Any apprehension quickly turned to joy, as the views revealed the craft's pinpoint targeting and crisp images of an elongated, irregularly shaped body spewing gas and dust from a plethora of jets.

Spacecraft have now photographed five comets at close range, and with a length of just 1¼ miles (2 km), Hartley 2 is the smallest. However, as investigator Jessica Sunshine (University of Maryland) noted today during a [press briefing](#), "It's the most interesting and, for its size, the most active."

Radar images acquired by Arecibo Observatory [last week](#) had prepared the mission scientists to expect an elongated body. But no one was anticipating such an unusual visage: the comet's two ends, both roughly textured, are the sources of perhaps dozens of individual jets, while the midsection looks completely smooth, as if covered deeply by a blanket of fine dust. "We have a lot of work to do to try to understand what's going on here," Sunshine admitted.

Project scientist Michael A'Hearn (University of Maryland) noted that images of the comet taken continuously since October 1st had shown periodic surges of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emanating from the nucleus. Judging from the close-ups, he says it's now clear that "one area on the comet is incredibly rich in dry ice, and that's what drags out the grains and produces all the phenomena that we see."

Unlike spacecraft that veritably drip with instrumentation, Deep Impact carries a minimalist payload: medium- and high-resolution cameras, along with an infrared spectrometer.

Today's views were not the most detailed frames — those will be radioed back to Earth in the coming days. According to project manager Tim Larson, the spacecraft will continue to photograph the comet's nucleus for three more weeks as it recedes into the distance.

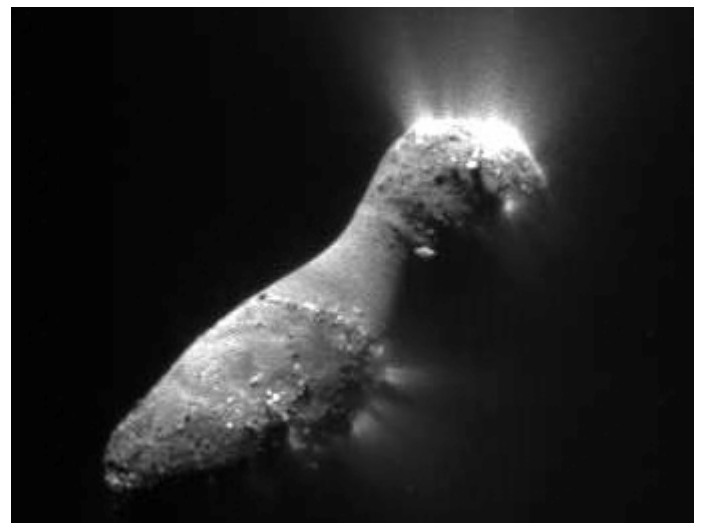
The rendezvous was the second cometary encounter for this spacecraft, which previously looked on as a large copper bullet [slammed into Comet 9P/Tempel 1](#) on January 4, 2005. After that eventful encounter, NASA managers

recommissioned the still-viable craft as the [EPOXI mission](#), a combination of its two extended mission components: Extrasolar Planet Observations and Characterization (EPOCh), and the second cometary flyby, called the Deep Impact Extended Investigation (DIXI).

On hand for today's festivities at JPL were Malcolm Hartley and his wife. Hartley discovered this object in March 1986 on glass plates taken with the Siding Spring Observatory's UK Schmidt telescope in New South Wales, Australia. Its high eccentric path carries the comet from a perihelion near Earth's orbit out to beyond Jupiter and back every 6½ years. In fact, right now this periodic visitor is quite close to Earth and putting on [a decent showing](#) in the predawn sky.

Finally, here's something for you space-trivia buffs: There's actually been a sixth close flyby of a comet — in fact, it was a fly-through. Do you know which spacecraft it was? Offer your guess in the comments section below; I'll congratulate the first person to post the correct answer in a future story about the Comet Hartley 2 results!"

Below is a close-up photo of the nucleus of Comet 103P/Hartley taken by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory from cameras aboard the Deep Impact spacecraft from a distance of 435 miles on November 4, 2010.



Wow!!! What a great view of an oddly shaped rock. Is this the glass slipper that fits on the foot of the Prince's beloved? The comet did pass through *Cassiopeia*, the bride making herself ready. Yes, it has been a very long night and I am getting a bit giddy.

May Yahweh bless you superabundantly.