

#22 Christ as the Star out of Jacob

(Crystallization-Study of Numbers 2) 2019/10/21-27

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

1. Matt. 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. **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. **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. **Num. 24:17** There shall come forth a Star out of Jacob, **3.** Whereas the Jews had the Scriptures concerning Christ and knew where He would be born, the magi saw the star of Christ. **4.** The Jews had the knowledge in letters concerning where Christ was to be born, but these learned men from the east received a living vision of Him; eventually, the star led them to the place where Christ was. **5.** Christ is the real Sun, 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 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. **Mic. 5:2** (But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, So little to be among the thousands of Judah, From you there will come forth to Me He who is to be Ruler in Israel; And His goings forth are from ancient times, From the days of eternity.) **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. **Mon**

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. **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. **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." (Matt. 2:3): **2.** When they heard this news, they should have rejoiced; instead, they were troubled. **3.** A Christian who expects the Lord to come or who expects to be raptured should take this as a warning. **7.** After the magi were corrected by the Scriptures, they went to Bethlehem, 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". **Matt. 2:9-10** 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. **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, and the scribes were those who knew the Scriptures; both the priests and the scribes and knowledge concerning the birth of Christ, 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. **Exo. 33:11** And Jehovah would speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his companion. **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. **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"; 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. **Tue**

II. Christ's faithful followers are shining and living stars, those who follow Christ as the shining and living Star to be His duplication:

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.

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.

C. The living stars give heed to the prophetic word of the Scriptures "as the 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** (Wed) And we have the prophetic word made more firm, to which you do well to give heed as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

Rev. 22:16 ... I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright morning star. **2:28** And to him I will give the morning star.

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). **Psa. 5:3** O Jehovah... In the morning I will set forth my words in order to You, and I will watch. **90:14** Satisfy us in the morning with Your lovingkindness That we may give a ringing shout and rejoice all our days. **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.

D. 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. **Rev. 4:5** And out of the throne come forth lightnings and voices and thunders. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;

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. **Rev. 2:1** (Wed) ... says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, **Wed/Thu**

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”.

Dan. 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.

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** Who among you fears Jehovah helps me, Who is the one who condemns me? Indeed, they will all wear out like a garment; The moth will consume them. **11** Indeed, all of you who kindle a fire, Who surround yourselves with firebrands, Walk into the light of your fire And into the firebrands which you have lit. You will have this from My hand: You will lie down in torment. **1.** Those who make light for themselves and walk in their self-made light instead of in God’s light will suffer torment. **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. **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. 1:16-18** 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. And God set them ...to give light on the earth. 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. **1.** The shining forth of the Lord Jesus onto the Mount of Transfiguration was the coming of the kingdom in power; this shining forth is actually the ruling presence of the Triune God. **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.

I. On the negative side, there are some who are “wandering stars”:

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. **Jude 1:13** Wild waves of the sea, foaming out their own shames; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of darkness is kept for eternity.

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. 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw upon My right hand and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the messengers of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

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. **Sai**

Crucial Point(1): Always stay in the presence of the Lord and be led by the living star

OL1: 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.

OL2: 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.

OL3: When the Jews heard that the King of the Jews was to be born, they were troubled. A Christian who expects the Lord to come or who expects to be raptured should take this as a warning

OL4: 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.

Micah 5:2 was the holy writing, the Holy Scripture, prophesying that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. However, by that verse alone you could not find Jesus. You would know in what city Jesus was to be born, but you would not know on what street or in what house....Even if you have the knowledge of the Scriptures, you still need the instant, up-to-date, living star to lead you to the very street and the very house where Jesus is....It is easy to accumulate scriptural knowledge, but if you would have living guidance, you need to live in an intimate relationship with the Lord; you need to be one with Him.

青少年・大学生編

あなたは聖書を読むとき、必ず自分の心を開き、自分の霊を活用して御言葉を祈り読みし、主ご自身に触れ、主の臨在を享受してください。主の臨在なしに、御言葉を知識として得るだけでは、決して今日のビジョン、生けるビジョンを持つことはできません。主が誕生するときに聖書学者たちは御言葉に従って彼がベツレヘムで生まれることを知っていましたが、彼らは主ご自身を探し求めず、かえって主の誕生に非常に困惑しました。彼らは旧約聖書に精通しているにも関わらず、全く生けるビジョンを持っていませんでした。その結果、彼らは主が来られることを迷惑なこととしてとらえたのです。彼らは御言葉の知識に加えて、生けるビジョンにより、ベツレヘムの特定の地方の、特定の家まで導かれるべきでした。 **John 5:39** あなたがたは聖書を調べている。なぜなら、その中に永遠の命があると思っているからである。しかし聖書は、私について証しするのである。 **40** しかしあなたがたは、命を得るために私に来ようとはしない。

あなたが今日の生けるビジョンを持つ最上の方法は、回復訳聖書とフットノートを祈り読みすることです。以下の回復訳聖書の序文を読んでください。「聖書の翻訳は、言語への十分な把握だけではなく、神聖な御言葉における神聖な啓示の正しい理解にも基づいています。歴代、聖徒たちが持った神聖な啓示の理解は、彼らの受けた光に基づいており、この理解は着実に前進してきました。この翻訳とフットノートは、この理解の集大成に基づいています。ですから、この訳とそれに付随するフットノートは、あらゆる場所の聖徒たちが過去二千年に到達した神聖な啓示の「結晶」と呼んでもよいでしょう。回復訳が、受け継がれてきたものを継続し、これからの世代に道を整えるこ

とを、私たちは願っております」。

御言葉を祈り読みして、御言葉を根拠に生きたビジョンを持つなら、あなたは生ける星によって導かれるでしょう。決して自分なりの聖書解釈や自分の天然的な観念によって導かれ、歩んではいけません。そこにはキリストがおられません。キリストの誕生を見いだすために、生ける星によって導かれるべきです。高校生になると、進路において文系と理系に分かれたり、大学受験などの受験校を選択したり、卒業後、就職先を選択やその後の転職などの選択に迫られます。もしあなたが生ける星によって導かれるなら、あなたは新たな環境でキリストを見いだすことができ、祝福されます。

祈り:「おお主イエスよ、私は聖書を読むとき、主の御名を呼び求め、あなたの新鮮な臨在を求めます。聖書は単なる知識の本ではありません。御言葉を祈り読みするとき、あなたは私に新鮮なビジョンを与えてください。これが生ける星です。私の天然の観念や好みではなく、この生ける星が私の全生涯を一步一步導いてください。それは私がキリストをさらに得るためです」。

Crucial Point(2): 生ける星としてのキリストの複製となり、暗闇の中で輝き、召会と兄弟姉妹を祝福する

OL1:キリストに忠信に従う者たちは、輝く生ける星たちであり、彼らは輝く生ける星としてのキリストに従って彼の複製となります。

OL2:生ける星たちは、神の民を祝福する者です。私たちは、神の民のために主を賛美し、信仰の中で彼らについて積極的に語れば語るほど、ますます自分自身を神の祝福の下に置きます。

OL3:明けの明星の原則によれば、クリスチャンは朝早く起きるべきです。なぜなら、早朝は主に会う(神と交わり、賛美し歌い、務めの言葉をもって聖書を祈り読みし、主に祈る)最も良い時間であるからです。

キリストご自身が星であるだけでなく、彼に従う者たち、諸召会の中で輝いている者たちも星です。使徒行伝と書簡で、導く者たちは長老と呼ばれていましたが、聖書の最後の書で、彼らは星たちです。今やそれは称号や地位の事柄ではなく、輝きの事柄です。諸地方召会の中の導く者たちはみな輝く星たちであるべきです。

「星」に用いられている言葉は、英語の「発光体」という言葉にも訳すことができます。この星は、発光体のようなもので、暗やみに光をもたらします。…聖書は単なる白黒の文字であるべきではありません。それは、死んだ文字であるべきではありません。私たちは、発光体のようなもの、すなわち明けの明星としてのキリストが私たちの内側に昇るまで、聖書の言葉をよくよく心にとめていなければなりません。

時には、私たちは聖書を取ってそれを読んでも、何も受けないと感じるかもしれません。しかしながら、別の時には、私たちが心を開いて、この預言者の言葉をよくよく心にとめるとき、内側で何か輝き、昇り、明るくなり、現れ出ます。私たちが聖書の節を祈り読みしているとき、内側深くには照らし、輝きに対する感覚があります。そしてこの輝きは、主イエスに対する愛を造り出します。私たちは、彼がとても愛らしいと感じます。…多くの時、この輝きによって私たちは主イエスへの愛で我を忘れてしまいます。それは、夜明けとして、私たちの心の中に昇る明けの明星として、私たちに来られるイエスです。…何度も、私がこの聖なる言葉と共にいた時、何か夜明けのように私の内側に昇りました。ああ、これはすばらしいです！ 状況は明るくなく、周りの環境も

暗やみに満ちているかもしれませんが、内側で何か照らし、輝き、栄光で満たしています。

主に会い、主と接触し、主と交わる最も良い時間は早朝です。マナは太陽が昇る前に集められます。神の食物を食べたい者はだれでも、早く起きるべきです。日が熱くなると、マナは溶けてなくなります。私たちは霊的な養いと霊的な啓発を受けたいなら、霊の交わりと霊の供給を得たいなら、早く起きる必要があります。

私たちは一日の最も良い時(早朝)を、別の事ではなく、神の御前で費やすべきです。あるクリスチャンは一日中、別の事で費やし、寝ようとする夜になってはじめてひざまずいて聖書を読み、祈ります。彼らが聖書を読み、祈り、主と交わっても効果がないのも不思議ではありません。…私たちは主を信じたらず、早朝を神と交わり、神と接触するのに取り分けておくべきです。

新人編

救われた新人の皆さんは、生ける星としての主に忠信に従う者となり、あなた自身が暗闇の中で輝く星となってください。生ける星は神の民を導き、祝福します。聖書は召会と兄弟姉妹を祝福する言葉に満ちています。あなたはこれらの祝福の言葉を自分の霊を活用して祈り、享受し、思いの中の観念が更新されるようにしてください。そして霊を活用して信仰の言葉を他の人を祝福するために語ってください。

日本人は非常に細かいという特性を持っています。それが日本人の長所であり、短所です。この特性は、日本で製造した工業製品の厳しい品質管理には役に立っています。しかし、人間関係は工業製品のようにはいかないので、あまり細かいことに注意しすぎると、その状況に落胆し失望する傾向が強くなります。救われた人としてあなたはもはや日本人ではなく、キリスト人、信者です。**ローマ 10:17** ですから、信仰は聞くことから来るのであり、聞くことはキリストの言葉によるのです。**Ⅱコリント 4:13** また、「私は信じた、それゆえに私は語った」と書いてあるとおり、同じ信仰の霊を持っているので、私たちも信じ、それゆえにまた語るのです。御言葉を霊を活用して祈るとき、生きた信仰が注入されます。あなたは自分や人々の今の状況を信じるのではなく、神の言葉から来る信仰の感覚を信じてください。あなたが自分の天然の消極的な感覚を信じそれを語るなら、そうなってしまいます。しかしあなたが信仰の感覚を信じそれを語るなら、あなたは自分自身と他の人を祝福する人となります。

実際的に信仰の霊を持つために、あなたは朝早く起きて、御言葉を祈り読みし祈る「毎朝復興」を実行してください。そうすれば、あなたは思いが更新されて、自分の天然の消極的な感覚によって自分がのろわれていることに気づき、そこから救い出されます。**祈り:**「おお主イエスよ、私は自分の天然の消極的な感覚を信じないで、あなたの御言葉を取ります。朝早く起きて、すぐ霊を活用し、主の御名を呼び、御言葉を祈り読みします。私に信仰の霊を注入してください。信仰の霊をもって自分自身と聞く人を祝福する人にならせてください。アーメン！」

Crucial Point(3): In the spirit and in the church life, avoid the distracting “wandering stars” and follow the “living stars” to take the right way and bear fruit.

OL1: 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. **Jude 13**

wandering stars, for whom the gloom of darkness is kept for eternity.

OL2: 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.

OL3: 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.

OL4: 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.

There is...a negative aspect to the stars—the wandering stars....We should be the stars but not the wandering stars. These are the false leading ones. So many Christians today are not stars; some, however, are stars, but they are wandering stars. There are religious leaders and teachers today who are in this category.

A proper star has a certain position and fixed orbit. It continues in its course steadfastly. However, there are some stars with no fixed position or orbit; they are wandering stars. It seems that some Christians are stars; it seems that they are shining, but their shining is a deception.... If you follow them, you will be misled; eventually, you will not know where to go.... They have no ground; they have no standing; they have no certain way to go on with the Lord. Today they say one thing, and tomorrow they will say something different; they are wandering. We need to be careful. We cannot find Jesus by following a wandering star.

How can we recognize the wandering stars? There are some signs. They are autumn trees without fruit; they are waterless clouds. We need to look for the fruit. The Lord Jesus said that we may know a tree by its fruit (Matt. 7:16-20). If we follow the wandering stars, eventually our portion will be the same as theirs—the gloom of darkness that has been kept for them for eternity.

We need to follow the shining stars, those with a definite standing and a certain course. These are the stable stars, the steadfast ones. If anyone comes to us without a definite standing and a certain course, we should avoid him. The proper standing is the local church, and the right course is to go on in the Spirit in the local church....We need to take the proper standing and keep ourselves in the right course.

青年在職・大学院生編

At the time of the damage of a large typhoon in mid-October, the person responsible for a shelter in a ward in Tokyo was accused of not accepting homeless people. The person responsible for the shelter refused the ones, who do not belong to this ward, to enter the shelter. This means that “they paid attention to the fine rules and did not see the most important point of life saving.”

あなたは物事のオーバービュー(Overview)と最重要点(Crucial points)を見極めた上で、詳細に入っていくべきです。

想定外の事、ここでは「区民以外の人が区の税金で作った避難所に来ること」が起こった時、詳細のすべてをレビューするのではなく、オーバービュー:ここでは「そもそも避難所とは天災などで困っている人を避難させ、人命を守る」、そして最重要点:「台風で移動が難しいので誰であれ速やかに避難させ人命を守る」に注意して迅速に行動すべきでした。

召会の奉仕や聖書を追求することでも原則は全く同じです。あなたはオーバービュー(あるいは Bird's eyes view)と最重要点(Crucial points)を見て、奉仕したり、聖書を追求したり、あらゆることを行ってください。そうでないとあなたはさまよう星となってしまい、一本筋が通っていないので本末転倒になってしまう、あるいは最重要点と詳細を並列にしまい多くの事を考えすぎて迅速に正しく決定できません。このようになると対応がコロコロ変わってしまいます。

オーバービューと最重要点を得るために、聖書に啓示された地方の一の立場に立つ地方召会の中で、霊に従って召会生活を実行してください。神は光であるので、神の家は光の家です。この家の中で自分の霊を活用することがオーバービューと最重要点を見る秘訣です。

Prov. 20:27 The spirit of man is the lamp of Jehovah, searching all the innermost parts of the inner being.

1 Cor. 2:11 For who among men knows the things of man, except the spirit of man which is in him? In the same way, the things of God also no one has known except the Spirit of God.

Psa.73:16 When I considered this in order to understand it, / It was a troublesome task in my sight,**17** Until I went into the sanctuary of God; / Then I perceived their end. FN “into the sanctuary of God”: First, God's sanctuary, His habitation, is in our spirit and, second, it is the church. Thus, to go into the sanctuary of God, we need to turn to our spirit and go to the meetings of the church. Once we are in sanctuary—in the spirit and in the church—we will have another view, a particular perception, of the situation concerning the wicked. In our spirit and in the church, we receive divine revelation and obtain the explanation to all our problem. **Prayer:** “おお主イエスよ、私をそらすさまよう星から守ってください。地方召会の中で生ける星たちに従い、ビジネス・ライフのあらゆることで、「霊の中と召会の中」でオーバービューと最重要点を見て、行動することを学びます。このようにして私がさまよう人になることから免れ、正しい軌道を歩み、実を結ぶ人になることができますように”