

Observing the Bright and Morning Star

Revelation 22:16, “I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.”

Usually when you gaze at stars it is during the night time. On a clear night you can see thousands of stars in the sky.

The passage here in Revelation 22:16, however, speaks of a “Morning Star.”

A star gazer writes, “One of my favorite aspects of my astronomical hobby is shocking people as to what can actually be observed, not by night, but by day.

Of course the Sun, and the Moon are obvious targets, but my favorite daytime activity is watching the planets, or even splitting double stars!

There are a few tricks that can make watching stars and planets by day much easier to do, which I will share, and I will explain how the weather plays a very big role in the success or failure of your daytime adventure.”

1. The air must have good clarity, that is, it must be perfectly clear. A high deck of cirrus clouds will play havoc when trying to find daytime stars. So will any substantial haze. Usually you find the right kind of weather after a cold frontal passage, or in a high pressure, FAIR weather cell. Worldliness, trials, sins, etc.

2. Unfortunately, the air is not always stable when it becomes perfectly clear in the weather scenario presented above. You need the air to become somewhat steady in order to see daytime stars and planets well.

In fact, if there is too much turbulence, it will knock that "point source of light" of a star, into a scattering of light which will get lost in the daytime brightness.

With this in mind, the absolute best weather would be under the broad dome of a High Pressure cell, even a weak one, in order to achieve maximum clarity AND stability.

The Morning Star is a beautiful depiction of the hope and grace in Jesus Christ. There are only three times in the New Testament that the title Morning Star is given to our Lord — once in 2 Peter 1, once in Revelation 2, and again in Revelation 22.

In Peter it is rendered in our translation "day star"; and indeed the word is not the same as that found in Revelation.

But the word used by Peter is the proper name of the morning star, and means the "light-bringer," while that used by John, equally applying to the morning star, indicates rather the time of its appearance in the early morning.

Whether one or the other therefore, both alike refer to the same thing, and both alike apply to Christ in the same character.

I would like to look at the Morning Star more closely in these three mentioned passages and see how the truths we discover apply to our lives.

The title of my message is simply, **Observing the Bright and Morning Star**. There are three things I would like to observe.

1. The bright and morning star shines in hearts.

Turn with me to 2 Peter 1:19. We read, “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a *dark* place, until *the day dawn*, and the *day star* arise *in your hearts*.”

dark--The word for dark implies squalid, having neither water nor light: such spiritually is the world without Christ. Darkness is the heart in its natural state.

The same word is used in Luke 11:24 translated "dry places" through which the unclean spirit goes.

“When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through *dry places*, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out.”

dawn--bursting through the darkness.

day star--Our word for phosphorus comes from this Greek word. The day-star or morning-star was the name that Greeks assigned to the planet Venus which was the brightest object in the sky apart from the sun and moon and appeared sometimes as the evening star and sometimes as the morning star. In the desert the morning star is so brilliant that it appears as though the sun were about to rise.

It is one of the most beautiful objects in nature. It appears as the darkness passes away; it is an indication that the morning comes; it is intermingled with the first rays of the light of the sun; it seems to be a herald to announce the coming of that glorious luminary; it is a pledge of the faithfulness of God.”

Jesus Christ is the Forerunner of that perfect day. .

We read in Luke 1:78, “Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby *the dayspring* from on high hath visited us.”

Dayspring is ἀνατολή [anatoḗ] : *the place of rising, the dawn*. Jesus is the bright and morning star because He is “the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world” (John 1:9).

He is the “Sun of Righteousness” who “shall arise with healing in His wings” (Mal. 4:2).

This was partially fulfilled at Messiah's first coming but will be fulfilled at His return, His light driving away the spiritual darkness of this present evil age.

in your hearts--Christians today have the light of Christ within their hearts. At Christ's Second Coming, He will bring all believers into a perfect day. His outward coming will bring light to all people. On this day, the spirits of the godly will take on “an illuminating transformation” as the light of Christ fills them.

Christ reveals Himself to man because is the Daystar. Christ's arising in the heart by His Spirit giving full assurance of salvation, creates spiritually full day in the heart.

Indeed, even our hearts shall not fully realize Christ in all His unspeakable glory and felt presence, until He shall come (Mal 4:2).

We read in Isaiah 66:14,15, "When you see this, your heart shall rejoice ... For, behold, the Lord will come." For the day has already dawned in the heart of believers; what they wait for is its visible manifestation at Christ's coming.

Therefore as Dr. Cook always said on the radio, "Keep shining Christian."

The bright and morning Star shines in hearts.

2. The bright and morning star shines in trials.

Turn with me to Revelation 2: 26,28. We read "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star."

The first thing that arrests the eye in the morning-- might serve to remind us that the Saviour should be the first object that should draw the eye and the heart on the return of each day.

In each trial--each scene of sorrow--let us think of the bright star of the morning as it rises on the darkness of the night--emblem of the Saviour rising on our sorrow and our gloom.

The Apostle John proceeds to consider the special promises with which is associated the gift of the morning star:

It is really the bestowal of His own power as given to Him of the Father; that is, association with Himself when He comes forth to deal in judgment with the nations of the earth, and to subdue them unto Himself, in connection with the establishment of His kingdom.

Such is the prospect which the Lord holds out to His people to encourage them to hold fast until He should come, and thus to be overcomers.

And how strikingly does He reveal the grace and love which He has for His own in that He will share with them His own exaltation and glory, not only before the Father's face (John 17: 22, 23), but also (as indeed the scripture in John contemplates) in the display of His glorious kingdom.

This association with Christ in His glorious reign, the overcomer will have to wait.

In the meantime, is he to have nothing? Yes, saith the Lord, during this time of patience I will give him the morning star.

That is to be the overcomer's present portion while anticipating the day when the Lord will come forth to put down all rule and all authority and power; for He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet. (1 Cor. 15: 24, 25.)

It will be seen therefore that the overcomer possesses two present blessings as his stay and support, while waging conflict with the powers of evil and corruption around and holding fast what he has in expectation of the Lord's return.

The first is, the light of the coming sovereignty of our Lord over the kingdoms of this world (see Rev. 11: 15), and of his own association with Christ in that day; and, secondly, the gift of the morning star.

In what way does he possess the morning star? Let it be repeated that Christ Himself is the morning star, and Christ Himself in a certain character; that is, Christ in relation to, and as the pledge of, the day of His glory.

The morning star is the herald of the coming day, and when it is seen the watcher knows that the darkness of the night will soon pass away.

In like manner the overcomer who has the Morning Star is certified that the day is at hand.

How does he possess the Morning Star? There is only one possible answer, and that is, in his heart by faith.

It is there in the heart that he holds the precious gift, and hence he is superior to all the power of the enemy which besets him around, for his heart is flooded with the light of the day for which he waits.

The darkness of the night for him has passed; he lives in the sunlight of the day.

We read in Thess. 5:5, “Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.”

It is a most vivid illustration of the Lord's promise to the overcomer in the church at Thyatira and for all of God's people as far as power over the nations is concerned. And it is as the pledge of this that the Lord gives to the overcomer the morning star for present support and enjoyment.

The bright and morning star shines in trials.

3. The bright and morning star shines in the church.

Turn with me to Revelation 22:16, "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."

On a long dark night, the appearance of the morning star means daybreak is imminent.

In the long dark night of suffering on earth, Jesus being seen as the morning star means the eternal morning is about to dawn. Hence, Christ as the morning star is a picture of great promise and hope.

Jesus says in John 8:12, "...I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

It is of the utmost importance to observe that the coming of Christ in the book of Revelation, in accordance with its teaching throughout, relates to the appearing in glory of our blessed Lord Jesus Christ.

Both in Peter and in Revelation 2 the morning star is looked upon as a present possession; in the former a possession of all believers, in the latter as a gift to all overcomers. In the scripture before us it is simply the presentation of Christ in this character to the assembly of the church.

Christ has so arisen, and the bride, standing as it were upon the edge of the night, beholds Him, and, while beholding, is entranced with His beauty, as well as convinced, at the same time, that the night is far spent and that the day is at hand when, sharing in His exaltation and throne, He will display her as robed in His own glory and beauty.

Two events will, we know, precede this: first, the private presentation of the bride to Himself, "a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5: 27).

And the public celebration of the marriage of the Lamb in heaven as described in Revelation 19: but what is contemplated here, in connection with the coming quickly of Christ, is what is revealed to John by one of the seven angels who said, "Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

In closing, the Bright and Morning Star spoken of by Peter and John is Jesus Christ. We observe that the Morning Star shines in hearts, in trials, and in the church. May the Lord help us to shine for the Savior. Let us pray.