

Visions and Revelations:
Message 7 - The Wise Men and the Star (2)

After hearing and considering the word that was spoken, a group of brothers and sisters were inspired by some of the verses that were shared. We felt that it was helpful to reconsider these verses again to dig deeper into the burden of the message and to discover how rich it could be to us. We compiled these verses into six sections, one for each day of the week until the next message, in hopes that many other saints could spend a bit of time every day to reconsider the burden of our brother in a new light. If anyone considers some of these verses or questions and feels enriched by them, we ask you to please leave a comment on the Church in Cleveland site under the message to share your thoughts! Thanks! Grace and peace be to all the saints!

Note: These six sections are not comprehensive of the content of the message! This is just designed to be a help to get into a portion throughout the days.

DAY 1

Matthew 2:1-2

...wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

1 Corinthians 15:41

There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.”

It's marvelous for us to say that our Lord Jesus Christ is the Star, shining in the darkness and leading men to Him. But in truth, it is more than that. In God's view, each one of us who is saved is also a star. Each star shines with a glory different from all other stars, but all of our "shining" is based on Christ: Do we have Christ, do we enjoy Christ as our supply, strength, wisdom, and empowerment, do we realize Him as our goal in life and in our daily living? If so, then we shine as stars. The Lord desires each of us to be a star that is saturated with Christ, that is saturated with the *life* of Christ.

This is true no matter what our outward environment may be. Even though many of our lives have been turned upside-down these last couple of months, we can still each have so much enjoyment, pursuing, and time spent before the Lord. That is something that can never be separated or taken away from us! So today, spend some time in these verses, and this prayer: "Lord, make me a star with glory, held in Your hand, with my pursuing causing me to even have a star growing in me!" What a glorious life the Lord has given to us.

DAY 2

Revelation 2:1

“To the messenger of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.”

As believers we are all stars, but more than that, there are seven stars held in the Lord's right hand. These stars are the messengers, the operators, the overcomers, the life-givers, the shepherds, and the guides in the churches. How are these “seven stars” in the church able to shine? Not because of their innate ability or talent or personality. They are able to shine because they have the Lord upholding them. He is the supply that allows them to be the messengers, operators, overcomers, life dispensers, shepherds, and guides in the church.

If we do not have Christ as the source of what we do, then we fall back into the pattern of “fulfilling religious duty,” as previously seen with Zechariah. As we consider the ways these stars operate and lead in the churches, I pray that we can ask the Lord to be our life supply. This way we can properly shine as stars and uplift the church in such a way that it will match Christ when he returns.

DAY 3

Revelation 2:1

“To the messenger of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.”

1 Corinthians 12:6-7

...And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

These seven stars are messengers, operators, and overcomers. A deeper understanding of a messenger is that of a mediator -- one who operates by bringing God to man, and man to God. If you are a star shining in this way, you bring Christ and His divine element to the brothers and sisters around you in your local church life. More than that, you bring saints to the Lord and let Him meet their need. You know how to pray for them, encourage them, and share Christ with them.

Operators initiate according to the principle of being held in the Lord's hand. He is the one upholding and supplying us. At the same time, this is not something we can be passive about either. Consider these verses and spend some time actively seeking the Lord, asking Him to lead you. All people, of all ages and backgrounds, in the church and out of the church, need Christ. With whom and in what way might He be leading you? May each of us operate with the operation of Christ.

DAY 4

Revelation 2:1

To the messenger of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.

Philippians 3:17

Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

In the church life, we need “stars” to guide and lead the saints. One characteristic of a star is being a life dispenser. When we spend time with Christ and become so saturated with His life supply, naturally we will express His life in every interaction we have with others. When we talk with someone, life is there. When we eat with someone, life is there. Every single interaction we have with others should be a chance for life to be dispensed.

As stars, we are also shepherds leading our sheep in times of feeding and times of rest. We know their needs and can properly care for them. Just as Paul urges the Philippians to walk according to the example he set, we should set such an example for those we are shepherding. We need to be willing to guide the saints and help them grow, eventually shining as a star. Oh what joy we will have when those we are caring for can also become stars that shine in the church for the glory of God!

DAY 5

2 Peter 1:19

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

Revelation 22:16

I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.

In eternity, there will be the testimony of two different morning stars. The Lord declares, “I am the morning star.” The second is found in the declaration of Peter. “Until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.” When the Lord comes, there will be no more night. Day is coming! Eternity is coming! And when eternity comes, when the Bright and Morning Star is here, then there is also a morning star that rises up within you. This is marvelous!

Yet, until then, what does Peter say to do? He says to pay attention to the prophets, to the teachings, to the truth. To the apostles Peter, James, and John, the prophetic word was confirmed by the revelation of Christ in glory on the mountain. We today also need revelations of Christ confirming His word! In other words, we need to pay attention to Christ in the Word, to gain

Christ in the Word, and to experience Christ as life through the Word. When we are daily pursuing Christ, pursuing the Bible, pursuing the truth, pursuing the riches of our spiritual inheritance, *then* there is a morning star, rising within us to bring in the day, to bring in eternity, and to even match eternity! Keep pursuing saints! Until the day dawns!

DAY 6

Revelation 22:16-17

“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Our shining as stars isn't just for ourselves or our earthly testimony, but to fulfill God's desire from the very beginning to have a bride that matches Jesus our Lord. When Christ comes as the morning star and everything of the old creation passes away, the substance that is within us will be manifested. Christ is the morning star. We too are morning stars. This is why, at the end of the Bible, the Spirit and the bride can say "Come!" together. Christ says, "I've done everything! Come!" And we too can say, "I have a full enjoyment of Christ with the maturity of Christ. Come!" Christ and the church, both say "Come!"

Don't you like this "come!"? If you do, tell the Lord, "I want to be a star. I want to be a star with glory. I want to be a star held in your hands and operating in the church life. I want to be the star that really pursues Christ. Oh Lord, forgive me for being a star with no light, with no glory. Make me a star with glory, held in your hand, with my pursuing causing me to even have a star growing in me. Make me bear your testimony to match your declaration.