

## Venus and Jupiter Pass in the Dawn Sky

During the early morning hours of **August 12<sup>th</sup>**, the two brightest planets as seen from Earth, Venus and Jupiter, will appear to pass each other in the zodiac constellation Gemini, the Twins. During this conjunction, the two planets are separated by less than  $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  – 3 Moon diameters. It's quite a spectacle to observe these two planets shining at -4.0 magnitude for Venus and -1.9 magnitude for Jupiter. Venus is some 7 times brighter! Venus is descending toward the eastern horizon as the month progresses, making this planetary encounter with Jupiter a brief one!

To put this scene into a 3-dimensional perspective, consider that Venus is some 115 million miles away, while Jupiter is 438 million miles behind Venus.

