

**Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's Day Prophesying**  
**Message One : The Up- to-date, Instant, and Living Vision of the the Heavenly Christ as the Living Star**

I. Overview:

The magi said that they saw His star; the Star is the heavenly Christ. The Jews knew where He would be born, the magi saw the star of Christ. 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. The star appeared far away from the temple in the Holy Land, from the Jewish religious Centre; instead, there was a star showing something of Christ in a heathen land. 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. The living stars follow the heavenly vision of Christ as the centrality and universality of God's economy. 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. The living stars are the messengers of the churches that they can dispense the fresh and present Christ into the people. May the Lord be merciful to us that we may follow the living star to find Christ in order to become His duplication.

II. Truth and Enlightenment:

Day 1 —

A. Expound the word in Numbers 24:17 fulfilling in Matthew 2:2.

This Star in Numbers 24:17 refers to Christ. 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. The magi said that they saw His star. The star spoken of in this verse was shown to these learned men; it did not appear to any of the people of Israel. Where as the Jews had the Scriptures concerning Christ and knew where He would be born, the magi saw the star of Christ.

B. State that the Lord's work is for the Jews and Gentiles.

Matthew 2:2 seems to indicate that the Lord Jesus was only for the Jews; however, those who first came to seek for the Lord were Gentiles. It was declared from the mouths of Gentiles that the Lord was the King of the Jews. From this verse we can see that the Lord's work was for both the Gentiles and the Jews. The Bible does not give us proof of how the magi from the east learned of the Lord's birth, but we have some hint. The Gentiles also had prophets, Balaam being one of them.

Day 2 —

A. Expound that a star did not appear to the Jews, but to the Gentiles, the heathen.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The strange thing, however, is this: far away from the so-called Holy Land, far away from the genuine religion, far away from the temple, far away from the Jewish religious center, far away from the priests, the scribes, the Pharisees, and all the religious people, was a star showing something of Christ in a heathen land. It did not appear to the Jews, but to the Gentiles, the heathen.

B. Explain holding the Bible in our hand is easy, but to wait and look unto the star is rather difficult.

Those chief priests and scribes knew the Bible so well, but the Lord did not go to them. He went far away to a heathen land to reveal this matter to some pagans, not through the Scriptures but through something which human hands cannot touch—a heavenly star. We may have the Bible, yet we may miss the star.

Day 3 —

A. Expound as the magi arriving, Herod and all Jerusalem were troubled.

When the magi arrived in Jerusalem, Herod was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Why was all Jerusalem troubled at the birth of the One for whom they were waiting? This is religion. I am afraid that many who are seemingly for the Lord's return will be troubled by His coming.

B. State the relationship between the magi and religion and the different results from their bringing.

Then the magi left Jerusalem, and, "Behold, the star which they saw at its rising led them. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy". When the magi came into religion, they missed the star; but

when they left religion, the star appeared to them. They could not find living guidance in Jerusalem. They did not receive the heavenly vision in religion; they had to leave.

Day 4 —

A. Expound that the Lord Jesus is the star, and all the messengers of the churches are also stars. The star in Matthew 2 is only the beginning of this matter in the New Testament. If we go to the last book, the book of Revelation, we see two things concerning this matter. The first is that the Lord Jesus is the star, not the evening star but the morning star; second, we see that all the messengers of the churches are stars. Here we should realize that the messengers are not the heavenly beings but the spiritual people who take the spiritual responsibility in the church—they are the stars.

B. Explain that the leading ones of the local churches should be shining stars.

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? 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.

Day 5 —

A. Explain today to see the morning star being only normal.

In the days of the magi, the seeing of the star was a miraculous occurrence, but today to see the morning star is only normal and should be our regular experience. Day by day we need to have the morning star rising in our heart. We should not merely read the Bible and not even merely pray-read the Bible; we need to give heed to the prophetic word until the day dawns and the morning star rises in our heart.

B. Expound the transfiguration of the Lord in Matthew 17.

Jesus Himself said that it was the coming of the kingdom. The shining forth of the Lord Jesus on the mountaintop was the coming of the kingdom. The kingdom is simply the Lord Jesus shining over you. The kingdom is the shining of the Lord Jesus, and the kingdom is the spreading of the Lord Jesus by shining over you. He told Peter, James, and John that they would see Him coming in His kingdom—that they would see the kingdom of God having come in power.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the function and warning that believers need to.

Today, during the time of the night, we need to function as the stars; but in the coming age of the kingdom, those who shine now as the stars will shine forth like the sun. Matthew 13:43, “Then the righteous will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father...” There is also a negative aspect to the stars—the wandering stars, for whom the gloom of darkness is kept for eternity.

B. Discern the proper stars and the wandering stars.

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. They are stars, but they are not the steadfast stars. If you follow them, you will be misled; eventually, you will not know where to go.

III. Conclusion:

When we pray-read the scripture, there is a deep sense of feeling, illumination, and enlightenment. This enlightenment produces a love for Jesus Christ. We find Him so lovable. We might say, “Oh, Lord Jesus, I love You! I cannot find words to express how lovely You are!” Often, due to this illumination, we even love God to such an extent of crazy. It is as if Jesus comes to us like the dawn, with the morning star appearing and rising within us. In the days of the magi, the seeing of the star was a miraculous occurrence. But today, seeing the morning star is only normal and should be our regular experience. If we continue to move forward in this way, with stars appearing within us, these stars should be present within local churches. We must shine within our homes, workplaces, and schools. The local churches should be filled with shining stars.