

“I Am... the Bright and Morning Star”

Revelation 22:16

Of all of Jesus’ names and titles, this is one of the most intriguing. Consider the paradox that is inherent in Revelation 22:16:

- A “root” is that which *precedes*. An “offspring” is that which *succeeds*.
- Jesus is saying, “I am the “Root”—the One who got David here. I am also the “Offspring,” the One who came out of David!” “I am both the *Producer* of David and the *Product* of David.”
- How can someone be “the Root” and “the Offspring” of the same person? “With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”

Luke’s genealogy of Christ begins with Jesus and goes backwards through Abraham all the way to Adam. Luke 3:23—“Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli...” Luke 3:38—“Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was **the son of God.**”

Adam was created by Jesus (Gen. 1:26). “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible... all things were created by him, and for him.” (Col. 1:16)

Jesus is at the beginning of Luke's genealogy and at the end making Him “**the Root and Offspring of David**” (Rev. 5:5). “The ROOT” indicates Christ’s deity. “The OFFSPRING of David” refers to the humanity of Jesus.

➡ The CONTRAST between the titles given in Rev. 22:16:

- A “root” is beneath the ground where no one can see it—A “star” is in the heavens where all can see it.
- The “root” speaks of His lowliness—the “star” of His loftiness.
- The “root” speaks of His relationship with earthly things; the “star” speaks of His relationship with heavenly things.

➡ The planet Venus is called “the morning star.” God created the heavens and everything in them. God never does anything in a haphazard way. There is a design to the universe. “The heavens declare the glory of

God; and the firmament sheath his handiwork.” We can learn a lot about God by studying the heavens. The wise men came from the east to Christ’s birthplace because they studied the Scripture and the stars.

➔ The title “*the bright and morning star*” is an **analogy** to the planet Venus. Let’s apply three celestial characteristics of Venus, “the morning star” to Christ as “*the bright and morning star.*”

I. He is “*the Bright and Morning Star*” in His MOVEMENT.

A. DIRECTION of movement—The planet Venus is unique to all the other planets in our solar system because direction of it’s rotation from east to west (clockwise). The earth turns counterclockwise. While the Morning Star (Venus/Jesus) turns one way, the earth is turning in the opposite way.

➔ Jesus moves in a completely different orbit than this world’s system! When you move in the same direction of the Lord Jesus Christ, you will find yourself moving against to the ways of the world (cf Isa. 55:8-9). “*This World is Not My Home!*”

1. The world rotates West to East, contrary to God.
 - Adam & Eve’s expulsion from the garden (Gen. 3:24).
 - Cain’s departure from the presence of God (Gen. 4:16).
 - Lot pitching his tent towards Sodom (Gen. 13:11-12).
 - Jacob running from Esau (Gen. 28:10).
 - Jews were taken into captivity (Jer. 52).
 - Mistake of Napoleon; Hitler; Japan.
2. The Lord (Venus) moves East to West.
 - The High Priest enters the Temple (Ezek. 11:1).
 - Abraham called out of Mesopotamia.
 - The Jews entered the Promised Land going east to west.
 - The wise men come seeking Jesus (Mt. 2:1-2).
 - Jesus enters Jerusalem (Ezek. 44:1-3).
 - The Gospel goes westward in the book of Acts (Acts 16).
 - The second coming of Christ (Mt. 24:27).
 - Airline pilots: “West is best; East is least.”

C. DURATION of movement—Venus rotates very slowly on its axis (1 revolution = 243 earth days). The idea of the slow revolution is that time is fairly irrelevant to God (2 Pet. 3:8). He is patient. He has a plan, and it will not be hurried by anyone (Ps. 90:1-4).

II. He is “*the Bright and Morning Star*” in His MYSTERY. Venus is a very mysterious planet.

A. It’s CLOUDS—Venus is shrouded by a thick layer of clouds making it impossible for astronomers to actually see the planet itself.

- When Jesus ascended into heaven He was received up into a cloud (Acts 1:9). After that He could no longer be seen —“*Now we see through a glass darkly...*” (1 Cor. 13:12).

B. It’s “CHANGES”—When viewed through a telescope, Venus appears to be going through “changes” in shape and size. These apparent changes are called phases. They result from different parts of Venus’ sunlit areas being visible from the earth at different times.

1. Venus never really changes, but only appears to change.
2. And so it is with the Lord Jesus Christ—He never really changes, but His appearance depends upon where you are in proximity to Him.

C. New things are being learned about Venus all the time. New discoveries are made on a regular basis. Likewise, we should be learning more about Jesus everyday!

III. He is “*the Bright and Morning Star*” in His MAGNITUDE.

A. It’s REFLECTIVE PERSON—Venus is the third brightest object in the sky, behind the sun and the moon. Hebrews 1:3 says Jesus is the brightness of God’s glory (cf. Rev. 1:16).

➡ The only reason the moon appears brighter to us is because it is so much closer to the earth than Venus.

1. Astronomers tell us the moon only reflects 7% of the light it receives. Venus reflects 59% of the light it receives from the sun.

2. The church is compared to the moon (Song of Solomon 6:10). It is obviously negligent in its responsibility to reflect light upon the world.
- B. Its REVEALING POWER—Venus, the morning star, reveals itself on the horizon about 2 hours before sunrise— When Venus rises, it means the sun will follow shortly—daybreak is imminent. It marks the end on one day and the beginning of a new day.
1. Jesus, *“the bright and morning star,”* is the dawn of the messianic kingdom (Num. 24:17; 2 Sam. 23:4; 2 Pet. 1:19).
 2. The morning star shines in the darkest part of the night. Likewise, as things get darker and darker we can be assured Jesus, the morning star, is about to arise.
 - The O.T. ends with Christ as *“the Sun of righteousness”* coming in millennial blessing for Israel and burning judgment to the world (Mal. 4:1-3). The N.T. closes with Christ coming as *“the bright and morning star.”*
 - Before Jesus arises as *“the Sun of Righteousness,”* He appears as the *“Morning Star”* during the darkest hour of the tribulation (Isa. 9:1-2; 59:20-60:1-3).
 - Jesus Christ comes for the tribulation saints as *“the Morning Star”* (Rev. 2:28).

SUMMATION: In the darkness of the book of Revelation, Jesus says, “Hey John, let’s put this in before we close the book” (Rev. 22:16).

He is coming, coming for us;
 Soon we'll see His light afar
 On the dark horizon rising
 As the Bright and Morning Star!