

**HWMR - CRYSTALLIZATION STUDY OF NUMBERS, Book 4, Week 22****Christ as the Star Out of Jacob**

MC Hymns: 1198, 250

Scripture Reading: Num. 24:17; Gen. 1:14-19; Dan. 12:3; Matt. 2:1-12; Rev. 1:16, 20; 2:1, 28; 3:1; 22:16; 2 Pet. 1:19; Gen. 22:17; Jude 12-13

Numbers 24:17 - I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near. There shall come forth **a Star out of Jacob**, And a Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And He shall crush the corners of Moab And break down all the sons of Sheth.

**The light-bearers appearing, the fourth day — 1:14-19**

Genesis 1:14 - And God said, Let there be **light-bearers** in the expanse of heaven to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years;

Genesis 1:15 - And let them be light-bearers in the expanse of heaven to give **light** on the earth; and it was so.

Genesis 1:16 - And God made the two great light-bearers, the greater light-bearer **to rule the day** and the lesser light-bearer **to rule the night**, and the stars.

Genesis 1:17 - And God set them in the expanse of heaven to give **light** on the earth

Genesis 1:18 - And **to rule over** the day and over the night and to **separate** the light from the darkness, and God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:19 - And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

Daniel 12:3 - And those who have **insight** will **shine** like the shining of the heavenly expanse, and those who turn many to righteousness, like the **stars**, forever and ever.

**Sought and worshipped by the Gentile magi — vv. 1-12**

Matthew 2:1 - Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem,

Matthew 2:2 - Saying, Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw **His star** at its rising and have come to worship Him.

Matthew 2:3 - And when Herod the king heard this, he was **troubled** and all Jerusalem with him.

Matthew 2:4 - And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

Matthew 2:5 - And they said to him, In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written through the prophet:

Matthew 2:6 - "And you, **Bethlehem, land of Judah**, by no means are you the least among the princes of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Ruler, One who will shepherd My people Israel."

**Enviied by Herod the king — vv. 7-8**

Matthew 2:7 - Then Herod, secretly calling the magi, determined accurately from them the time that the **star** appeared.

Matthew 2:8 - And sending them to Bethlehem, he said, Go and find out accurately about the **child**. And when you find Him, report to me, so that I also may come and worship Him.

Matthew 2:9 - And after they heard the king, they went their way, and behold, the **star** which they saw at its rising led them until it came and stood over the place where the **child** was.

Matthew 2:10 - And when they saw the star, they **rejoiced** exceedingly with great joy.

Matthew 2:11 - And they came into the house and saw the **child** with Mary His mother. And falling down, they worshipped Him; and opening their treasures, they offered gifts to Him, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:12 - And because they had been **divinely instructed** in a dream not to return to Herod, they **departed** by **another way** to their country.

Revelation 1:16 - And He had in His right hand **seven stars**; and out of His mouth proceeded a sharp two-edged sword; and His face shone as the sun shines in its power.

Revelation 2:1 - To the messenger of the church in Ephesus write: These things says He who holds the **seven stars** in His right hand, He who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

Revelation 2:28 - And to him I will give the **morning star**.

Revelation 3:1 - And to the messenger of the church in Sardis write: These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the **seven stars**: I know your works, that you have a name that you are living, and yet you are dead.

Rev. 22:16 - I Jesus have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright **morning star**.

Genesis 22:17 - I will surely bless you and will greatly multiply your seed like the **stars of the heavens** and like the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.

Jude 12 - These are the hidden reefs in your love feasts, feasting together with you without fear, shepherding themselves; waterless clouds being carried off by winds; autumn trees without fruit, having died twice, rooted up;

Jude 13 - Wild waves of the sea, foaming out their own shames; **wandering stars**, for whom the gloom of darkness is kept for eternity.

## THE STAR THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE

The matter of the **star** is not only in the book of Matthew. All the main things of the Bible, as a rule, begin in the Old Testament and go right through the New Testament to the end of the Bible. With this matter of the **star** there is no exception. It is mentioned and revealed first in **Numbers 24:17**: “*There shall come forth a Star out of Jacob.*” According to the context of this verse, this **Star** that comes out of Jacob is Christ. **Christ comes as the Star**. Then immediately in the very opening of the New Testament, we have the **star** again. The magi said, “*we saw His star at its rising*” (**Matt. 2:2**). They did not say, “We saw a star,” or, “We saw the star,” but, “we saw **His star**.” No doubt this is the fulfillment of the prophecy in Numbers 24. The **Star** prophesied in the Old Testament has now come and was shown to these magi. We have seen clearly that the **revealing** of this **star** was **outside of religion**. The Lord God does not care for religion; anything that becomes religious, He will pass by. (The New Testament Service, Chapter 6, Section 1)

### Day 1

#### I. Numbers 24:17 says, “There shall come forth a Star out of Jacob”; this **Star** refers to Christ:

- A. The fulfillment of this **type** of Christ is found in the word of the magi, learned men from the east, recorded in Matthew 2:2: “*Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star at its rising and have come to worship Him*”:
1. The magi did not say, “We saw a star,” or “We saw the star,” but “**We saw His star**.”
  2. This is certainly the fulfillment of Numbers 24:17; the star spoken of in this verse was shown to these learned men; it did not appear to any of the people of Israel.
  3. Whereas the Jews had the Scriptures concerning Christ and knew where He would be born (Matt. 2:4-6), the magi saw **the star of Christ**.
  4. The Jews had the knowledge in letters concerning where Christ was to be born (Micah 5:2), but these learned men from the east received a **living vision** of Him; eventually, the **star** led them to the place where Christ was (Matt. 2:9-10).
  5. Christ is the real Sun (Mal. 4:2), but strictly speaking, He does not appear as the Sun during the age of night; rather, He shines as a **star**; a star shines at night, but it indicates that day is coming.
  6. When Christ came the first time, He appeared openly as a **star**, but when He comes the second time, He will be the **morning star** (Rev. 2:28; 22:16) to His overcomers, who watch for His coming; to all others Christ will later appear as the sun.
- B. Matthew 2:1-12 reveals that to find Christ is a living matter; it is not a matter of mere doctrinal knowledge of the Bible:
1. The **star appeared** far away from the genuine religion, far away from the temple in the Holy Land, far away from the Jewish religious center, far away from the priests, the scribes, the Pharisees, and all the religious people; instead, there was a **star showing** something of Christ in a heathen land.
  2. Merely to hold the Bible in our hand and read Micah 5:2, saying that Christ will be born in Bethlehem, does not work; we may have the Bible, but we may miss the heavenly **star**.
  3. The **star** is the **living revelation**, the **living vision**, not the old and dead doctrinal knowledge of the Scriptures, not the dead knowledge of Micah 5:2; what we need today is not merely Bible knowledge but the heavenly vision, the up-to-date, instant vision, the living vision, the vision that human concepts can never teach.
  4. Even if we have the knowledge of the Scriptures, we still need the **instant, up-to-date**, living **star** to lead us to the very street and the very house where Jesus is.

### Day 2

5. After receiving the living vision, the magi were **misled** by their human concept and went to Jerusalem, the capital of the Jewish nation, where its king was presumed to be; their being misled caused many young boys to be killed (Matt. 2:16).
6. When they arrived in Jerusalem and inquired concerning where the King of the Jews was to be born, we read that “*when Herod the king heard this, he was troubled and all Jerusalem with him*”—v. 3:
  - a. When they heard this news, they should have **rejoiced**; instead, they were **troubled**.
  - b. A Christian who expects the Lord to come or who expects to be raptured should take this as a **warning**—2 Tim. 4:8; cf. Acts 26:16.
7. After the magi were corrected by the Scriptures (Matt. 2:4-6), they went to Bethlehem (vv. 8-9), and the **star** appeared to them again and led them to the place where Christ was, “*and when they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy*” (v. 10).
8. When the magi were corrected by the Scriptures and restored to the right track, the **star** appeared to them again; **living vision always accompanies the Scriptures**.
9. The priests were those who taught people the law (Mal. 2:7), and the scribes were those who knew the Scriptures (Ezra 7:6); both the priests and the scribes had knowledge concerning the birth of Christ (Matt. 2:5-6), but, unlike the magi from the east, they did not see the vision, nor did they have the heart to seek after Christ.
10. Regardless of how “scriptural” we are, if we lose the presence of the Lord, we are absolutely wrong; the New Testament way to find and follow the Lord is to continually **stay in His hidden presence**—John 5:39-40; Isa. 45:15; Exo. 33:11, 14; cf. 2 Cor. 5:16.

11. It is easy to accumulate scriptural knowledge, but if we would have **living guidance**, we must live in an intimate relationship with the Lord; we must be one with Him—2:10-14.
12. The magi saw Christ, and they worshipped Him; then they were warned by God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, so they departed into their own country “by another way” (Matt. 2:12); **once we have seen Christ, we never take the same way, the way of religion apart from Christ, but we will always take another way.**

### Day 3 & Day 4

#### II. Christ's faithful followers are shining and living stars, those who follow Christ as the shining and living Star to be His duplication—Dan. 12:3; cf. Gen. 22:17:

- A. The **living stars follow** the heavenly, living, up-to-date, and instant vision of Christ as the centrality and universality of God's economy—Acts 26:16-18.
- B. The **living stars** are those who **bless** God's people; the more we praise the Lord for God's people and **speak well** of them in faith, the more we put ourselves under God's blessing—Num. 24:9; Gen. 12:2-3; 22:17.
- C. The **living stars give heed** to the prophetic word of the Scriptures “*as to a lamp shining in a dark place*” so that Christ as the **morning star** rises in their hearts day by day; if we give heed to the word in the Bible, which shines as a lamp in a dark place, we will have His rising in our hearts to shine in the darkness of apostasy where we are today, before His actual appearing as the **morning star**—2 Pet. 1:19; John 6:63; Rev. 2:28; 22:16; 2 Tim. 4:8:
  1. In the **principle** of the **morning star**, a Christian should rise up early because the early morning is the best time to meet the Lord (to fellowship with God, to praise and sing, to pray-read the Bible with the ministry, and to pray to the Lord)—S. S. 7:12; Psa. 5:1-3; 57:8-9; 59:16-17; 63:1-8; 90:14; 92:1-2; 108:2-3; 143:8; Exo. 16:21.
  2. He will secretly give Himself as the morning star to those who love Him and who watch and wait for Him so that they may taste the freshness of His presence at His coming back after a long absence.

#### THE STARS—CHRIST AND THE SAINTS

The **stars** are **Christ** and the **saints**. Although **Christ is the real sun**, He does not appear as the sun during this age of night. He **shines as a star**, as **the bright and morning star** (Rev. 22:16b). **Christ Himself is a star**. **All the overcoming saints are also stars**. **Second Peter 1:19** tells us **to take heed to the sure Word until the morning star**, which is Christ, arises within us. Revelation 1:20 not only tells us that the churches are the lampstands shining with the Spirit, but also that the angels, the leading ones or the messengers in the churches, are the shining stars. Daniel 12:3 says that those who turn many from the wrong way unto righteousness will shine as stars. Matthew 5:14 says that the believers today are the light of the world and Philippians 2:15 says, “*among whom you shine as lights in the world.*” All these verses show that the saints who are in the proper way and have the proper standing are stars. (Life-Study of Genesis, Msg. 5)

- D. The **living stars enjoy** and are **filled** with the sevenfold intensified Spirit to make them intensely living and intensely shining for God's building—Rev. 3:1; 4:5; 5:6.
- E. The **living stars** are the **messengers** of the churches, those **who enjoy** and **experience** the pneumatic Christ as the Messenger of God and as the fresh message from God so that they can dispense the fresh and present Christ into the people of God for the testimony of Jesus—1:16, 20; 2:1; Mal. 3:1-3.

At the beginning of the New Testament the **star** was **outside of religion**, but at the end of the New Testament the **star** is **within the church**. Have you seen these two ends of the New Testament? If you would see the **star** today, there is no need for you to look to the sky; there is no need for you to do as those magi did. Today **the star is in the church and among the churches**. The Root and the Offspring of David, the Son of God as well as the Son of Man, Jesus Christ as the **morning star**, is walking today among the local churches. Where then should you come to see the star? You should come to the local churches.

If we are for religion, we are through as far as the **star** is concerned. However, if we are in the genuine local church, praise the Lord, the **star** is here. So many of us have proved this by our experience: when we were in religion, we simply had the sense of being in darkness, but when the Lord brought us into the local churches, Hallelujah, we saw the **star**, the brightness of the star. **The heavenly star today is in the local churches**. (The New Testament Service, Chapter 6, Section 1)

### Day 5

- F. The **living stars have** “*great resolutions in heart*” and “*great searchings of heart*”; they are **lovers** of God who are like the

“stars...from their courses” to fight together with God against His enemy so that they may be “like the sun / When it rises in its might”—Judg. 5:15-16, 20, 31; Dan. 11:32; Matt. 13:43.

- G. The **living stars** are those who **fear** Jehovah and **hear** the voice of His Servant, **trusting** in Jehovah so that they may have light while walking in darkness—Isa. 50:10-11; Psa. 139:7-12, 23-24:
1. Those who make light for themselves and walk in their self-made light instead of in God’s light will suffer torment—Isa. 50:11.
  2. This should be a warning to us so that we may walk in the light given by God, not in the light we make for ourselves—1 John 1:5.
  3. “Come and let us walk in the light of Jehovah”—Isa. 2:5.
- H. The **living stars** are **typified** by the **stars** that were **established** on the fourth day of God’s restoration with His further creation, in which they **rule** by their shining; where there is **shining**, there is ruling for the **growth of life**—Gen. 1:14-19:
1. The **shining forth** of the Lord Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration was the **coming of the kingdom** in power; this **shining forth** is **actually the ruling presence** of the Triune God—Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:1-8.
  2. The kingdom of God as the ruling of God, the reigning of God, with all its blessings and enjoyment is the shining of the Lord Jesus, and the kingdom is the spreading of the Lord Jesus by shining over us.
  3. The kingdom is the **shining** of the reality of the Lord Jesus; whenever He is shining over us and we are under that shining, we are in the kingdom under God’s ruling and **reigning** within us for our growth of life.

### The Light Bearers Appeared

On the fourth day, there was no growth of life, but the appearance of the stronger, more solid lights (Gen. 1:14-17). Although **light** came in on the **first day**, it was not that solid, not that strong. On the **fourth day**, not only the lights came, but also the **light bearers**—the **sun**, the **moon**, and the **stars**. These are **lights** which are stronger, more solid, and more available. This is the **first requirement for the growth of life**.

Genesis 1:14-19 does not speak about lights in a loose way, but in a very definite way—the sun, the moon, and the stars. In **typology**, the **sun typifies Christ**. Christ is our sun. Malachi 4:2 tells us that Christ is the **Sun of Righteousness** and that there is healing in His wings. His shining forth is the wings, and with this shining forth there is healing. The second half of this verse tells us that **we all will grow up under the shining of Christ**. Also, Luke 1:78-79 tells us that Christ is our dayspring, the sunrise in the early morning. Hallelujah! Jesus the Lord is our sun. He is the "great light" which has sprung up over darkness and the shadow of death (Matt. 4:16).

**Who**, then, is the moon? The **moon** is the **church**. Although it is difficult for us to find a verse in the Bible indicating that the moon is the church, there is, nevertheless, a **basis** for saying that the church is the moon. Remember **Joseph's dream** about the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars (Gen. 37:9-11). The **sun** was his father, the **moon** his mother, and the **stars** his brothers. Based upon this fact, we may say that the **church as the wife**, the bride of Christ, may be **typified** by the **moon**. **The church today is the moon**. **What** is the moon? The moon is an object that has no light in itself, but has the ability to reflect light. By itself, the church has no light. But hallelujah! **The church was made in a way to reflect the light of Christ**. Furthermore, the moon is able to reflect light only in the night time. Today, **during the church age, it is the night time**. Look at the world. How dark it is! Although the church is really in a dark night (the local churches are lampstands shining in this dark night, Rev. 1:20), she can reflect the light of Christ. However, frequently the church (like the moon) is not very stable, coming up and going down. The church may be the full moon, the half moon, or the new moon. And, when there is no moon, the stars shine. Hallelujah!

We not only have the sun, the moon, but also the **stars**: not only Christ, the church, but also **all the overcoming saints**. Daniel 12:3 says that those who turn many to righteousness shine like the **stars**. If we are going to help people to be saved, if we are going to turn people from darkness to light, if we are going to recover all the backsliders, **we must be the shining stars**. Revelation 1:20 tells us that the churches are the lampstands shining in the darkness and that the angels (the living ones in the churches) are the **shining stars**. The Lord said that the saints are "*the light of the world*" (Matt. 5:14), and Paul said that the saints shine "as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:15).

After we have grown in life from the grass to the tree, we should not be satisfied, for that was only the third day, not the end. We must go on to the **fourth day** to enjoy Christ as the **sunrise**, to enjoy the church as the **bright moon**, and to enjoy so many good saints as the **shining stars**, that we may grow in life. (Life-Study of Genesis chapter 4)

## Day 6

- I. On the negative side, there are some who are “**wandering stars**”—Jude 12-13:
1. The metaphor of **wandering stars** indicates that the erratic teachers, the apostates, were not solidly fixed in the unchanging truths of the heavenly revelation but were wandering about among God’s starlike people.
  2. Their destiny is the gloom of darkness, which has been kept for them for eternity; the erratic apostates are **wandering stars** today, but they will be imprisoned in the gloom of darkness.
  3. We may also say that anyone who keeps us from the genuine local church and from meeting on the ground of the church with the Lord’s people is a **wandering star**; the true stars are those who turn many to righteousness, those who do not lead people astray but turn them to the right way.
  4. Today the **living star** and the **living stars** are not far from us—they are in and with the local churches as the practical expressions of the Body of Christ—Rev. 1:11, 20.
  5. Among all the local churches there are some **living stars**; we simply need to contact them and keep company with them; they will lead us to the place where Jesus is.
- J. May the Lord be merciful to us that we may always **be kept in the right way** to meet the Lord, to worship Him, and to offer our love to Him; may the Lord make us all like the magi, **following the living star** to find Christ in order to become His duplication as the **living stars**—cf. Eph. 5:8-9.

### CHRIST'S FOLLOWERS BEING STARS

Not only is **Christ** Himself the **star**, but also **His followers**, the shining ones in the churches, are **stars**. In Acts and the Epistles the leading ones were called elders, but in the last book of the Bible they are the stars. Now it is **not** a matter of title or position but a **matter of shining**. **All the leading ones of the local churches should be shining stars**.

What does it mean to be a star? Daniel 12:3 gives the answer: “*Those who have insight will shine like the shining of the heavenly expanse, and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars, forever and ever.*” **The stars are those who shine in darkness and turn people from the wrong way to the right way**. Now, during the church age, is the time of night. Therefore, **we need the shining of the stars**. None of the leading ones in the local churches should claim their position; they should not say, “I am one of the elders; you must recognize me.” If they say this, they are in darkness. We need brothers and sisters who shine; we need the shining stars. It is by the shining in today’s darkness that people receive the guidance and are turned from the wrong way to the right way. Anything that is wrong is unrighteousness; whatever is right is righteousness. **Those who turn many to righteousness are the stars that shine forever and ever**.

In the **beginning** of the New Testament there was mention of **only one star** in the heavens, but at the **end** of the New Testament there are **seven stars** in seven local churches. **In every local church there is a star**; in every local church there is something shining, leading people to the right way.

How do we have the New Testament service? It is simply by **following the star**. And **where** is the **star**? Praise the Lord that today we are not in the age of Matthew 1 and 2 but in the age of the book of Revelation, in the local churches. **Today the star is in the local churches**. The Bible ends with this word: “*I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come!*” (Rev. 22:16-17). **Today the star is with the Spirit and with the bride**. Where the Spirit is, there is the star; where the bride is, where the church is, there is the star. (The New Testament Service, Chapter 6, Section 1)