

MORNING STAR DEVOTIONAL

2 PETER 1:19

REVELATION 22:16

“And we have something more sure, the prophetic word, to which you will 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.”

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendent of David, the bright morning star.”

EXPERIENCE

In the October sky just before the sun rises a star has recently been visible in the eastern horizon. My son and I have enjoyed watching this morning star rise. The morning star is the planet Venus—it is the biggest and brightest “star” in the sky (apart from the sun of course). Venus twinkles so beautifully on the horizon until the sun fully rises. It is truly the most gloriously bright “star” in the sky. It serves as a herald, a forerunner, announcing the coming of the sun. If you can

see Venus in the morning it means there is a clear sky, likely you can anticipate a beautiful day ahead—at least a beautiful morning! The sun is about to rise, and the light of a fresh new day is about to dawn.

CONTEMPLATION

Have you seen the morning star before? I wonder what came to your mind as you observed the morning star. I reflected upon the Magi who followed a star to the Christ child. I was spurred to pray, asking the Lord to lead me to himself today. I also thought about the fact that the morning star is the planet in our solar system that reflects the greatest amount of the sun's light to us. The morning star reminds us of Jesus's life on earth—Christ's first coming was a precursor to his glorious second coming when he will arrive in his fullest glory. Jesus's first coming, in human flesh for our salvation, heralded his more glorious second coming which will bring full redemption. I long for that day of final consummation of all God's purposes in Christ's work on the cross when the full light of his countenance will shine on his people. I prayed for Christ to come again just as the Apostle John prayed in the final verses of Scripture, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20)

The Apostle Peter speaks about the morning star in his second epistle. In 2 Peter 1:17-19, Peter directs our attention to the Scriptures as "a lamp shining in a dark place." Scripture lights our way as we walk with Jesus in this earthly life, but we await the dawning of a new day. We long for that day when Christ will return and usher in the new day when the entire creation will be redeemed. In his commentary on 2 Peter, Michael E. Green suggests that the morning star's rising in our hearts "may mean the glow of anticipation in

Christian hearts” for all the hopes that will soon be fulfilled after Christ’s return.¹

Application: Seeing the morning star rise at the beginning of the day should cause believers to meditate upon Christ’s coming. Why are you eager for Christ to come again? What of this world do you long to see redeemed? Meditate and pray about your hopes and longings for Christ’s coming and his redemptive touch upon all of creation. Take a look at the following related verses: Numbers 24:17 & Revelation 2:28.

PRAYER

Christ Jesus, our hearts long for your return and for the full redemption your return will mean for humanity and all the world. We think of friends who are wrestling with illness (cancer, depression, and the like) and how we long for them to be healed. Yet, in the meantime, as we wait for your return, we ask that you guide our hearts to you over and over again, causing our hearts to be refreshed in you and strengthened by you that we might endure the afflictions of this life. Shine your light that we might see the next steps you want us to take. Give us enough light so that we might walk faithfully upon the path you have placed us on. I ask all these things in Christ’s name. Amen.

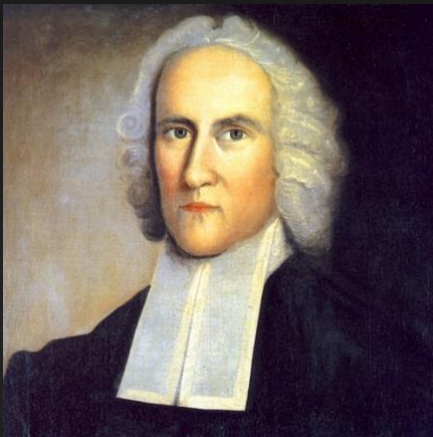
CONFIRMATION

The fascinating aspects of the morning star as an emblem are that it is used both in the Old Testament and the New Testament and that the final disclosure of its meaning is in the last few verses of the entire

¹ Green, E. Michael. ² Peter and Jude. Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2009. Accessed October 22, 2020. ProQuest Ebook Central, 2C.

Bible. At the very end of God's revelation in Scripture Jesus reveals that he is the morning star.

- The morning star is an emblem of Jesus Christ—who illumines our hearts.
- The morning star is also an emblem of the first and second comings of Christ.



Jonathan Edwards

FROM *SERMONS AND DISCOURSES, 1734-1738*

“The light of the morning star, though it be a beautiful, pleasant, and bright light, yet is often a light in a darkness. Though it be the forerunner of the day, yet it is not sufficient to put an end to the darkness of the light, and is but a very small light in comparison of the light of the risen sun that follows.”²

Edwards is contrasting the light of the gospel of Christ seen in our earthly lives versus the light of Christ when he comes again. He is also contrasting the glories of Christ's first and second comings. The glory of Christ's second coming will outshine the glory of his first coming. This reflection corresponds with the reality that Venus, the morning star, in its yearly cycle also becomes the evening star. See the link below the “Do Your Own” meditation for more on this amazing “star”.

² Jonathan Edwards, *Sermons and Discourses 1734-1738*, [WJE 19:729](#).