

# How to See the Remnant Star of Bethlehem

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## Abstract

The Biblical Star of Bethlehem has long fascinated modern astronomers. My research in 2004, and later in 2009, has yielded a likely candidate. This essay will assist field astronomers to locate and see its remnant from deep winter to very early spring.



For two millennia the Biblical Star of Bethlehem has fascinated and tantalized scholars. Was it real, or just a fancy fantasy? As an astronomer, I have taken this question seriously. In 2004, and again in 2009, I wrote essays describing the likely real SofB. It is a remnant nova of a repeating type, and is visible today as NGC 1514, also being an HII object. It is furthermore known as the Crystal Ball Nebula.

The top link below is from 2004, and the lower was written in 2009 to describe its subcategory. Use these essays to locate its remnant for yourself. It's easy to find with star hopping, or use your go-to or point-to capabilities.

The best dates in any year will be when there is no Moon, and when there are no visible solar-reflecting, low-orbit satellites. The best period left during 2023 will be mostly in the third week of March.

You will need a dark-sky location, and excellent transparency. I enjoy it visually in my large Dob at about 250x. A slightly lower magnification is good too for reflector mirrors of 8 inches or larger. Visually it appears gray. A CCD image shows its bluish tint. Start enjoying just after 8 pm this year, when astronomical twilight has begun.

<https://astronomy-links.net/star.of.bethlehem.html>

<https://astronomy-links.net/StarofBeth.pdf>