

The Mount of Transfiguration, Morning Star, and the Millennium (2 Peter 1:19; Revelation 2:28; 22:16)

Pastor Kelly Sensenig

Mount of Transfiguration

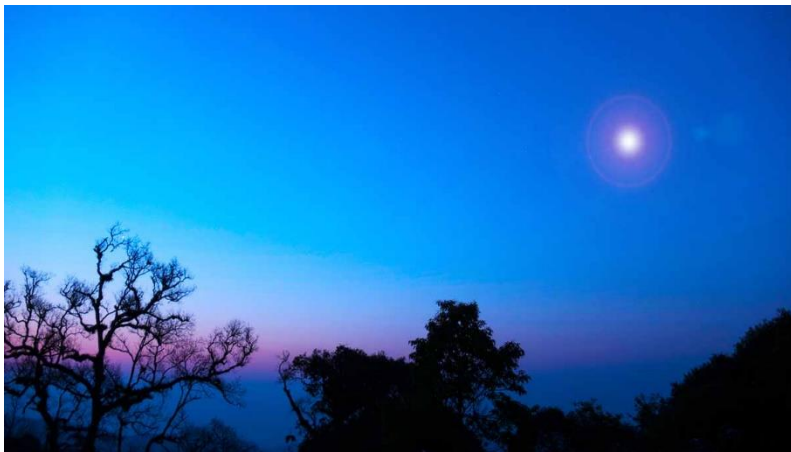


In the epistle of Second Peter the apostle mentions about the prophecy of a star and sunrise. To understand this portion of the prophetic word, we must correctly compare Scripture with Scripture and determine what the star analogy represents. There is a direct correlation between Peter's experience on the Mount of Transfiguration with the morning star prophecy and Millennium. On the sacred mountain Peter saw a preview of the Second Coming of Christ to rule in His earthly Kingdom. Along with this experience Peter mentions about the morning star which he obviously links to his experience of viewing the Second Coming of Christ to establish His earthly theocracy (the Millennium). So the mountain, the morning star, and the Millennium are all connected together in Peter's thinking.

2 Peter 1:19 relates the morning star prophecy to the Second Coming and Kingdom: "We have also a more sure word of prophecy (*about the Second Coming and Kingdom as Peter witnessed on the Mount of Transfiguration*); whereunto ye do well that ye take heed (*pay attention to it*), as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star (*morning star*) arise in your hearts."

In a similar fashion, Revelation 2:26-28 also connects the morning star prophecy to the timing of the Second Coming, Millennium, and the saints ruling with Christ: “And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power (*authority*) 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 (*during the Millennium*): even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star” (*as the Father gave Christ the authority to rule in the earthly Kingdom so Christ gives authority to the Church to rule with Him*).

Revelation 22:16 also relates the morning star prophecy to the Second Coming and Millennium: “I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David (*destined to rein in the Millennium from David’s throne in Jerusalem*), and the bright and morning star” (*Jesus Christ in His Second Coming is the morning star promise who will establish His Kingdom over the earth*).



Through the years many have linked this morning star prophecy to the Rapture of the Church which occurs prior to the seven-year Tribulation Period, but Peter seems to convey that the morning star is linked to Christ’s Second Coming and the establishment of His earthly Kingdom (the 1,000-

year reign of Christ over the earth). It’s the Second Coming of Christ that inaugurates the promise and establishment of the Millennial Kingdom. The star and dawn analogy are linked to Christ who is the root (offspring) of David (Rev. 5:5) and to His Second Coming and Kingdom (2 Tim. 4:1). The emphasis is on the “celestial” or heavenly nature of the coming Messiah (Num. 24:17; Mal. 4:2).

William Newell seems to understand it in this way when commenting on Revelation 22:16: “‘I am the bright, the morning star.’ Our Lord is coming, indeed, as the Sun of Righteousness to rise upon the darkness of this world and reign in the millennial kingdom.” In contrast to “Lucifer, son of the morning” (Isaiah 14:12), Jesus Christ is the true Morning Star whose light would never be dimmed or diminished and who

would never be cast out of the sky. Jesus Christ is the hope of the ages! His Second Coming and earthly Kingdom will dethrone Satan as the prince of this world (Rev. 20:1-3) and enthrone God, replacing the Satanocracy with a theocracy.

Peter mentions his experience on the Mount of Transfiguration which was a preview of Christ's Second Coming and Kingdom glory.

2 Peter 1:16

"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we (Peter, James, and John) made known unto you the power and coming (powerful coming) of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty" (the glory, grandeur and magnificence of Christ's Second Coming to earth when He returns in a blaze of brilliant light that reflects His honor and holiness - Malachi 4:2).

Although the cunningly devised myths being propagated in Peter's Day were trying to explain away the Second Coming, His judgment over the earth, and the establishment of Christ's rule on earth (2 Pet. 3:3), Peter teaches that the apostles were an historical witness to His Second Coming when they had a preview of Christ returning to planet earth. They were not following any myths but were eyewitness to the event of the Second Coming!

Matthew 17:1-2 gives us the historical record:

"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light."

This was a snapshot and preview of the Second Coming of Christ to planet earth. It is this glorious and majestic nature, hidden, as it were, during Christ's earthly life, that will be revealed to all the world at the time of his Second Coming. Christ's clothing became a dazzling white, and His face shone with the glory that was intrinsic to him as both Messiah and God. The whiteness and radiant shining of Christ's face reflects His purity and intrinsic glory as God.

Matthew 17:3 goes on to say:

"And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him."

It's very interesting that Moses and Elijah appeared with the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration. Why were Moses and Elijah, of all Old Testament people,

present on this occasion? It's likely that these two men along with the disciples suggest that three categories of people will accompany Jesus in the establishment and rule of His coming Kingdom. The Lord was giving a lesson of the different classes of people who would be part of His kingdom glory.

Participants in the Second Coming

Peter, James and John

(represents those living who enter the Millennium with natural, physical bodies)

Moses

(represents those who are resurrected to enter the Millennium in glorified bodies = Old and New Testament Saints)

Elijah

(represents those who are translated or raptured to eventually enter the Millennium with glorified bodies = Church Age Saints)

- ✓ The disciples (Peter, James, and John) represent individuals who will be alive and present in physical bodies when Jesus returns in His Second Coming. Those who are alive and saved will enter the Millennium. Tribulation Saints who survived the seven-year Tribulation Period will enter the Millennium in their natural physical bodies.

Jesus taught this in Matthew 10:22:

“And ye (God’s saints) shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end” (the *end of the Tribulation Period*) shall be saved (*physically delivered to enter the Millennium*).

So, living saints who are saved will not miss the Millennium when Jesus returns in His Second Coming.

- ✓ Moses represents saved individuals who have died or who will die before the Second Coming occurs. They, like Moses, will be resurrected at one point to enter the earthly Kingdom (Millennium). New Testament saints will be raised at the event of the Rapture and Old Testament saints at the time of the Second Coming to earth. So, the resurrected saints will not miss out on the millennial reign of Christ!

- ✓ Elijah represents saved individuals who will not experience death but who will be translated to one day enter the Millennium with their glorified bodies. Church Age saints will be raptured out of the world and receive a glorified body that will eventually enter the Millennium (1 Thess. 4:17). Elijah's presence reveals that a group of people will enter the earthly Kingdom by the route of translation!

These three groups will be present when Christ institutes His Kingdom on earth 1} those living in natural bodies (like Peter, James, and John), 2} those resurrected (like Moses), 3} those who are translated or raptured (Elijah). The saints of all the ages are awaiting Christ's coronation, when He returns as the King! All the saints of God will participate in this great earthly Kingdom someday.

It's this Transfiguration event is what Peter was referencing in his epistle. God gave Peter, James, and John a preview of the Second Coming of Christ when Jesus returns in power and great glory (spectacular radiance and magnificent glory). It was not a myth as the false teachers were telling the people. It was the truth. It was the real deal!

2 Peter 1:17

"For he (*Christ*) received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory (*the majestic or magnificent glory which is an unusual replacement name for God the Father or a description of the shining glory cloud, called the Shekinah, which symbolized the presence of God*), This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased (*speaking approvingly of the Son*). And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount." (*Matt. 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35*).

Matthew 17:5 historically verifies this:

"While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."

"My Son" points to the unique relationship the Son has with the Father in sharing the Godhead together but the designation "the beloved" marks this Son as the special object of His love. Of course, the sonship of Jesus Christ to the Father makes Christ equal with the Father as they share the Godhead together and the existence

of Jehovah, the only true God (John 5:18; Phil. 2:6). The saying “I am well pleased” carries with it a strong element of emotional satisfaction and delight. This was true in eternity past as well as when Christ was transfigured.

The Father was pleased with His Son who on the Mount of Transfiguration was presented as the Messianic King that would one day return to earth to rule and reign for 1,000 years. The acclamation of Christ’s sonship at the Transfiguration (the Second Coming and Kingdom scene) is similar to another Messianic Psalm.

Psalm 2:6-7

“Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion (The father is saying, “I have installed my King on Zion’s hill in Jerusalem). I will declare the decree: the LORD (Jehovah or Yahweh) hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

The term “begotten” speaks here of a title of dignity, honor, and supremacy. This Psalm looks forward to when the Davidic king (David’s descendants – Jesus Christ) is officially acclaimed and appointed as Yahweh’s anointed Messiah to rule in the Millennial Kingdom. Of course, Jesus was the Son in a way David was not, for he also shares in God’s majesty and eternal existence as a member of the Godhead. But one day in the future Jesus will be King over the earth in a literal and physical way.

Psalm 2:8-9 clarifies this: “Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”

Psalm 2:8-9 is a declaration of Christ’s rulership in the Millennium during the 1,000 years. No, this truth about the Millennium is not historically



Revelation 20:3-4 – “And cast him (the devil) into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

fulfilled as some teach (Preterism), idealistically (spiritually) fulfilled, or symbolically or allegorically fulfilled, but will be futuristically fulfilled just as the Bible predicts here. Instead of believing debunked theories about the Millennium propagated by Reformed Theology, believe what the Bible says about it. It's going to literally happen someday.

Remember the Golden Rule of Interpretation:

"When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense!"

Jesus Christ, the Son of David is going to rule from Jerusalem and the Millennium (the 1,000 years) will eventually turn into the Eternal Kingdom (Eternal State). The Millennium is actually a foreshadowing of what eternity, or the eternal state will be like. It is the specific time when Christ turns the earth into a theocracy.

Luke 1:32-33 prophetically declares:

"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Today everyone is talking about a new world order. Well, a new world order is coming someday but it won't be the new world order of communism, George Soros, Bill Gates, the Green New Deal, or the coming dictatorship of the Antichrist. The real new world order will be when Christ establishes His millennial rule over the earth. The Golden Age of the Millennial Kingdom will begin following the Second Coming. Christ and His rule over the earth is clearly revealed as the Morning Star promise given to the Church.

Almost everyone knows the lyrics to Isaac Watts' famous hymn, "Joy to the World," but few people realize that it was not necessarily written to be a Christmas hymn. even though it's in the top three of the favorite Christmas hymns of all time. In fact, some suggest it is a miscast hymn. This is because it actually looks ahead to Christ's Second Coming and the establishment of His Kingdom (the Millennium). Yes, Jesus was born as the King but in his first coming He did not bring in the Kingdom. This is still future.

Listen to the words of this hymn and see if you understand what I mean. "Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King"

Did the whole earth receive Jesus as King in his first coming? No way!

"Joy to the world, the Savior reigns. Let men their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy. No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground. He comes to make his blessing flow, far as the curse is found".

Has this happened? No! Not yet! This will only happen during the Millennium.

"He rules the world with truth and grace".

Is this occurring today? No! This can only occur during the Millennium – when the wicked are no longer in charge of this world.

"And makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness and the wonders of His love".

Today the nations are not promoting the glories of Christ's righteousness, but they will someday when the King rules the earth. You see, none of these things are occurring today. Only during the Millennium which comes after the Second Advent of Christ, will the words "Joy to the World" really be fulfilled. Only during the earthly Kingdom will we be able to sing these words with real meaning in our heart. Of course, we can sing this hymn today believing that Christ was born the King and look ahead to the time when the King will rule over the earth. But this will not be fully realized until He does rule. Yes, joy to the world the Lord is come to save sinners, but He will one day return in the future to establish His earthly theocracy as the King. This is the morning star promise and prophecy.

I have said all of this to convey something important. Peter recalled the event of the transfiguration of Christ in 2 Peter 1:16 because it anticipates Christ's glory when He returns as the King. And once again, the eyewitness character of the event demonstrates that Peter was not dreaming or following "cunningly devised fables" (2 Pet. 1:16). Peter *saw* Jesus transformed and he *heard* God's very words about His Son! Peter in essence is saying, "Don't tell me the Second Coming of Christ and the establishment of His Kingdom is some kind of myth! No, it's going to happen someday because I witnessed a preview of it!"

Peter now teaches three important matters about the Second Coming and Kingdom of Christ.

➤ **The prophetic word of the Second Coming can be trusted - 2 Peter 1:19a**

As true, reliable, and great the experience was that Peter had on the Mount of Transfiguration, Peter now concludes that no experience (even apostolic experience) can replace the written revelation of God's Word. Peter declares in 2 Peter 1:19, "We have also a more sure (very certain) word of prophecy (*the prophetic word*)" This is referring to the Scriptural or Biblical revelation of the truth about the Second Coming.

We know that the apostolic experience of the Transfiguration can in some sense serve to make the prophetic word about Christ's Second Coming more certain (reliable). But I don't think this is what Peter is suggesting here. What he is teaching is that the prophetic word about the Second Coming is even more reliable than his mountaintop experience and it's the written revelation (word) which ultimately confirms the experience on the Mount of Transfiguration.

The context suggests that the "more sure word of prophecy" refers specifically to the Old Testament prophecies about the Kingdom to be established by the Messiah at the end of history. This is speaking about the actual revelation of God's Word and how reliable and important it is in confirming truth which is here the truth about Christ's Second Coming and Kingdom.

In speaking of the Old Testament prophets, 1 Peter 1:11-12 declares this: "Searching (*while studying the Scriptures*) what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand (*from the Scriptures*) the sufferings of Christ (*the first coming and the cross*), and the glory that should follow (*the Second Coming and Kingdom*). Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into."

The truth about Christ's suffering (Christ's cross) and glory (Christ's kingdom rule) were found in the sacred Scriptures and were spoken about by preachers of the Gospel (the apostles). In other words, the Old Testament writings of the Old

Testament prophets were very sure and reliable concerning Christ's cross, and Kingdom and the New Testament apostles declared these truths that were inspired by God and written down by the previous prophets.

In 1 Peter 1:11-12 the apostle is declaring the importance of the written revelation of God's Word as he does in 2 Peter 1:19. He is saying that we possess a "more sure" (more certain and reliable) word about the prophecy of the Second Coming than my experience on the mountain because it has been recorded in the sacred Scriptures which are infallibly true. This was true even as the New Testament Scriptures were being recorded and written for all to see and believe. They were God's inerrant standard of truth.

All of Scripture is in one sense given by prophets who gave out revelatory truth which was prophetic or pre-dative in nature before the canon of Scripture was completed. But Peter seems to be speaking about the actual prophetic revelation about the Second Coming in this context of the Mount of Transfiguration (2 Pet. 1:19). He is saying that today we have something more certain than what I have just related in my experience and it's the prophetic word about the Second Coming of Christ to earth. The prophetic word about the Second Coming is more reliable than any experience Peter had. It's not really the experience of Peter that verifies the Word but the Word that verifies Peter's experience.

Yes, the Transfiguration was a visible demonstration that the promise given in the prophetic Word about the Second Coming and Kingdom was true. The Transfiguration experience of the apostles actually corroborates the prophetic promises of the establishment of the earthly Kingdom which is the more sure (reliable and certain) word of prophecy. The false teachers attempt to discredit the promise of His coming (2 Peter 3:3), but the Scriptures are sure – they are true! They are more reliable than anything else!

Psalm 19:7

"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple."

Psalm 93:5

"Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever."

Psalm 111:7

“The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure.”

Psalm 119:128

“Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.”

As the Church, we should never veer away from truth and trustworthiness of Scripture. This is the lesson we learn from what Peter is saying here. This is very relevant for today. For instance, if we replace mystical experiences with the truth, we will begin to move down a never-ending trail of deception, confusion, and lack spiritual stability in our lives. We have a reliable revelation given to us in the completed canon of Scripture and we must continue the motto which says, “Thy Word above all!”

Don't chase after mystical experiences, miracles, visions, dreams, and seek to always have what I call spiritual goosebumps experiences. I don't live my life by goosebumps! I live my life in accordance with God's truth. I read how some churches teach the practice of grave soaking or grave sucking. You are called to visit the grave of a holy man or woman and lay on their grave to “soak up their anointing.” This grave soaking (also called grave sucking or mantle grabbing) is practiced by some charismatic churches in an attempt to receive a special anointing of the Holy Spirit. Of course, this is cultish! We don't have to go to a graveside or anywhere else to be filled with the Holy Spirit or to somehow get the anointing from the dead! We already have God's anointing to live a victorious and effective Christian life through the indwelling presence of God's living Son!

Galatians 2:20 says, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

You see, we have the *beloved Son* and the *beloved Bible* to guide us and give us the spiritual growth we need. Today many have placed their experiences above the truth of God's Word and God's beloved Son and have become sidetracked from the truth of Scripture, the sufficiency of Scripture, and the sufficiency of Jesus Christ! Friend, we have “the more sure word of prophecy” (2 Pet. 1:19) and we must adhere to it, abide by it, assimilate it, and grow as we study it (1 Pet 2:2).

➤ **The prophetic word of the Second Coming serves as illumination – 2 Peter 1:19b**

Peter goes on to say in 2 Peter 1:19: **“whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light (an oil burning lamp or torch) that shineth (bringing illumination) in a dark place”** (*God’s Word, pointing to the future, enlightens believers about His ways*). The light or lamp metaphor reveals how the Second Coming brings light (illumination) to our minds regarding God’s future dealings with the earth when Jesus returns as the King. It shines light on what is happening today on earth versus what is going to occur in the future. It acts as an illuminating lamp or light shining in the darkness of this world, cutting through the darkness, and revealing God’s future plan for this old sinful world. Beloved, the best is yet to come! This is because the King is Coming! He will make things right in this world!

The expression “take heed” (draw near, approach with much attention and understanding) means we are to actively turn our minds to the prophetic word as an object of personal interest and faith today. We are to give much attention to God’s prophetic word about the Second Coming and allow it to guide us today, even as a light or lamp guides us in the darkness. The “lamp” of the prophetic word regarding the Second Coming and Kingdom will go on shining in a dark place and sinful spiritual environment giving us the promise of hope. The world is getting darker, the Word is shining brighter! We are to give much attention to God’s prophetic word about the Second Coming and Kingdom allowing these truths to guide us and give us hope today, even as a light or lamp guides us in the darkness.

Psalm 119:105 declares:

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

The word “dark” (2 Pet. 1:19) literally speaks of an obscure, murky, and miserable place. This is a good description of this world today. It is a place that is filled with sinfulness, ignorance, despair, and death. It’s a miserable place without King Jesus ruling it! But when we know about the future (and specifically about the Second Coming and Millennium), we have God’s lamp or torch (His light) that shines in our hearts and lives (illuminating us about what lies ahead), and which gives us hope for today and bright hope for tomorrow! It gives us wonderful future hope even while we are passing through the darkness! The truth about the Second Coming

and Millennium is like a flashlight beaming across this dark world, showing us that a better and brighter day is coming.

Christian friend, we need light today – the light and illumination that comes from God’s prophetic word. The light comes from reading God’s prophetic word and knowing how it’s going to end! And how will it end? Jesus wins!

Zechariah 14:9 prophetically states:

And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

Isaiah 11:4-5

“But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.”

Revelation 19:11-16

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS” (*the returning King to establish the Millennium*).

We sometimes say there is light at the end of the tunnel! But in reality, there is light today leading us through the tunnel (“a light shineth in a dark place”). It’s the light of truth concerning the Second Coming and the establishment of Christ’s Kingdom over the earth which brings illumination and hope to our hearts about the future.

Isaac Watts declared:

“Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run,
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.”

➤ **The prophetic word of the Second Coming gives us hope - 2 Peter 1:19c**

Although some have sometimes viewed this morning star of hope as pointing to the Rapture of the Church, keeping everything in the context is helpful. It enables us to see that the prophetic word about the Second Coming of Christ and Millennium (the earthly Kingdom) is in Peter's thinking. The figure of the morning star refers to the Second Coming and the establishment of the Millennium over the earth which brings hope to our hearts.

Walvoord briefly summarize the Rapture view:

“While various explanations of this expression have been given, it seems to refer to Christ Himself in His role as the returning One who will rapture the church before the dark hours preceding the dawn of the millennial kingdom.”

I cut my teeth on Walvoord and highly respect all his prophetic writings. But when looking at all the biblical data, this a very broad generalization of the “morning star” that does not zero in on the Davidic Covenant and Christ's relation to this covenant as the King in His Second Coming. The morning star is not a reference to the Rapture. Walvoord's analogy that the morning star appears before the dark night of the Tribulation Period does not correlate to the way the morning star appears. It appears in the night sky just before the sunrise and as the sun rises in the east. Therefore, the morning star moves the earth out of the night and into the light – not vice-versa. The best way to view the morning star is that it is a reference to Christ, His Second Coming, and the dawning of the millennial age over the earth.

Some conclude that the morning star rises first (the Rapture), shortly after comes the Sun (the Revelation or Second Coming - Mal. 4:2). Eschatologically the order of the Rapture occurring before the Second Coming is correct, but the morning star analogy still does not fit the event of the Rapture for the darkness of the Tribulation Period cannot follow the arrival of morning star. This means the morning star

relates to the Second Coming and the dawning of the Millennial Kingdom of righteousness, justice, and peace.

Many conclude that the morning star given to the overcomer in Thyatira (Rev. 2:28) may be the promise of a visitation prior to the dawn of the Millennium which is the Church's participation in the Rapture. The morning star of the Rapture will result in the Church avoiding the last part of the night on earth, the Tribulation Period, which occurs immediately before the dawn of the Millennial Kingdom. However, identifying the Rapture as the morning star promise seems to be forcing something into these prophetic texts which was not in the writer's mind. This is because Jesus is identified as David's ancestor (the Morning Star) that will fulfill the Davidic Covenant as the returning King to establish a kingdom over the earth (Rev. 22:16).

The Church will escape the coming night of the Tribulation Period (Rev. 3:20) but that is not what John is teaching in the morning star texts (Rev. 2:28; 22:16). The morning star teaching is not so much an *escape* from the darkness but an *ending* to earth's dark history which will be turned into the dawning of the Millennium.

“For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
and the dawning to noonday bright,
and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
the kingdom of love and light.”

The morning star is not representing the Church being rescued from the darkness of the earth (Tribulation Period) but the Church being brought into the dawning and glorious light of the earthly Kingdom in view of the returning Davidic King. Again, the morning star appears just before the dawn and as the sun begins to rise. This analogy does not fit the Rapture since the darkness of the seven-year Tribulation Period follows the Rapture. But the morning star analogy does fit the Second Coming which is followed by the dawning of the Kingdom Age (the Millennium).

From an interpretive perspective, it's much more accurate to keep the morning star analogy in the context of the Second Coming and the immediate establishment of the Millennial Kingdom over the earth. The Church will also participate in the event of the Second Coming and share in Christ's reign (Rev. 5:10) which is identified as

giving her “the morning star” (Rev. 2:26-28), ruling privileges in the Millennial Kingdom, as a result of the Second Coming.

Arno Gaebelein concludes the morning star pictures Christ’s return in the Rapture: “His coming in power and glory is the sun-rise for Israel and the Gentiles, the breaking of the millennial day. But for His Church He comes first as the morning-star, as the morning-star in the eastern sky precedes the rising of the sun in all His glory. The Lord will come as the morning-star some time in the interval between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel and as the Sun of Righteousness after that week has come to an end.”

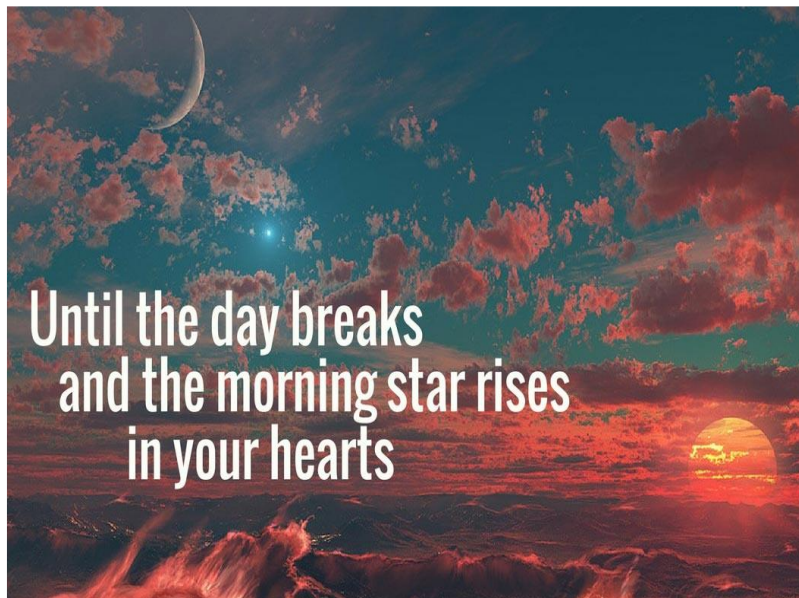
What Gaebelein says is dispensationally and eschatologically accurate, but he does not satisfactorily explain how the Rapture qualifies as the morning star promise when Christ is presented as David’s ancestor who will return in His Second Coming to rule with a rod of iron. The Rapture is not associated with the Davidic Covenant; it’s linked to the mystery teaching given to Paul (1 Cor. 15:51-52). The analogy is that there will be moral darkness in this obscure world until the Second Coming and then the dawn of the Millennial Kingdom will occur with Christ ruling the earth as the Davidic King (Rev. 5:5).

J. Hampton Keathley is correct when identifying the morning star promise in Revelation 2:28 with the Second Coming and Kingdom: “The Lord is promising the overcomer that he will share His royalty and splendor as the morning star. First, the Lord said that the overcomer would be given a dominion like His own (cf. 2:27b, ‘as I have received authority from My Father’), and so here in 2:28, the overcomer will be given a rule and splendor like that of the Lord’s. In this promise, the Lord promises a dominion and a splendor just like His own.”

Our text in 2 Peter 1:19 points to the dawning of the millennial age: “**until the day dawn** (*shines through = speaking of the Second Coming and establishment of the Millennial Kingdom*), **and the day star** (“phosphorus” or “light bearer” refers to *the morning star of Venus that appears late at night just before dawn, announcing the arrival of a new day = the promise of the Second Coming*) **arise in your hearts**” (*an inner attitude of joy, expectancy, and reassuring hope that stems from the Second Coming and establishment of the Millennial Kingdom*).

In other words, Peter is teaching that the prophetic word, the “more sure word of prophecy” about the Second Coming of Christ serves not only as a shining torch or lamp to bring understanding about the future but is also can be viewed as the dawning of a new day upon the earth. The figures of dawn and the day star (morning star) in 2 Peter 1:19 speak of illumination. The point is that God illuminates and therefore reveals to our hearts the importance of His Second Coming and earthly Kingdom (1 Cor. 2:10).

But how can the day dawn and Lord Jesus arise (spiring up) in the realm of one’s heart? This obviously could refer to the joy and hope that God’s saints will experience at the Second Coming and when Christ reigns over the earth. It’s then that our minds and hearts will be fully enlightened and filled with overflowing joy. When Christ comes, an illuminating transformation will take place in believer’s hearts and there will be no more need for focusing on the prophecies since they will be fulfilled in the Second Coming and Millennium. Diligent use of the prophetic lamp will be needed only until the day dawns. The word "until" indicates that we are now in the period of waiting, at the end of which prophecy upon its fulfillment will pass away as taught by Paul (1 Cor. 13:8).



But is there a present reality to this dawning and daystar? Should the truth of the Second Coming and Kingdom impact our hearts today? Is Peter referring to an experience of illumination and enlightenment in this life? This is very possible since God wants to communicate truth to us today through illumination (2 Cor. 4:6). We should link “heed” with “in your hearts.”

It may be that Peter is using the dawn and daystar analogy of the Second Coming to teach us that it should impact our minds and hearts today while we wait for the Second Coming and commencement of the earthly rule of Christ. In other words, we should pay attention in our hearts.

Although there will be a literal Second Coming and Millennium, Peter might also be teaching that we must keep giving attention to the teaching of the Second Coming and Kingdom (Millennium) until this truth, like the dawn, shines or fully illuminates our minds and arises in our hearts like the morning star, giving us calmness, hope, and joy as we anticipate the future. In other words, keep reflecting on these truths till they greatly impact your heart, till you by faith see the Morning Star (Christ returning in His Second Coming) and the day dawn (the Millennium beginning). Heeding or paying attention to this prophecy will result in a heart that is aflame or excited for the Second Coming and establishment of the Millennial Kingdom.

Edmond Hiebert takes the approach that this should be our inner attitude as we wait for the day of Christ's Second Coming. He comments in this way: "In this phrase [in your hearts] Peter seemed concerned about the inner attitude of those who await the glorious day of Christ's return. The truth that Christ is coming again must first arise in their hearts, like the morning star, giving inner assurance that that day is coming. Assured of His impending return, they will be alert to detect the gleams of dawn breaking through the darkness. Those who disregard the light of prophecy will not understand the significance of these harbingers of coming day. Such a living hope must have a transforming impact upon daily life."

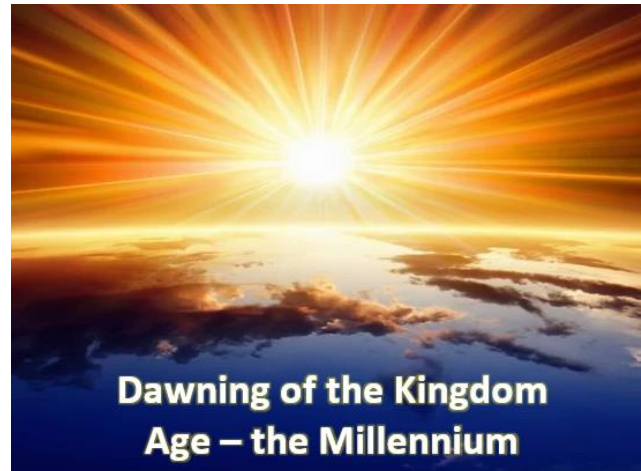
In other words, God's people carry in their hearts the anticipation of this day. This Bible-born hope of the Second Coming and Millennium is like the daystar and the certain promise that morning is about to break upon the world. It's a magnificent truth and hope that should be occurring in people's hearts every day. God's saints should be looking forward to Christ's Second Advent and the regeneration of the earth (Matt. 19:28).

The Grace New Testament Commentary also takes the "rising in your hearts" as occurring today as we await the Second Coming. "The prophetic Scriptures are to be attended to until the reality of that future day of fulfillment is so real that it is as though that day has already 'dawned' and as though Christ Himself, the morning star (cf. Rev 22:16), has already shown brightly in believers' souls."

This seems like a reasonable explanation. The daystar and dawning emphasis occur today within one's heart, as the reality of this future day permeates a person's soul. In other words, by faith we anticipate the fulfillment of the Second Coming and Millennium, and the reality of this future day arises in our hearts providing us with

tremendous hope, encouragement, and joy. In one sense, the day can dawn in our personal hearts and the Morning Star can arise in our hearts as we by faith embrace and look forward to this great prophetic promise.

Until the day dawn! This means that the nighttime will eventually be over, and day will dawn at last. There is a new day that is coming upon planet earth when the Davidic King is going to rule in righteousness. The Devil will be bound in the abyss, Goerge Soros and all the rest of the Leftist lunatics will be in hell! Jesus is going to reign and the world will experience perfect peace. Then we will really sing, “Joy to the World the L



ord has come!” There is the bright light shining today of God’s prophetic word that relates to the Second Coming. This light is showing us what lies ahead and the promise of new dawning day that will soon come upon the earth with the establishment of Christ’s Kingdom. The star analogy repeatedly points to Christ in relation to His Second Coming and earthly Kingdom.



The daystar of Venus appears in the night just before morning breaks. In fact, it can be seen while the sun begins to rise on the horizon. In a similar way, the Second Coming of Christ to earth serves as the morning star which introduces a new day that is about to dawn. Jesus will return during earth’s blackest night (after the terrible Tribulation Period) and reclaim the earth as His own inheritance. He will rule the earth for 1,000 years and then turn the Kingdom over the Father and eternity will begin!

1 Corinthians 15:24-25 speaks of the Millennial Age: “Then cometh the end (*the timeframe is after the Millennium has expired and eternity begins*), when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God (*the Millennial Kingdom merges into the*

Eternal Kingdom and State), even the Father; when (*during the Millennium – the duration of the 1,000 years*) he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet” (*the Millennium, the 1,000 years, the time Christ reclaims and rules the earth*).

Peter says that we are to turn on the light and let the morning star prophecy of the Second Coming and Millennium shine in our hearts today! We are to possess this inner hope that Jesus is going to rule the earth someday and bring in a new world order the likes that was never seen before nor ever will be seen again! We must let the truth about the morning star (the Second Coming and Millennium) really encourage our hearts and provide us with hope today! Things are going to change someday! I mean really change!

Christ’s Second Coming to planet earth will signal the beginning of a new and glorious day for His Church who will rule and reign with Christ over the earth (Rev. 2:27; 5:10).

Revelation 5:10 says:

“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on (*over*) the earth.”

The Millennium and our reign with Christ is our morning star hope! The Second Coming of Christ will herald in the long-awaited Kingdom (Millennium) and the world will be transformed into a new political, social, and ecological earth. Assured of Christ’s Second Coming, we as God’s saints should look ahead to the dawning of the Dispensation of the Millennial Kingdom. The morning star that appears following the Tribulation night (the Second Coming) will usher in the Golden Age of the Millennium.

But Peter reminds us that same morning star should “arise in our hearts” (2 Pet. 1:19) today! In other words, it should stimulate hope, inspiration, and encouragement for us today for it reminds us that a better day is coming! We should not only have the blessed hope of the Rapture in our hearts (Titus 2:13). The blessed hope of the Millennial Kingdom should also serve as an inspiration for us today, knowing that a new dawning day over the earth is going to come, when King Jesus will rule with a rod of iron and bring peace and justice to the world.

Our country and world are being overtaken by drug lords, death, and damnable doctrines of apostates. It's not a pretty picture! But as bleak as it looks today, we must understand that the future is bright for God's people and planet earth. Our hearts should expect the morning star to appear one day which promises Christ's reign over the earth, and which today gives us the promise of hope!

At this point in our study, we want to connect the dots between the morning star and the Davidic Covenant which points to the Millennium. The Scriptures give a consistent analogy that connects the morning star with the Millennium and Second Coming of Christ. The morning star arises on the eastern horizon before the break of day. The Second Coming is like a morning star that will herald in the dawning of Kingdom Age. The morning star precedes the dawn!

Christ says in 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 (*the Brilliant One*) and morning star" (*the Morning One*).



Jesus is the Root (offspring) of Jesse, David's father (Isa. 11:10). Thus, He is the offspring of David and qualifies as heir to the Davidic throne (Isa. 9:7; Mat. 1:1; Luke 3:31; Acts 13:23; Rom. 1:3-4). Jesus is the ancestor and descendant of David, the beginning and the end of the economy associated with David. This means He fulfills all the Messianic promises associated with David's family.

The Book of revelation reveals that the hope of the morning star relates to the Davidic Covenant, the Second Coming, and Christ's reign over the earth who is the promised Davidic King! The bright and morning star analogy does not refer to the Rapture but to the Second Coming and Christ's rule over planet earth. Christ, as the

offspring of David, is the Bright and Morning Star who will one day rule the earth! A new day is coming. A new era in history is about to dawn – it's Christ's rule during the Millennium. Although the Church is not Israel (1 Cor. 10:32) and does not replace Israel in the plan and purpose of God, she (the Church) is also given the glorious promise and destiny of the Millennial Kingdom. The Church is blessed with salvation and the Kingdom promises through Israel (Rom. 9:4; John 4:22).

The Church has been given a unique, treasured, and heavenly hope that is related to the Rapture (Titus 2:13; John 14:1-2) but she is also given a hope relating to ruling with Christ during the Millennium. The fact that the Church is a *heavenly* people in relation to the Rapture promise and her unique position in Christ within the heavenlies (Eph. 1:3) does not rid the Church of future *earthly* blessings which have ultimately come through Israel's covenant promises.

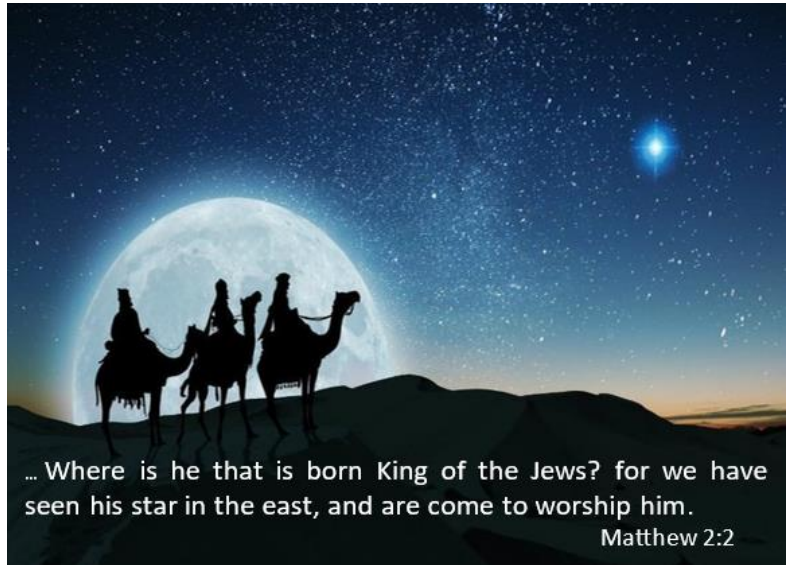


When Peter spoke of the “daystar” or morning star (2 Pet. 1:19) he was likely thinking about the prophecy of Numbers 24:17 which states: “I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.”

Since poetically the star is parallel to the scepter (a ruler's staff), the star must also refer to royalty. The star analogy goes back to Balaam's prophecy about the returning King, the Messiah, who will rule the earth someday. He will come as a shining star that will one day judge and rule over the earth.

Matthew 2:1-2 reveals that the Magi were looking for a star based on Balaam's prophecy: “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”

Have you ever stopped to wonder where the wise men learned to look for a star? How did they associate a star with a king born over in Israel? Why would they make such a long trek? How did the Wise Men know it was the time for Messiah's birth? The Wise Men/Magi were educated men who studied the stars and apparently knew the Old



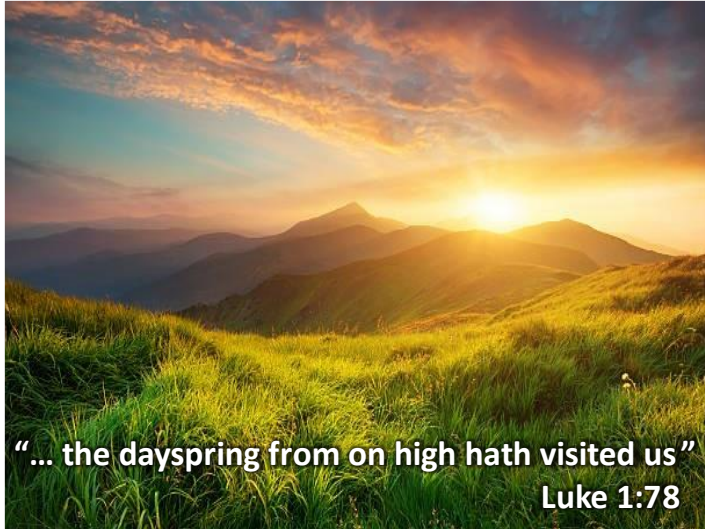
Testament prophecies well. They knew about the timing of Messiah's birth through reading and studying Daniel 9:24-26. But they also had the prophecy of Numbers 24:17 which mentions the Messiah in relation to the revelation of a star. They knew that Christ's entrance into the world would bring about a ruling king.

Micah 5:2

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

The Bible does not explicitly tell us, but it is clear that the wise men did understand the prophecies well enough to believe that this Child was the promised King of the Jews (the Promised Messiah) and they should follow "His star" as mentioned in Balaam's prophecy. A miraculous star was associated with Christ's entrance into the world to reveal to all mankind that the King was born who would one day rule over the entire earth!

Luke 1:78 adds another similar prophecy about the dawn of Christ's entrance into the world at His first coming which contains prophetic overtones of His Second Coming: "Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring (*a rising of the sun, light rising, a bright morning light*) from on high hath visited us."



Although this prophecy was announced in conjunction with Christ's birth, the people of Israel understood this as a reference to the promise of Christ's messianic entrance into the world to deliver them in fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant (Luke 1:68-71). The people looked longingly for the great coming ruler of the house of David who would arrive as the long-awaited star and bring in the

dawn or light of a new day when establishing the earthly Kingdom (Isaiah 9:6-7). But Zechariah reminded the people of Israel they also needed to understand that the King and Messiah would bring the light of salvation to the human race before entering the long-awaited days of the Kingdom (Luke 1:79). When Jesus came into the world, the lights came on!

Zachariah probably had Malachi 4:2 in his thinking as he wrote about the dayspring or morning sunrise: "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall" (*like calves enjoying open pasture and freedom after being cooped up in stalls*).

Zachariah rightly understood that the birth of Christ was a prelude to the establishment of the millennial reign of the Son of David (Acts 1:6). The literal and historic earthly Kingdom was imminent and impending with the birth of the King and Deliverer. In other words, as in Isaiah 9:6-7, the first coming (the birth of Christ) includes the promise of His Second Coming (Kingdom of Christ). However, as the gospel accounts unfold, a problem becomes evident that will change things. The "kingdom of heaven was at hand" but the Jewish people must first repent for the forgiveness of their sins (Matthew 3:2-3). Without repentance, the promised messianic reign could not begin. Israel could not enter the messianic kingdom in fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant without forgiveness and the new birth (John 3:3,7) in fulfillment of the New Covenant.

Of course, the offer of the Kingdom during Christ's first birth was a legitimate offer. However, in God's divine foreknowledge (foreknown purpose), He knew the nation of Israel would reject His Son at His first coming (Matt. 16:21; Mark 8:31–32; 9:12, 31; Luke 17:25; 24:26, 46; Acts 3:18; 17:3; 26:23). The Lord's mysterious providence concerning the death of His Son was working in human affairs alongside of His kingdom program with Israel. The King had come from Israel's perspective (Luke 1:78) at the time of Christ's birth but before He can reign the Jews must receive Him as Savior (Luke 1:79; Rom. 11:26).

Sadly, the Jewish nation rejected the King (John 1:11-12) and Israel's Kingdom program was temporarily postponed or put on hold (Matt. 21:43). Therefore, Christ's Second Coming will result in the fulfillment of His earthly reign. At His Second Coming Christ will fulfill the light and star figures which are directly related to Israel's acceptance of Him and their entrance into the earthly Kingdom and theocracy. As already stated, the Church gets in on the backside of Israel's blessings which relate to the New Covenant (salvation) and the Davidic Covenant (Christ's reign).

We have seen in this study that Christ as the Davidic king is likened to a star and the appearance of the rising sun, bringing in a new dawning day for earth's history. Peter refers to Christ and His Second Coming in the same way (2 Pet. 1:19). Jesus Himself, in relation to His Second Advent is the Morning Star that will herald forth the dawning of the Kingdom glory – the Millennium (1,000 years). I am sure about one thing. I don't want the new world order or new green deal that everyone is talking about today. I want the bright and morning star!

Revelation 2:26-28 gives us more confirmation about the morning star and how it relates to the Church: "And he that overcometh (*positional truth*), and keepeth my works unto the end (*practicing our position*), to him will I give power (*authority*) over the nations (*peoples populating the Millennium and living on earth*): And he (*those who rule with Christ – Church Age saints*) shall rule them (the



people living during the Millennium) with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers (broken into pieces for rebelling against the King): even as I received of my Father (the promise of reigning over the earth – Ps. 2:7-8; Rev. 3:21). And I will give him the morning star.”

This second promise (“And I will give him the morning star”) reinforces the first promise. Christ will give the same privilege to the saints that He has been given by the Father which is to rule over the earth. In other words, Christ is saying that He has the authority to give Church Age saints ruling privileges during the Millennium. The gift of the morning star must refer to the fact that the exalted Christ shares His own messianic ruling status with Church Age believers. Just as Christ was given the promise of an earthly inheritance to rule and reign (“as I have received of my Father”), so those who are related to Christ will also rule and reign with Him. The expression “And I will give him the morning star” is placed within the context of the saints reigning during the Millennium at the same time Christ rules and reigns. This second promise reinforces the idea of a future rule of the saints with Christ and their role in the coming earthly Kingdom.

Kendell Easley concludes this about Revelation 2:28:

“A further reward of the overcomer is to receive the morning star. Morning stars appear only when night is over and a new day is at hand. The key for interpreting this is Revelation 22:16, where Christ is called the bright Morning Star. The reward is Christ himself, who will end the long night of sin’s rule in the universe.”

Easley concludes that the Morning Star is Christ and His Kingdom rule which ends the rule of sin on earth. But this text also reveals that the morning star reward specifically includes the ruling of the saints with Christ. Once again, the “star” is a symbol of royalty and kingliness (Matt. 2:2) and points to the time when we will co-rule with Christ as kings over the earth. Here we see the connection of the morning star with the time when the saints are reigning during the Millennium (Rev. 2:26-27). Christ’s Second coming will be the dawning of a great day for His saints on the earth when David’s greater ancestor (Jesus Christ) will rule over the earth! The morning star texts (1 Pet. 1:19; Rev. 2:28; 22:16) are a reference to the Second Coming, the Millennial Kingdom, and more specifically in this text (Rev. 2:28) a reference to Christ’s rule over the earth with His saints. This prophetic morning star signals a new day for God’s saints.

As the Father gave Christ the Kingdom and rulership over the earth, so Christ will give the Kingdom and ruling privileges to His saints, which is here depicted in the descriptive analogy of the “morning star.” Peter also uses the same analogy in 2 Peters 1:19 when linking the morning star to our hearts and the new dawning day with Christ’s transfiguration on the sacred mountain which was a preview of His Second Coming to earth.

Lenski summarizes the Morning Star promise in this fashion:

“The Victor King Jesus is the brilliant Morning Star in royal splendor; and he gives to every faithful believer the gift to be like him in royal splendor. He and all these other victors shall shine together, all being as morning stars in brilliance, our brilliance being derived from him.”

It’s clear that the morning star stands as a symbol of messianic victory and hope (Rev. 22:16). This means that Christians are reminded again that one day they will share in the Messiah’s rule (Rev. 2:28), no matter how much they might pale in significance at the present moment, no matter how dark the surrounding pagan society might be, and when evil has the upper hand. Jesus, the Davidic King will reign with His saints someday. This is the promise of the Morning Star! This is the time when the saints will come marching in!

The words of the old spiritual point to this time and day of the returning King with His saints to rule and reign over the earth.

“When the Saints go marching in
When the Saints go marching in.
Lord, how I want to be in that number
When the Saints go marching in!
Now some say, some say this world of trouble
Is the only world we'll ever see.
But I'm waiting for that morning
When the new world is revealed
Oh, when the new world is revealed
Oh, when the new world is revealed.
Lord, how I want to be there on that morning
When the new world is revealed!”

Will you be there? You can be sure that you will enter the messianic kingdom someday if you put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and are born again. In John 3:5 we read: “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

As the Church today, we need to keep the light of the Second Coming and Millennium shining bright. This prophetic light shines in a dark or obscure world. It gives us a much better understanding of what lies ahead regarding Christ’s Second Advent and Kingdom. Universal peace is coming to the earth. True righteousness is going to be established over the earth! Better days are ahead! The message of the daystar and dawning (the promise of Christ’s Second Coming and Kingdom) is to impact our hearts which allows us to possess hope and encouragement today when we reflect upon what the future holds. Christian friend, it’s not always going to be like this! A new day is coming. A new world order, God’s new world order is going to be established over the earth and replace this old order.

While scanning at the Fox News App, within the past few weeks, I read these headlines.

“Another mass shooting in Texas.”

“At least 181 educators charged with child sex crimes this year alone.”

“Abortion is health care.”

“Men can have babies.”

“Transgender bill of rights would erase women.”

“Drug lords control border.”

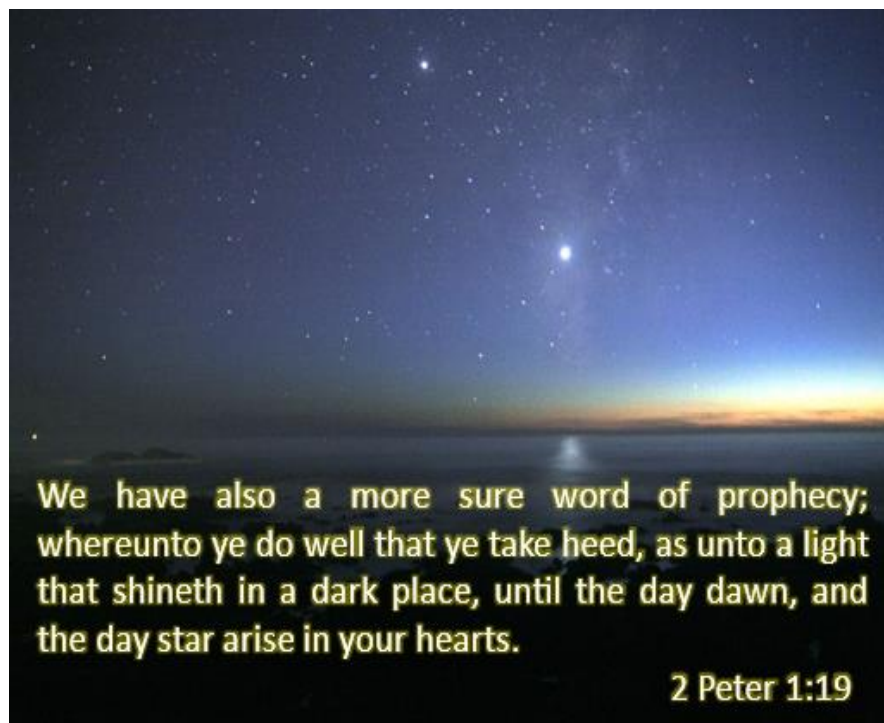
“Totalitarian Censorship on Twitter.”

None of these things will occur during the Millennium! There will be no headlines like these! This is because Jesus Christ will be King and rule the world in righteousness (Isa. 11:4-5; 32:17). There will be no sex changes, abortions, and murders during the Millennial Kingdom (Isa. 65:20). All of this will be banished!

David Hocking concludes:

“The ‘Morning Star’ implies that the dawning of a new day is at hand. Jesus Christ is our Hope of a new day. No matter how dark the night of the present world history is, the “Bright and Morning Star” tells us that a better day is coming, a brand new world where all will be joy and peace forever.”

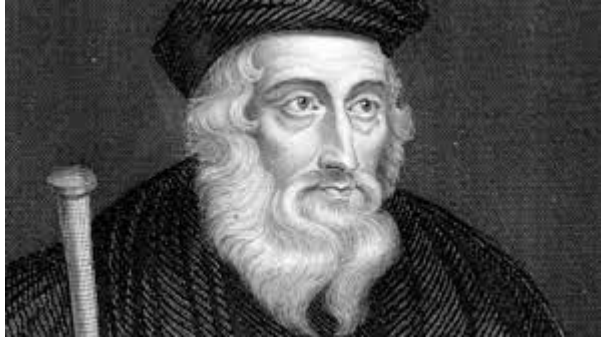
We are headed toward the Morning Star and the dawning of Christ’s Kingdom reign. Peter says we can be sure about this! We can follow the teaching of the star as the wise men did and know that Jesus will return as the King someday to rule this world in perfect righteousness.



The Mount of Transfiguration, Morning Star, and the Millennium are all linked together in that they represent the Second Coming of Christ returning to earth to establish the long-awaited Kingdom which includes the promise of Church Age saints ruling with Christ. God’s Word tells us that we must allow this prophecy and promise to “arise in your hearts” (2 Pet. 1:19), allowing this future promise to stimulate hope and encouragement within our hearts.

The best is yet to come! Beloved, treasure this prophecy and promise in your heart until the dawning of the Kingdom Day comes for this truth will serve as a light and

source of encouragement in this dark world during this pre-messianic age. Keep the message and hope of the morning star in your heart! Don't lose sight of what lies ahead.

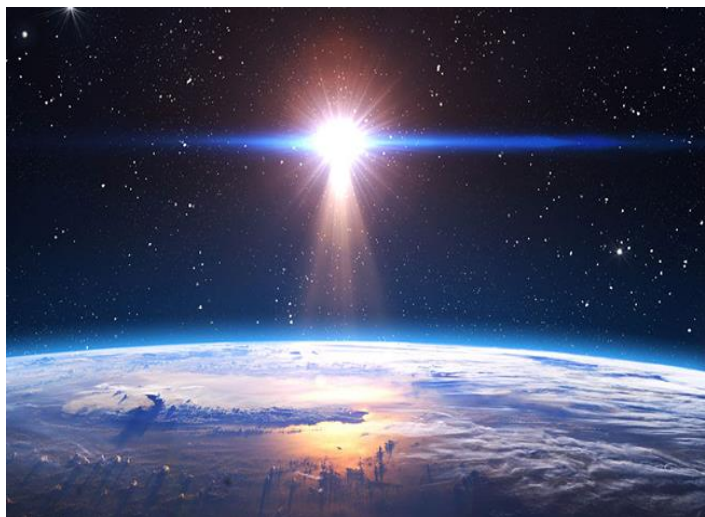


John Wycliffe has been called “The Morning Star of the Reformation.” As we know, the morning star is not actually a star, but the planet Venus, which appears before the sun rises and while darkness still dominates the horizon. It appears when the night is almost over. The morning star is unmistakably visible.

Historically, darkness dominated the horizon in the fourteenth century, the century of Wycliffe, who was born in 1330 and died in 1384. This was almost exactly one hundred years before Luther was born.

By his teenage years, Wycliffe was at Oxford. Wycliffe took his own place among the faculty. Appointed the Master of the College, Wycliffe lectured and wrote in the field of philosophy. But the tug of biblical studies pulled on him. He applied himself rigorously to the study of theology and Scripture. As he did, he realized how much the Church had veered off in so many wrong directions. In the 1370s, he produced three significant works as countermeasures to the Church's corruption. He became the morning star or shining light that preceded the Great Awakening.

In a similar way, today this world has veered away from truth and righteousness. It has taken so many wrong directions I cannot begin to even mention all of them! But another Morning Star is going to reenter the world someday! It's Jesus Christ! He will return in His Second Advent and establish the Millennial Kingdom over the earth. A new dawn and day will soon come upon the



earth. Out of the night of sin and the horror of the Tribulation Period, Jesus will return as the Morning Star and bring righteousness and peace to this earth.

May this truth about Jesus Christ returning as the King and ruling the earth with His saints “arise in our hearts” (1 Pet. 1:19) to stimulate hope, joy, and excitement as we anticipate what lies ahead!

“Though all the world forsake me and Satan tempt me sore
Through Jesus, I shall safely reach the goal.
He's the Lily of the Valley, the Bright and Morning Star;
He's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.”