**The Bright and Morning Star**

*Revelation 22:16*

**Introduction**

1. In the closing statements of John’s vision Christ reveals Himself as **“the Bright and Morning Star” (Revelation 22:16)**.
   1. The Morning Star:
      1. “As the eastern horizon began to brighten toward the dawn, [shepherds] would especially note what stars were the last to rise before their shining was drowned in the growing light of day. These, the last stars to appear in the East before sunrise, were the ‘morning stars,’ the heralds of the sun.” (ISBE; 308).
      2. “The planet Venus appears as the morning ‘star’ at dawn.” (Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary; 395)
      3. “The ‘morning star’ is that bright planet - Venus - which at some seasons of the year appears so beautifully in the east, leading on the morning - the harbinger of the day… 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.” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible; Revelation 2:28)
      4. The brightest of all stars. (At the dawn of day other stars are drowned out with the rays of the sun, but the “morning star” remains for a while longer.)
   2. Figuratively – brightness, splendor, hope.
2. There are powerful and encouraging lessons to be learned concerning Jesus as the “Bright and Morning Star.”
3. The Transcendent Splendor of Christ’s Kingship
4. The Kingdom of Prophecy
   1. Greatly anticipated due to its significance in the realm of deliverance:
      1. After speaking of the wickedness of Judah (especially regarding idolatry) – **Isaiah 1:27** – redemption and righteousness.
      2. **Isaiah 2:1-4** – prophecy of the messianic kingdom.
         1. A world dominant kingdom – **Daniel 2:44** – consume all these kingdoms (of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream) and never be destroyed.
      3. Ultimately, the source of salvation from sin – while the many of the Jews anticipated the Messiah and His kingdom in a physical way the true significance was the spiritual deliverance offered in it.
   2. Jewish perspective was skewed – **John 6:14-15**
      1. Thought Him to be the prophet – Messianic reference – which He was.
      2. But failed to see the significance of that – earthly kingdom.
      3. **John 6:26-27** – significance is that He has the authority to grant spiritual life.
   3. Their greatest oppression was not the Roman government, or any other physical government, but the oppression of sin.
5. The King of kings
   1. **Revelation 22:16** – Jesus is that Messianic King, the bright and morning star.
      1. Root of David – denotes His superiority – **cf. Matthew 22:42-45** – He is David’s source.
      2. Offspring of David – denotes His lineage, the line of David – **Romans 1:3** – seed of David **– Acts 2:29-32** – for Him to sit on David’s throne.
   2. Also, “the Bright and Morning Star:”
      1. Stars used in prophetic language to refer to kings and governments:
         1. **Isaiah 13:1, 9-10** – burden against Babylon.
         2. **Ezekiel 32:2, 6-8** – lamentation for Egypt.
      2. The “morning star” used in mockery to denote the surpassing radiance of the Babylonian king among all others – **Isaiah 14:12-15** – to be brought low due to his arrogance.
         1. “Lucifer” – *hêlêl*; the morning-star. (Strong)
         2. Morning star = brightest; He was “king of kings,” but his light would be put out.
      3. Jesus:
         1. He has world-wide authority/dominion – **Matthew 28:18; Acts 2:34-36** (all things under feet – complete dominance)
         2. Ruler over the kings of the earth – **Revelation 1:5**
         3. Lord of lords, and King of kings – **Revelation 17:14**
         4. Connotation of hope:
            1. Morning star – “the herald of the sun” (ISBE; 308); “the harbinger of the day” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible; Revelation 2:28) (NEW DAY)
            2. His power would be used to our advantage – **Acts 3:18-19, 25-26** – times of refreshing in forgiveness of sins comes through belief in Him.
            3. **Malachi 4:2** – sun of righteousness – healing in His wings.
            4. When Jesus came on the scene, He came with hope of a better life with Him through the forgiveness of sins.
6. The Guiding Light of Christ’s Word
7. Christ’s reign would be in the realm of truth – **John 18:37**
   1. All His splendor as the King of kings is manifested and fulfilled in the hearts of those who willfully submit to His word.
   2. The deliverance through Him would be intimately associated with the truth – **John 8:31-32** (free from sin)
   3. The importance of submission to Christ’s word cannot be overstressed – **Colossians 3:17**
   4. Christ as “the Bright and Morning Star” is intimately associated with the prophetic word.
8. The Morning Star in Our Hearts
   1. **2 Peter 1:19-21** – exhortation to pay close attention in diligence to the prophetic word.
   2. What does he mean about “until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts?”
   3. Prophetic word = inspired scripture – **2 Peter 1:20-21**
      1. Not simply prophecy in the sense of telling future events.
      2. **2 Peter 3:1-2** – apostles’ commands/words are on the same level as prophetic word.
      3. SUCH IS THAT WHICH BRINGS SPIRITUAL LIGHT INTO THE DARKNESS – **2 Peter 1:19**
         1. **Acts 26:18** – Paul sent to turn men from darkness to light.
         2. **Psalm 119:110** – word is a lamp and light.
   4. Jesus is the word and truth which brings spiritual light and life – **John 1:1, 4, 9; 14:6; 2 Peter 1:3** (all things pertaining to life and godliness in knowledge of Christ)
   5. Contextually important due to the conflict of 2 Peter – false teachers:
      1. **2 Peter 2:1** – false teachers among you.
      2. **2 Peter 2:18-19** – empty words which will bring you into bondage.
      3. **2 Peter 3:1-3** – listen to the inspired men of God, not scoffers.
   6. Message: take heed to the inspired prophetic word, not the false teachers, so that you receive the light of truth and the darkness is swallowed up.
      1. **2 Peter 1:16** – teaching of the Apostles concerning the coming of the Lord labeled as fables, but Peter says they were eyewitnesses of who Jesus really is.
      2. **2 Peter 1:19-21** – even more sure than eyewitness testimony is the infallible word of God – heed it until the light of truth, WHO IS CHRIST, rises in your hearts.
   7. This shows that our relationship to Christ is inseparably connected to His word.
      1. I.e. Christ cannot be in our hearts unless the truth dwells in our hearts.
      2. **Galatians 2:20** – Christ lives in us by faith – **Romans 10:17** – faith comes by hearing God’s word.
9. The Hope of Eternal Day
10. The Warning of the Coming Judgment
    1. **Revelation 22:16** – Jesus is the Bright and Morning Star.
    2. Context:
       1. **(vv. 1-5)** – river of life, tree of life, throne of God, servants of God, no night, reign forever.
       2. **Revelation 22:7** – coming quickly (SUDDENLY, i.e. WITHOUT WARNING) – exhortation to keep the words of the book.
       3. **Revelation 22:12-17** – coming to reward each according to their work (good or bad):
          1. **(v. 14)** – blessed are the obedient.
          2. **(v. 15)** – outside are the disobedient.
          3. **(v. 17)** – invitation to be given spiritual life.
11. The Bright and Morning Star
    1. **Revelation 22:16** – on a day where the coming of Jesus means utter destruction/punishment for many, it means fulfilled hope for others.
       1. **Revelation 22:5** – no night there, the Lord God gives them light.
       2. Jesus is that morning star that brings in the light of eternal day!
    2. We may have to suffer until that day, but we are promised the morning star – **Revelation 2:24-29 (church in Thyatira)**
       1. Encouragement to not follow the error and immorality that others have – that woman Jezebel.
       2. **(v. 28)** – saints are promised the morning of victory if they prevail.
    3. This is something the faithful child of God looks forward to – **Revelation 22:20** – COME!

**Conclusion**

1. Jesus is the bright and glorious King, with the eternal light of truth.
2. He is the bringer of salvation to a world of darkness and sin.
3. He is the Christian’s hope of eternal day, and we are eager to see His return.