

THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²**He** was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴**In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.** ⁵The **Light shines in the, darkness and *the* darkness did (does) not comprehend it.** (italics & paren-mine)

⁶There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the Light, but *he came* to testify about the Light. ⁹There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. ¹²But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and **we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father**, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" ¹⁶For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*. (John 1:1-18 NASB)

In recent Kingdom Studies we have been blessed by Leo's teaching concerning the above verses. (See #205__Witnessing the Light) As we were taught, "It should be obvious that the "light" spoken of here is not a natural light but is the eternal spiritual light and the darkness is not natural but is the spiritual absence of light." Later in the study he speaks about creation and how the sun, moon and stars, were created for signs and for seasons and for days and years and to give "light to the earth."

There are many terms used in prophecy, such as stars, moon, sun, sea, rivers, trees, mountains, hills, islands, valleys, heaven, earth, light, darkness, eyes, horns, etc., etc. These terms have a natural application and they have a spiritual application. Those who have received spiritual light are able to comprehend the spiritual because they have the light of life in them. Those who have not received spiritual light, have not the life and cannot comprehend spiritual light. We would be safe to describe spiritual light as, "Illumination," "Revelation," or even "Manifestation," because these are characteristics that we can see expressed in and through the Christ. If we were to put them all together, we might even say they are a corporate part of the **Glory of God**. In verses 14 and 15 above, we do not want to confuse the Johns who are speaking. In verses 1-14 it should be understood that John, the Apostle, the one whom Jesus loved, the one who is writing the Gospel is speaking. In verse 15 he is quoting what John the Baptist was saying, then in verse 16, we are back to John the writer of the Gospel, and so on. It is very important to know who the "we" are who **saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father** because it is evident that this "illumination," revelation, or "manifestation" had a tremendous impact within their lives.

¹Six days later Jesus took* with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led* them up on a high mountain by themselves. ²And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. ³And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. ⁴Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; **listen to Him!**" ⁶When the disciples heard *this*, they fell face down to the ground and were terrified. ⁷And Jesus came to *them* and touched them and said, "Get up, and do not be afraid." ⁸And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.

⁹As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man has risen from the dead." ¹⁰And His disciples asked Him, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" ¹¹And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things; ¹²but I say to you that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. (Mat 17:1-12 NASB)

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"- ¹⁸and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹**So we have the prophetic word made more sure**, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, **until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.** ²⁰But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, ²¹for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men, (in Old Testament Times), moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2 Peter 1:16-21 NASB) (Parens-mine)

What this seems to be saying to me is that the "illumination," "revelation," or "manifestation" that Peter, James and John witnessed on the holy mountain with Jesus being transfigured into Majestic Glory by the MAJESTIC GLORY, is a more sure word of prophecy than what had been written long ago by men who were moved by the Holy Spirit. Peter seems to be saying that the prophecy of scripture "might be interpreted" in different ways; but, what they saw, what they experienced, what was revealed to them on the mount could not be mis-interpreted by anyone. I encourage anyone who reads this to read and compare all of the accounts recorded in the Gospels regarding this experience.

The two who appeared, with Jesus are the "type" of two things - the Law and the Prophets. Moses, the great receiver and presenter of the law and Elijah, who embodies the prophetic mantle that was desired by all the prophets. Yet, in their presence the heavenly Father gives all glory and honor to His Son and commands the disciples, "**listen to Him!**" When they fell face down in fear, Jesus touched them and told them to, "Get up, and do not be afraid." Listening to the Voice of the Son of God is a more sure word, for "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (See Rev. 19:10)

Peter says, "you do well to pay attention as to **a Lamp Shining in a Dark Place, UNTIL the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.** There are two distinct "lights" that Peter draws our attention to. First there is the **lamp** that shines in a dark place and then the "day dawns" and the

morning star, which is the lamp, rises with it. We have understood from previous teachings that the Lampstand Church is going to receive revelation, "light" in the Holy Place from the Golden Lampstand, hammered from one piece of pure gold and kept burning from evening till morning. This surely is a lamp that shines in an "otherwise" dark place but for this study, we are going to concentrate on the light that shines in darkness from different sources of Divine Light, the Morning Star and the Day Star. These are not to be confused as the Day Star exceeds the glory of the Morning Star in intensity and magnitude. This in no wise diminishes the "Value" of the Morning Star, it merely indicates a progression from Glory to Glory. We remember from Leo's study that he speaks about creation and how the sun, moon and stars, were created for **signs** and for **seasons** and for **days** and **years** and to give "light to the earth." There are two witnesses that are seen in every part of the Tabernacle. They are **Light** and **Earth**. The Outer Court is lighted by the sun, the Holy Place is lighted by the lampstand and the Shekinah Glory illuminates the Holy of Holies. The only thing that is the same everywhere is the **Earth**. (The Earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof.) The prayer that Jesus teaches us includes, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done, in earth as it is in heaven." The Kingdom of the Father will only be established when we have come to the fullness of God, when He fills all in all, and every enemy, including death has been put underfoot. It is then that Jesus will hand the Kingdom over to the Father.

(Read I Cor. 15:24-28) Without the establishment of the Kingdom in the earth, in the Church Age, there will not be the Fullness where God is ALL-IN-ALL.

I don't want to get side tracked so lets return to the thought concerning the lights God gave us on the fourth day of creation. In Genesis 1:14, we read that God put lights in the expanse of the sky to **separate the day from the night** and they are to serve as signs, to mark seasons and days and years and to illuminate the earth. I'd like to take a moment to show why it is important to understand the symbols, "signs" that God has so painstakingly given us in His word. Here in Genesis 1:14, we see that three of the four reasons God gives for putting lights in the sky are related and one stands alone. Three have to do with "time" and the other transcends time. Signs can point in any direction; up, down, forward, backward, inward, outward, north, south, east, west, etc., etc. Signs can be for instruction, edification, correction, direction, comfort, judgement, exhortation and any number of other descriptive terms we may apply. But, God has given them to help us to understand His Ways. He knows full well the darkness that must be overcome in the hearts of each of us, individually and collectively, in the Body of Christ.

There is a gross darkness that covers the earth in this age. Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is **deceitful above all things** and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" (NIV) and again, "The heart is **more deceitful than all else** And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?" (NASB) Verse 10 should give us a glimmer of hope; "I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds." I say it "should" give us hope; but, only if our deeds are righteous deeds and the darkness that holds us captive has been overcome by the "Living Light." How does He search our hearts? "The lamp of the LORD searches the spirit of a man; it searches out his inmost being." (Prov 20:27, NIV) Also, "The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, Searching all the innermost parts of his being." (NASB) Either translation gives insight into God's plan and both arrive at the same understanding. It is "light" from the lamp that will search the inmost being and reveal the thoughts and intents of the heart. Psalm 18:28 says, "You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light."

So, how does all of this connect to the morning star? "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night

they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world." (Psalm 19:1-4) No matter what tribe, tongue, ethnic, religious, or any other group we may be from, the "heavens" declare the GLORY OF GOD! God is saying, in effect, "Look up to the heavens, and don't miss it, because this is important!" "Unto you that fear MY Name shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings, (rays), (Mal 4:2). The Old Testament is pointing a finger to the East, to the sunrise declaring that those who fear the Lord will behold the promise of sunrise. The "signs" are there for those who have eyes to see and who are looking for His appearing and when He appears He will usher in a New Day! So ends the Old Testament, looking to the Hope that would be revealed in this age and will reach its fullness in the age of ages.

The New Testament does not begin with the arising of the Sun or Righteousness. Wise men came from the East, looking throughout Jerusalem to find the one who was born King of the Jews. They hadn't followed the sun, they had seen His STAR in the East. Mathew says that king Herod was troubled_____and the whole of Jerusalem with him, at the inquiring of the wise men. How did these "wise" men come to know about His Star and why had they come to "worship" Him? The Book of Numbers seems an unlikely place to find the answer and the heathen land from which the prophet spoke even less likely but this is what it says in Num 24:15-19, "The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one whose eye sees clearly, the oracle of one who hears the words of God, who has knowledge from the Most High, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened: "I see him, **but not now**; I behold him, **but not near**. A **star** will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the sons of Sheth. Edom will be conquered; Seir, his enemy, will be conquered, but Israel will grow strong. A ruler will come out of Jacob and destroy the survivors of the city."

This prophecy to the Gentiles, out there in a pagan land, given by a prophet having questionable character was apparently taken very seriously by__at least__three "wise men" from that area of the world. After they had searched throughout Jerusalem we read a remarkable statement, "Lo, the star which they saw in the east, **went before them**...when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." It may be necessary to leave the center of our "religious systems" in order to be led to the place where we can meet Jesus and bow down to worship Him. These wise men were not reading the prophetic word in Micah 5:2, which reveals that Christ would be born in Bethlehem, or they would have gone there in the first place. What they knew they kept in their hearts for two whole years and went on looking for the King who would come out of Jacob, expecting to find Him in Jerusalem, where all the king's of the Jews had been enthroned. The theologians of that day, the high priest and scribes of the temple had the scrolls that held the prophecies but could not comprehend the vital truth and reality of the message. Without a heavenly guide, a living revelation, all of the teachings and doctrines and lifeless traditions are not going to bring us to the place where He may be found. Thank God, we have the written word, illuminated by the Holy Spirit and taught by men anointed to teach the truth without compromise, but we still need the veil removed allowing Divine Light to reveal the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE.

The Morning Star is mentioned twice in the book of Revelation and is involved with Jesus and with the promise of the Lord to the overcomers. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. (Rev. 22:13-16)

²⁶To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the

nations____(Rev 2:26-29)

The Lord Himself is the Morning Star. To know One is to know the Other. They are not only meant to be looked upon, they are meant to be touched and experienced. We can search the Scriptures, like the religious leaders in Jerusalem, we can keep the traditions of our church, pray and sing, go to Bible School, forsake all that we have, and not experience the LIFE. ²⁵And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, **looking for** the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

These verses from Luke 2, emphasize the importance of “looking for” the Morning Star. When we begin our search for heavenly light we have to be able to distinguish, (discern) the difference between the light of Life and “other lights”. We know the Devil himself will appear as an angel of light and deceive as many as possible, but there are other lights to avoid.

JUDE 1:4—For certain men whose condemnation was written about¹²These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead. ¹⁶These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage.

I have grouped these verses from Jude to emphasize the character of those who would lead men astray. Wandering stars are stars that stray out of their orbit. They do not respect the place God has set them in the heavenly, celestial body and choose their own course. They are unacceptable for guidance and will never lead anybody to the Bosom of the Father. These wandering stars do not express the radiance of His glory and have no vision of God’s eternal purpose, no stable comprehension of His plan, are not submitted in the Body of Christ, and do not have the Mind of Christ. They are ever seeking for self exultation, self gratification and think of themselves more highly than they ought. They are often “personality followers” and look to those who, by “earthly standards” are highly esteemed. They place more value on education than impartation and revelation. They cannot comprehend how God can use foolish things to confound the wisdom of the “wise.” They chase after “sensation” and avoid “consecration.”

The fact that the Lord Himself is the Morning Star cannot be over-emphasize. He is the one who comes in the darkest hour of our spiritual night, as a prelude to the dawning day. He is seen and greeted only by those who are willing to rise early and watch for him. While the world is fast asleep He appears to those who have set their face like flint, who do not look here, or there but are steadfast and persevere. At the end of II Peter 1:19, it says, 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: In the NASB it translates “day star” as “morning star.” The dark place where the Morning Star arises is IN OUR HEARTS. The place where the Day Star arises is likewise IN OUR HEARTS. The morning star and the day star arise together, the first to reveal the deepest darkness in our hearts and the second to flood our hearts with the glorious light of day, dispelling the darkness. Just as the natural sun is the center of our physical solar system, so the spiritual sun/Son, or Day Star is the center of our spiritual solar system. The Day Star is called the “Sun of Righteousness” who arises with healing in His Wings. The sun does not “pop” up at once and begin to cover us with it’s light. The sun rises in the east causing long shadows across the landscape and rises to its peak throughout the day, increasing in it’s power and glory then retreating to the west and bringing us to another cycle of darkness. In our Christian walk we find these cycles at work in our lives. We sometimes forget that the day God has created begins with “evening” and takes us through what seems to be a long night of darkness, before the Sun rises to give us light and warmth.

These cycles are purposed by God to bring us to the fullness He has planned for each of us, individually and for the body of Christ, collectively. There is nothing in the natural realm that can grow to maturity and bear fruit without the sun and there is nothing in the Spiritual realm that can grow to maturity and bear fruit without the SON. The natural sun was set in the celestial body to rule the day and give light to the earth. Likewise, the Sun of Righteousness is set as the one who is Ruler over all the kingdoms of the earth. The moon was set in the celestial body to rule the night.

⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. (I Thes. 5:5) Even in our “nighttimes of darkness” we can be reassured by the reflected glory of the moon and see the stars that shine in the heavens and can look forward to the dawning of a New Day.

In the beginning the spirit of man was designed, not only to RECEIVE light, but to BE light and to GIVE light. I would like to conclude this part of our study by stating that this should be our reality in Christ and close with the following Scriptures:

“Ye were sometimes darkness, but now ARE YE LIGHT in the Lord: walk as children of light” (Eph. 5:8)

Ye are the light of the world: a city situated on the top of a mountain cannot be hid. A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. (Rev. 12:1)