

## THE BRIGHTEST STAR HAS RISEN

[Revelation 22:16](#) "I am the bright and morning star."

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The planet Venus is by far the brightest and most conspicuous of all stars, including the wandering stars called planets. It is the earth's twin sister in size and in many other characteristics. When nearest the earth (about twenty six million miles away) it is so bright that it casts its own shadow on a piece of white paper and can be seen even in the daytime with the naked eye, if one knows precisely where to look for it.



When Venus is ahead of the sun relative to our earth it becomes the morning star and as such is a most welcome and beautiful sight. Such a brilliant object in the sky could not go unnoticed by man, in fact Venus has always been known as the morning star throughout the ages.

Look to the east when the conditions are favorable and see this beautiful picture in the morning. The sky is a bluish purple with a faint hint of red, and upon the horizon rises a brilliant star, rising higher and higher in the sky. Gradually the morning sky gets brighter and more colorful until the sun arises in all its glory and splendor.

Jesus in our text says that He is like this bright morning star in certain ways. As Venus is the herald and forerunner of a new day, so Jesus

ushered in a new and glorious day for all mankind. Thinking of Jesus our Savior we say...

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### 1. USHERING IN THE DAY OF GRACE

This world, without Christ, is in total darkness. Of Jesus we read in [John 1:4-5](#), "In him was life, and the life was the light of men, and the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." It would indeed be hard to imagine what this whole world would be like without the Brightest Star.

A description of the heathen is given us in [Romans 1](#), "Their foolish heart was darkened .... and they changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things..... being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness: full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity: whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things," etc. **What an appalling picture of darkness!** The world is under the control of the Prince of darkness, the black angel, the fallen spirit called the Devil and Satan.

Much worse than all that, the whole world is condemned to eternal darkness by the justice of the holy God who made all things. "Cast them into outer darkness" is the fate of all mankind. It is not possible to paint this dreadful and horrible picture dark enough.

On the horizon of this dark world of sin and evil a beautiful and brilliant star arose, ushering in the day of light and hope. That brightest star is Christ as He says, "I am the bright and morning star." Even in the garden of Eden, in man's darkest hour when he disobeyed God and corrupted himself, God gave the promise of the Savior and the coming of a new day.

In the fullness of the times, the Star had reached its greatest height in the heavens and the day of grace arrived with the birth of the Savior.

Jesus is not only the herald of the day of grace but is also the cause of it, for He became the Substitute for the whole human race. He fulfilled the holy Commandments in our stead. He died on the cross for the sins of the world. He reconciled God with all mankind. All who put their trust in His saving blood have their sins washed away and are saved, no more to live in darkness. Let Jesus tell us what happens, ([John 8:12](#)), "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." God wants all men to receive and accept His wonderful day of grace.



The day of grace followed the rising of the brightest Star as naturally as the day follows the rising of Venus. What tremendous changes in our darkened world were caused by the coming of the morning Star! Think of the advances of civilization and society, of justice and law, of love and hope since the birth of Christ. All mankind is offered a new light and outlook on life, a new aim and purpose for our existence. Without Him we would be steeped in the darkness of despair.

When the conditions are right and we are up early enough, it is almost impossible to overlook the morning star. Today Jesus is preached in all the world and is visible to all men. Our earnest prayer is that all people would accept the Savior now in the day of grace.

But the "bright and morning star" ushered in a day of even greater joy, for after the day of grace follows the day of glory.

## 2. USHERING IN THE DAY OF GLORY

When the morning star appears it brings with it a promise, a sure promise of the glorious day to come. No one would ever think of doubting the arrival of a new day after seeing the morning star slowly rise in the sky, in fact, it was called "Phosphorus" by the Greeks, which means "light-bringing."

Christ, the bright and morning star, also brings with Him a sure promise, not only of the day of grace, but especially of the day of glory. That was the purpose of His coming into this world, that is the purpose of the day of grace, to usher in the day of glory for all believers in Jesus.

Glory! What a beautiful word filled with promises and hope.

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory." ([Matt.25:31](#)) All those who put their trust in Jesus will share His glory. "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory." ([John 17:24](#))

In that realm of glory there is no need for any kind of light. “And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof,” ([Rev.21:23](#)).

The day of grace is drawing to a close and the day of glory is fast approaching. For those who reject the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ it will be a day of eternal darkness, but for the believers it will be the day of days when they will be glorified forever.



But the day of grace is still with us, and we pray that all will accept Jesus now as the Redeemer and sing with us, “How lovely shines the Morning Star! The nations see and hall afar the light in Judah shining.”

With hearts overflowing with thanks and praise to Jesus, we sing, “Beautiful Savior, King of Creation, Son of God and Son of man! Truly I’d love Thee, Truly I’d serve Thee, Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.” AMEN.

PRAYER. We give Thee eternal thanks, dear Lord, that Thou hast called us out of darkness into Thy marvelous light. Thou hast redeemed us and given us this wonderful day of grace in Christ, Thy dear Son. Looking upon our Savior we know that our day of glory will soon be here. Then we shall join with all the holy angels and the redeemed in praising Thee from whom all blessings flow, O Father, Son, and Spirit, ever one God, world without end. AMEN