

“A Star Is Come”
By Brother Parrish Lee
Sunday, December 4th, 2016

But, Pete, could you throw back up that verse? Just the verse to the last song we just sang? Verse 1. I’m sorry, verse 2.

“Over every thought, over every word
May my life reflect the beauty of my Lord.”

Why? Because you mean more to me... You, Lord, mean more to me...

“You mean more to me than any earthly thing.”

It would be easy to run through that song, you know what I mean? It’s easy to go through that song, but, you look at those words—that’s what the message is about today, by the way. Thank you, Sonia. That’s what the message is about. Over every thought and over every word, may my life reflect the beauty of my Lord.

You know, I—just quickly, just at the time when—this is just the intro. This is the time when they put all kinds of Christmas commercials and movies and stuff on TV, if you watch TV. They put stuff on, they call them, “feel good stories.” You see those in the paper, and people talk about the “Christmas spirit,” but I don’t hear very many people out there that—they’re trying to put another sale up, or trying to sell another song, or trying to get people to watch their show—I don’t hear too many people calling on the name of the One who brought that whole spirit in the first place. I’m just saying, this morning. Just saying.

Giving honor to God, giving honor to the Supreme, wise, the Almighty, the great, and, to me, the lover of my soul that we sang, the merciful one that we sang, the all-forgiving one, the One to whom all things are possible, the One who knows no defeat, the One who is able to minister to us no matter where we are, giving honor to Him who just waits for us to come to Him, the One who is the very definition of love, giving honor to You, Almighty God, to You, Lord Jesus, giving honor to you this morning. Giving honor to all of those who have come and gone before us. For, here in this ministry, our founding pastor, he and his family; our pastor, he and his family; those who have come to stand in the gap and make up the hedge; and not a little, but more so, those who have passed down this precious word, either through persecution, or dedication, or just straight-up love, or even at the threat of losing their life, the Word of God was more precious. As Job said, I have esteemed the words of His lips more than my necessary food. And, giving honor to all of y’all, who come and present yourselves before that same one and true God, to minister to all of y’all accordingly, to give unto you the desires and petitions that you put before Him this morning.

I have an apology; I need to apologize right off. I apologize because I thought I had sent out the theme of the month to everybody. I thought—that’s why it’s not down here, that’s why it’s not over here. I thought that everybody got it a while ago. But, our theme for the month is from the Book of Matthew, chapter two, and verse number ten. That is our theme for the month.

Matthew 2:10 *When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.*

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.” That’s our theme for the month. And, truly, there could be many things: Joy to the World, O, Come, All Ye Faithful, there could be many, many, many, many, many, many themes, but, we have chosen this to be our one—I’m sure, one of our themes for this month. God will lay on our hearts, and, He will continue to give unto us, this entire month, and, truly, for the rest of our lives. Themes for the month, personally, to have between us and Him. But this will be the theme for this congregation this month.

Our Scripture theme for today is going to be from the Book of this same chapter, Matthew chapter two, and we’re actually going to go from verse one, down to verse ten:

Matthew 2:1-10 *Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.*

“And, when they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.” If we could just bow our heads for just a moment. Lord, truly, truly, You are the Almighty God, and we come before You because You are the One that we ought to turn to. And, this morning, truly there are many needs. Lord, there are sick people, there are people that need a healing, there are people that have an ailment, there are people that need deliverance here today. And those that we know of today. Some of us are even in the hospital this morning or in the nursing homes. Lord, we bring it all before You this morning because there is nothing too hard for You. We thank You for the opportunity to come and praise Your Holy, magnificent, wonderful, and healing Name.

We thank You for that, God, for truly You alone are worthy. And, God, we present ourselves to You and we ask that You minister to us according to Your Spirit. And, as we go over Your Word this morning, we ask, as it is said in Your Word, that it would not return unto You void, but accomplish that to which You sent it. And we present ourselves with a heart of thanksgiving and ministering. And we ask and pray and claim all this in Your mighty name, the name of Jesus. And every one said, amen. Amen, amen.

It’s Christmas-time. It’s Christmas-time! The month of December is like a ding, and sales and papers and commercials and everybody’s talking—well, not everybody. Some people hate this time of year. Some people—and not all bad, some people, this is a time of sorrow. They’ve had tragedy at this time of year. Different things have ruled them at this time of year. Christmas can represent a bad memory in some. And, in some, because maybe they didn’t get what they wanted, or they lost a loved one at this time of year. There’s many reasons, not all bad, not all selfish, not all just about a single person. Some, yes, some very much so, especially if you didn’t get what you wanted and you’re going to hold it against people. Enough said about that. But, you know, this is the time of year that the world sets aside and calls it Christmas-time. Or, some people have Hanukah-time. There is now even a Kwanzaa-time. And, the guys at work told me there is also Festivus-time. For those of you who don’t know, that was something

out of some TV show. Yeah, one of them. Yeah, but, this is a time of festivities. And, it's amazing, it's amazing how the opportunity is there.

Point #1: A Star Foretold

So, we talked today from verse ten, our theme, "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." Exceeding great joy. Now, to set a little bit of a stage, here, this isn't the only time that this star was foretold, forecast about. It's very important and it is so important that even in the time of Moses, he let the people know, there is coming a time when there is going to be a special star. From the Book of Numbers. Yes, thousands of years before the Lord Jesus was on the scene, before Mary was conceived of the Holy Ghost, before the angels were on the mountain, thousands of years before that, Moses prophesied about this star. And the Bible says:

Numbers 24:17 *I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.*

There is coming a ruler. Something brilliant and magnificent. Something with power. Something with authority. Somebody is coming, and He's going to be able to smite every enemy. Yes, He's coming out of Israel. And, man, is it going to be special! It is going to be amazing! So amazing, thousands of years before it comes, I can't wait to talk about it! Can't wait to talk about it, thousands of years before it comes, like a preview of all time.

And, so, in Matthew chapter two, verse ten:

Matthew 2:10 *When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.*

This, this Scripture is actually a testament, testament of the Wise men, who came from the East. These wise men who came from the East, it says they came to look for the star of the Lord. Now, in popular tradition, they say there were three, and it talks about the three places they came, and it talks about their potential names, they don't really know for sure, that came about later on, a little bit down in history; we don't really know how many wise men there were. It's important to know that. It's important to know that it might have been two, because it says men, it might have been fifty. We don't know, really. Tradition holds it at three, because there was three things that was presented to the Lord. But, we don't know how many actual men came, following the star of the Lord. It's important to know, it's important to know that it might not have been just a few, but it's also important that it didn't give a specific number, because it doesn't matter how many, it doesn't matter. All that matters is that they should come. That's what matters.

So, point number one was A Star Foretold, and that's what Matthew was talking about. Now, when they came after the star, it's important to know that the star represented something to these people. It represented hope, and it represented love, and it represented a ruler, and it represented direction, and it also represented a king. You see, it was a popular thing to say—see, they said that Caesar had a star over him. And, Alexander the Great, he had a star over him, so, all the rulers wanted to have a star over them. And they had the names of the stars, and they called them all kinds of different things, all kinds of—the study of astronomy has been around for years and years and years, but, you have to know that, before it became popular, the Bible said that there shall come a star out of Judah. This set the tone for everything.

Point #2: Whatever It Takes

And when these came, and they found the star which they were looking for, they did not hold back their joy at finding the star. When they found the star, they brought their thankfulness, and they brought their praise, and they brought their worship, they brought the fact that they were satisfied that the hopes and dreams that they may have had of being with God was finally on the scene. That's what this star represented to the wise men. And they wouldn't hold—What's it like to finally find and have what you have been looking and waiting for? What is it like? Oh, don't hold back! But they worshipped with exceeding great joy. So, whatever it takes, whatever it takes.

How long did these wise men travel to get to this place where the star would lead them? How far did they come? How long was it? How far was it? I can tell you exactly how long it was. As long as it took. That's how long it was. If it had been another few months, it would still have been as long as it takes to get to the star to find out who that King of kings is. How far did they come? I can tell you exactly how far they came: As far as they had to get to that King of kings, whose star they seen, and they come towards it. Fifty miles? A thousand miles? It doesn't matter. As far as I need to go to get to that King of kings. That's how far I'm going.

And these—I'm about to tell my age, here-- there was a song a long time ago—well, not too long ago—there was this song, sung by a group called the Supremes, and they sang this song "Ain't no mountain high enough" "Nothing can keep me, keep me from you." And it was a pretty big hit. It was a hit. Other people sang it, it was real popular. And they sang about this relationship that would be on earth that, man, nothing's going to stop you from making that happen. Oh, it was real popular, playing it on the radio and everything. But, it was really popular, you know, and they sang about an earthly relationship. Nothing is going to keep me from having an earthly relationship. But, the Wise men put a different spin on that before the Supremes ever came on the scene. They said, "Nothing is going to keep me, keep me from Him. No matter how far I have to go; no matter how long it takes." That, Saints, is a message all in itself. Whatever it takes.

Point 3: Not Everyone Sees His Star

Part number one was, "A Star Is Foretold," part number two was, "Whatever it takes, part number three is, "Not Everyone Sees His Star." So, we have seen His star, but, in fact, not everyone has seen his star. In fact, in Jerusalem, up there in verse number three, the Bible says, "When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." All Jerusalem was troubled. Like Brother Andy tried taking part of the message this morning. All Jerusalem was troubled. No, no, no, no, nobody in Jerusalem was seeing the star. People had to come from afar to see the star. And why? because it took something special to see his star. His star was not just a sign on earth. It was put in Heaven, and, at the same time, in Heaven and in Earth, it existed. So, this star that was there was a sign to those who looked for Jesus. And the same thing exists today. There are people who see His star, and people who do not see His star, even today, because you've got to have something special in your life to see the star. Now, there is something that bears witness here. How can something on Earth be so special that Heaven itself bears witness to it?

Point #4: The Difference of the Wise Men

The difference of the Wise men. Now, we know that the star is talked about in the Word of God, and it signified the birth of the Lord our Savior; you know, even today, people still look for that star?

Actually, a little while ago, I wanted to go up to Milwaukee, they've got this great big observatory, and you're supposed to be able to look up into the sky, and that would have been great, but the difference of the people—the difference of the Wise men—the people who look for the star now, and the wise men, is the wise men looked for the star, and looked for the Savior. They knew the star was going to guide them to the Savior.

People now--Just a little while ago, I went down to Adler planetarium, and they had this really big thing, and they were talking about the Star and what it was, and they were saying it was going to be a great performance, and they're going to talk about this star. It was going to be at the planetarium, so, Hey! You can probably get some answers here. And I thought, "I didn't make it up to Milwaukee for that observatory that they cast in the sky," but I—we took the youth group down there—it was a few years ago—we took the youth group down there, and they had this whole thing about what the star might have been, what it might have been. They had all these hypotheses, and they had a whole list of things, and they said, "Well, we think it might have been this, and it could have been that, and, maybe, there was a time when several stars came together, and there they were, and maybe it was just a different type of a comet that wasn't going at the same speed," and they had all these different hypotheses, but they mentioned the Bible, and they never mentioned the Savior. They mentioned the Bible, but they never mentioned the Savior. They were looking for the star without looking for the Savior. This is why you can't find the star. If you look for the star without looking for the Savior, you'll never find it! Herod, and all of Jerusalem weren't looking for the Savior, because it represented something. It represented, at this time, that, if they find the star, under the star is a king, now there is a definiteness to the Gospel! There is a thing coming that is going to set things straight! "Now, hmmm, the reign of the King begins, and the reign of what's in my life is over." The reign of sin has come to an end. That's why they were afraid. Because now comes the ultimate Law-giver.

Point #5: His Star Still Shines

His star still shines. It says that they saw His star in the sky, but, Saints, the truth is His star still shines. Where? Where can you find His star? Where can we find the star? Well, you know, the purpose, the purpose of a star, in the first place, is to be out there and be brilliant, and to be a light and to guide, and to shine truth into everything. So, where can we find this star?

2 Peter 1:19 *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:*

"...The day star arise in your hearts:" Yes, the star still shines in the hearts and lives of His people. And, you might say, "Ah, Brother Parrish, that's a cop-out." Not to God. Not to God. God put it in the Heavens, and He puts it in your life. Yes, and those who seek after the Savior will see His star. Nowadays they call it a testimony. Nowadays they say, "There's something about you. Don't know what it is; can't put my finger on it, there's just something about you." Until the day star arise in your hearts. But the disciples weren't the only ones who followed after the star. There were others that followed after the star albeit conditionally. Some followed after the star conditionally.

1. Some followed the star as long as He would feed them the fishes and the loaves.
2. Some would followed after the star as long as they didn't have to suffer.
3. Some followed after the star as long as he told them what they wanted to hear.
4. And some followed after the star just for entertainment.

John 6:60 *Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?*

And we go down to verse number sixty-six.

John 6:66 *From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.*

Why? because the Lord had said some things they didn't want to hear. They said, "Ah, I followed after the star up until this point, and, now, I'm out of here.

Mark 10:17 *And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?*

And He said, in verse twenty-two, after the young rich ruler, as he is popularly called, came to Jesus, and Jesus told him what he needed to do.

Mark 10:22 *And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.*

"I was following you, Lord, up until you told me that I'm going to have to suffer, a little bit, in this life. Ah, you know what? I'm sorry to hear it, but, you know, I'm out. It was okay up to that point, but, now I'm out." And what about the thousands that received from the bread and the loaves that He fed and healed, and how is it that after the thousands that He ministered to, there was 120 in the upper room? Because it got to the place where the star cost too much. Following the star just cost too much.

One thing that was incredible is how it did exist in two places at once. That same thing happens with us, as we go places, our testimony remains. The star, the presence of God in our life, whoever we share with or talk to, it stays with them, and they say, they will tell you that, "I just couldn't shake what you shared with me. When you did this for me, it has been with me ever since," because the star continues to be there.

Yes, there are those who look for the Star and who look for the Saviour at the same time. There was Anna the prophetess, there was Simeon, the man who was told, "You will not die until you see the salvation of the Lord," and then there were the Magi who, today we call them the Three Kings, they were the Magi, who followed in His name, and there are those of us, who gather today, following after the star.

Point #6: And Why A Star?

1 Corinthians 15:41 *There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.*

"There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory." And 'glory' here, means honor, or it means praise, it means brilliance, it means worthiness, it means worshipfulness. There's some people that were sharing with me about the stars and everything. They like astronomy. Vince was telling me once how he likes to get a telescope and just look up to the stars. I can't get into all that. It's wonderful to hear about other people liking it, but, as for me, I could get lost. Astronomy and astrology, I can't tell the difference. So, anyway, they were talking about it and it says that there's over eighteen different types of stars. Over eighteen different types of stars. The smallest one they call a Red Dwarf, which is about 50%, or half the size of our sun, or less, half the size of our sun or less. And some of them are even a tenth of the size of our sun, and,

yet, even a tenth of the size of our sun, it is still a star that is able to give life to a solar system. And, the bigger ones, they're called Super giants; they're up to 1500 times bigger than our sun, 1500 times bigger than our sun. They say that the explosions and the reactions within them are *massive*, massive. But, those things are so great that, that one is one type of brilliance, and the small ones, a different type of brilliance, and they differ in their glory. And, yet, they all have a purpose, they all have a purpose: their purpose is to guide, to give light, and to bring life. And, whenever these specific men saw the star, they rejoiced, whenever they saw the star, they rejoiced. Now, it's important to know that this star differed from every other star. They could have followed the stars in the Bible, it talks about the star of Molech, and the stars of all the other gods—they had stars, and they would call them... But this star actually moved before them and went to where the young child was, the Bible says. And, when they saw it, they realized that this was the hope, in culmination, and in form.

Now, it's important to know that they rejoiced at the star. There's people, as we said, there's people who can't find his star, and there's people that see his star and they do not rejoice because it doesn't mean that their hopes and dreams have come to fruition and culmination, that this peace on Earth has not come to them. And there's people that realize, "This is everything I've asked for. This is everything I want, in a star."

In the Navy—I was talking to one of the guys, I think they call them Quartermasters—they were telling me that in the old days, they had this apparatus-thing, sextant, and how you would look up to the stars, and you would use it to guide you in a certain destination. So, if you're out in the middle of the water, and you don't know which direction you're going, you use the stars to guide you.

And, in the old time, in this country, there was a woman named Harriet Tubman, in the time of slavery. She was trying to help free some of the slaves. And, according to history, she was successful in over three hundred, and she would only travel at night, she would only travel at night. And, how would she, who was either in the midst of the forest, or woods, or land that she wasn't familiar with, how would she guide her way to freedom? She said she would use the North Star, because she knew the star would guide her home. So, the stars have been used for guidance, down through history. And, the thing that we have to realize, here, is that, sometimes you will follow a star, and you have to do, what is it those GPS's—when you start going off of the road, recalculating, recalculating. When you take a turn you ain't supposed to take, "Recalculating." When you follow after the star, it is a continual process. It's not that I found the star three weeks ago, and I'm still on track, no, I've got to see if I'm still going in the right direction of the star. Recalculating, recalculating. By that same token, it is a continual process, and you always have to know that the Bible says that, those that follow the star, they examine themselves daily. Because the Bible says seek and you shall find.

When does the star appear? Yes, it still appears. When does it appear? Well, I find the star in praise and worship. I find the star in good fellowship, it leads me right to whatever way is in my life. I find the star when I open the Book and I read with a humble heart. I find the star when I finally get on my knees and ask God; I find the direction, the guidance, I find illumination, I find wisdom, I find what God has for me. I find the star when I humble myself to whatever His will is for me at that second, at that second. There are times when I don't find the star. When I'm frustrated and I don't give it to God, I don't find the star there. I find that I'm not finding the star, that's what I find. I don't find the star when I'm getting real stingy. That's not real often, but, when I get real stingy, and don't share, I don't find the star then. There are times when I do not find the star. There is something called repentance, and it brings me back in direction, and then I hear that spiritual GPS saying, "Recalculating, recalculating."

So, our last—our next-to-the-last Scripture, from the Book of Revelation:

Revelation 2:26-28 *And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star.*

“He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations...” and, in verse twenty-eight: “And I will give him the morning star.” Saints, we stay faithful and we keep the Lord Jesus in our life, and He gives us the Morning Star. And our last Scripture, our last Scripture:

Revelation 22:16 *I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*

“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.” If we stay faithful, if we do His works, we listen to His Word, He says He will give us the Morning Star, and here He says, “I am the Morning Star.” If we do His works, if we listen to His Word, if we do His will, then He gives us Him. Amen. Give the Lord a praise.

