

Introduction:

1. “We have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him” (Matthew 2:2).
  - a. These words from the wise men launch us into our final study about the names of Jesus.
  - b. It is fitting that a star is used by God at the coming of Jesus into the world. For Jesus Himself is called “the Bright and Morning Star” in Revelation 22:16.
2. More than 100 names (or terms) are used in Scripture to describe Jesus. We have seen but a few.
  - a. Never has there been a man on earth who is described in so many ways. Each name tells us something about our Savior, of His nature, mission, accomplishments, glory, etc.
  - b. Each term should make us appreciate Him more, as does our text in Revelation 22:16. He is not only “the Bright and Morning Star,” He is also the “Root and Offspring of David.” We cannot do justice to this text without explaining the reference to David.

The Lesson:

**I. The Root and Offspring of David.**

- A. David is indeed the ancestor of Jesus. He lived about 1,000 years prior to the birth of Christ.
  1. What is meant by “the Root”? It is suggested that this means David came from Jesus.
    - a. While it is true that David did indeed come from Jesus (since Jesus is the Creator of all mankind), the thought here is something different.
    - b. This language indicates that Jesus came from David’s lineage, Isaiah 11:1, 10. Jesus is the Branch from the root of David—one who came from the great king of Israel.
  2. The term “Offspring” further emphasizes that same point. Jesus is the promised Messiah who was to come as the Son of Abraham and Son of David, Matthew 1:1.
- B. What is the Lord’s purpose for using this language in the context of Revelation 22:16?
  1. Note what Jesus says about the angel and the churches. This refers to Revelation 1:1. God had used an angel in presenting the vision of Revelation to the Apostle John. But, it is not just from an angel. Jesus Himself personally speaks and certifies that He has sent this angel with this message. The point is about trust!
  2. It is this: Just as they could trust Jesus as the promised Messiah, the descendant of David who had fulfilled Old Testament prophecy, they could trust the message given in Revelation, for it originated with the promised Messiah Himself. God’s people were hurting, but the message in Revelation is one of hope and blessing, Revelation 6:9, 22:14.

**II. The Bright and Morning Star.**

- A. The message of hope and blessing continues with this language. The imagery of a star or of the morning—as a sign of the dawning of a brighter day—is often found in those texts where God wants to give hope to His people.

1. In Numbers 24:17 such a prophecy and promise is found. Enemies gathered against Israel, but the prophecy indicated that all such enemies would suffer defeat. While this text likely refers to King David, it is even more fitting of Christ—the Star out of Jacob.
  2. In Luke 1:78-79, Zacharias spoke of the “Dayspring,” a reference to Jesus (or the Father) who was bringing salvation into a dark and dying world. The word means “the morning light,” and is used to describe the One who is to be the light of the world!
  3. Peter likewise used such language as he affirmed the certainty of God’s word, 2 Peter 1:19. God’s people were going through trials and tribulations; the message is that they must not give up! Take heed to the prophetic word because it is a light. There is coming the dawning of a better day—a day in which the Savior Himself provides perfect light—a day in which the heart of every Christian will receive the blessing it longs for!
  4. Isaiah 60:1-3 powerfully demonstrates that our God is a bringer of light. Note the imagery of light as it is contrasted with darkness. It is the Lord who arises over you.
  5. Revelation 2:28 speaks of the “morning star” being given to he who overcomes (2:26). The imagery of the morning star is a reference to Venus. It appears as the darkness is passing away; it is an indication that morning is coming; it is intermingled with the first rays of the light of the sun. As used in this text, it is indicative of hope, of a better day.
- B. With these texts behind us, it is easy to see why Jesus is called “the Bright and Morning Star.”
1. We live in a dark and evil world, but one has come who brings us hope. A new day is coming. One who comes in splendor and glory will usher that new day. There is coming a time when the clouds and darkness will be no more—only the glories of the everlasting kingdom of Christ.
  2. In the context of Revelation 22:16 God tells His people to hold on to Jesus, hold on to their hope. While they were presently suffering pain and persecution at the hands of the Roman Empire, the agent of Satan, they must not give up because a better day is coming. Heaven is real. Glory is waiting. Your Savior will usher in that new day for you!

### III. What do we take home from our study?

- A. Here are three things:
1. Language that may appear difficult can be understood by careful study. So, study!
  2. God’s word is true. Prophecies from both testaments can be trusted. So, trust!
  3. God wants His people from all times to be faithful to Him. So, be faithful!
- B. These were the three things saints who lived in the days of Revelation could take home with them after public reading of the book. Does God want us to take home something different?

#### Conclusion:

1. Can you see now how fitting it was that God used a star to herald the Savior’s coming?
2. Can you also see how fitting it is we follow the Bright and Morning Star? See Revelation 2:10.