

STGZ342

12/11 - 12/17

DO CONJUNCTIONS ACTUALLY MATTER?

HEY Y'ALL, TRACE HERE. REMEMBER THAT SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK SONG – CONJUNCTIONS – WHAT'S THEIR FUNCTION? WE HAVE TWO CONJUNCTIONS COMING UP – AND HERE'S WHY THEY MATTER.

HIT THE DARKNESS AROUND 7PM ON DECEMBER 17TH AND IN THE SOUTHWESTERN SKY YOU'LL SEE... A WAXING CRESCENT MOON RIGHT NEXT TO THE YELLOW GLOW OF SATURN IN A BEAUTIFUL CONJUNCTION. THEN A FEW DAYS LATER AT MIDNIGHT ON DECEMBER 22 YOU'LL SEE JUPITER IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE WAXING GIBBOUS MOON.

CONJUNCTIONS ARE NEAT, BUT DO THEY MATTER? IF WE ZOOM OUT YOU CAN SEE IT'S REALLY JUST A TRICK OF PERSPECTIVE. THE MOON IS MILLIONS OF MILES FROM SATURN AND JUPITER, AND THEY'RE MILLIONS OF MILES FROM EACH OTHER.

PLANETARY MOTIONS GAVE OUR ANCESTORS INFORMATION ABOUT HOW FAR THINGS ARE FROM US, BUT OTHER THAN BEING PRETTY TO LOOK AT CONJUNCTIONS AREN'T ASTRONOMICALLY SIGNIFICANT.

THEY DON'T AFFECT OUR LIVES OR EACH OTHER BECAUSE SPACE IS SO BIG!

THAT SAID, THEY'RE STILL NEAT. KEEP LOOKIN' UP!