

The Bright Morning Star

“And we have the prophetic word confirmed , and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts” (2 Pet.1:19).

This prophetic word will be fulfilled sometime in the future, and until then it must serve as a word of encouragement for those living in dark times. The encouragement is expressed in the figurative language that is used. The words of **2 Pet.1:19** have something to do with the coming of the “day” (second coming of Christ) and the figurative meaning of the morning star.

Who is the Morning Star? – Jesus himself gives the answer –

*“ I am the Root and the offspring of David, and **the bright Morning Star**” (Rev.22:16).*

Since His first coming, Jesus has been associated with the positive message of redemption, peace and goodwill. Because the Star of Bethlehem is associated with the birth of the baby Jesus, when thinking of a star, we usually have thoughts of *“little Jesus meek and mild”* who is the *“Lilly of the valley and the Bright and Morning Star.”* These thoughts concerning Jesus are scriptural as He himself said that we had to learn from Him because He was *“gentle and humble in heart” (Matt.11:28)*. What we tend to forget is that it was true of Jesus in the flesh during His earthly ministry when He revealed Himself as Saviour who came to make atonement for sin and to save the lost. Now, after His ascension, Paul states that we no longer know Him after the flesh (**2 Cor.5:16**), because He is now glorified, sitting at the right hand of the Father in heaven.

According to the prophetic word (**2 Pet.1:19**), Jesus will one day come back again and on “that day”, He will reveal Himself as the Bright Morning Star.

Because the morning star, apart from the moon, is the brightest object in the sky, it is clearly visible in the early morning sky, just before day break. It is commonly also known as Venus. Until recently, because of thick clouds surrounding it, its surface could not be seen with the naked eye. Today, thanks to modern technology, probes have landed on its surface and have sent back photo’s and information about it that have been hidden for centuries. We now know that Venus is the hottest star in our solar system – temperatures of up to 465 degrees Celsius, hot enough to melt lead! It is also known that its surface is strewn with volcanic craters spewing molten lava flowing in canals of thousands of kilometres. The thick carbon dioxide clouds contain no water, but are full of sulfuric acid stronger than battery acid. In these clouds there are continuous flashes of lightning, contributing to the severe storms on its surface that are caused by cyclones and strong winds. The atmospheric pressure on Venus is about 90 times that of the earth! What is also peculiar about the morning star, is the fact that, compared to other planets, it revolves in the opposite direction (www.space.com/44venus).

Fulfilment of prophecy?

Is the information that we have about the morning star part of the fulfilment of the prophecy in **Dan.12:4** ?

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

The figurative language of Scripture

In the Bible we see how spiritual realities are often illustrated and explained by physical examples. So, for example, the rock from which water flowed after having being struck by Moses, typifies Christ (**1 Cor.10:4**). In the same way Jesus uses the brass snake on the pole (**Num.21**) to instruct Nicodemus concerning being born again (**Joh.3:9**).

Does the physical description of the morning star convey a figurative message?

With His first coming Jesus came as the Lamb of God to be an offering to make atonement for the sin. With His second coming He is coming back as the Judge to judge the living and the dead (**Matt.10:15, 2 Pet.2:9**).

The prophetic warning of the Morning Star

*"Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy." "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and **I will give to everyone according to what he has done...** "Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. **I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star**" (**Rev.22:10-16**).*

*"...a fearful expectation of judgment and of **raging fire** that will consume the enemies of God" (**Heb.10:27**).*

*"Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens...so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our **"God is a consuming fire"** (**Heb.12:26-29**).*

*"The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff **with unquenchable fire.**" (**Matt.3:10-12**).*

*"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and **that day that is coming will set them on fire,**" says the Lord Almighty" (**Mal.4:1**, my emphasis).*

The Glorified Christ

What the Bible declares about Jesus coming back to judge, is confirmed by the figurative language used in Revelation to describe the glorified Christ.

*“His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like **blazing fire**. His feet were like **bronze glowing in a furnace**, and his voice was like the **sound of rushing waters**. In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a **sharp double-edged sword**. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance” (Rev.1:13-20, my emphasis).*

The figurative description of the Risen Christ, represents judgement.

White hair – wisdom, authority, judgement, speaks of the *Ancient of Days* of **Dan.7:21-22** (Perhaps why some judges still wear white wigs in court).

Fiery eyes – judgement

Feet of glowing bronze – judgement *“He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty” (Rev.19:15).*

Voice of rushing water – picture of flood waters, not of a peaceful brook.

Sharp sword – weapon of war, *“with which to strike down the nations” (Rev.19:15).*

Conclusion

The figurative message of the physical morning star, confirms the way in which the Bible predicts that the Morning Star, Jesus, is coming back! This prophetic message must go out from the church; Jesus is coming back and a fiery judgement awaits sinners and those who have caused innocent people to experience pain and suffering through unrighteous acts like rape, murder, kidnapping and child abuse! The same awaits those who have rejected the message of salvation to be found in Jesus Christ as Saviour.

The only escape from the coming fiery ordeal, is to be found in turning to Christ Jesus in heart-felt repentance.

The coming of the Morning Star has implications for believers as well

*“If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. **It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.** If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames” (1 Cor.3:12-15, my emphasis).*

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