

**COMET REFERENCES BY THE VENERABLE BEDE IN
HISTORIA ECCLESIASTICA OBSERVED IN 678 C.E.
AND 729 C.E.**

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Introduction: The Venerable Bede, born around 672 C.E. was an early Medieval monk that spent his life in a monastery in Jarrow, Northumbria, England and is remembered today as one of the great figures of his age as an Anglo-Saxon theologian, historian and chronologist who is best known for his Ecclesiastical History of the Anglo-Saxon People completed shortly before his death in 735 C.E. His chronology was translated from the original Medieval Latin by the Order of King Alfred the Great into Anglo-Saxon. The modern English text used for this abstract was translated by Sherrley-Price in 1955.[1]

In 731 C.E. - 732 C.E., Bede completed his Historia Ecclesiastica and divided this lengthy work into five books. In the last book, written in his old age, he mentions three different cometary references. This poster will discuss the three comets that Bede includes in his chronicle.

Cometary References: In the month of August, 678 in the eighth year of Egfrids' reign, there appeared a star known as comet, which remained visible for three months, rising in the morning and emitting what seemed to be a tall column of bright beams.[2]

In the year 729, two comets appeared around the sun striking terror into all who saw them. One comet rose early and preceded the sun while the other followed the setting of the sun at evening, seeming to portend awful calamity to the east and west alike. Since one comet was the precursor of the day and the other of the night, they indicated that mankind was menaced by evil at both times they appeared in the month of January and remained visible for about a fortnight, pointing their fiery torches northward.[3]

References: [1] Bede. 732.. translated Sherrley-Price 1955 Ecclesiastical History of the English People. Penguin: 1991, 224, 327. [2] Bede. 732.. translated Sherrley-Price 1955 Ecclesiastical History of the English People. Penguin: 1991, 224. [3] Bede. 732.. translated Sherrley-Price 1955 Ecclesiastical History of the English People. Penguin: 1991, 327.

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