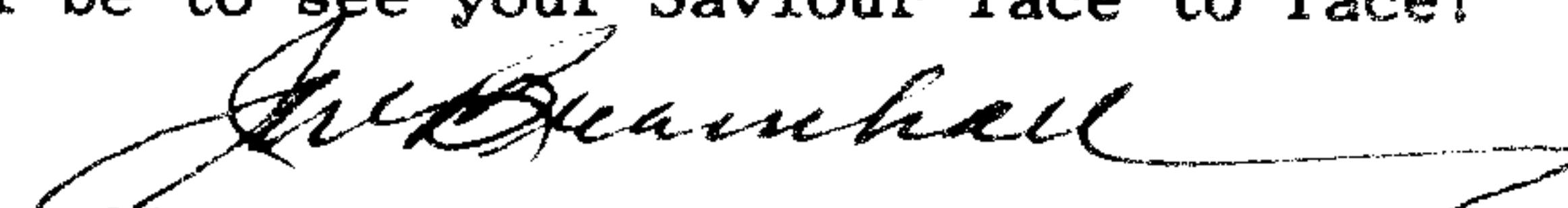


Beloved of the Lord:

After closing the prophecies in Revelation, the Lord reveals Himself in three special ways, very appropriate in their character. Note them distinctly --

- (a) - As Jesus - His relationship to the world - Saviour of the World - John 4:42.
  - (b) - As Root and Offspring of David - His relationship to Israel, their King and Messiah, declaring His divine and human character. He was born "King of the Jews" - Matt. 2:2; He died "King of the Jews" - Matt. 27:37; He will reign as "King of the Jews" - Zech. 9:9.
  - (c) - As the Bright and Morning Star - His special relationship to His Bride, the Church. At this special season it can profit us to meditate upon Him as the Bright Morning Star.
- 1 - THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS NAME - Compare this name with His title in Malachi ch. 4, as "Sun of Righteousness", when He will cause a new day of glory to appear for the nation of Israel, ending their dark history, destroying their enemies and commence His Millennium Kingdom. BUT, preceding that day, He comes as the Bright Morning Star for us before the day dawns, while it is night in the world. The event is described in 1 Thess. 4:16-18 and will take place "in the twinkling of an eye" - 1 Cor. 15:52. For us He is "the bright morning star".
- 2 - THE BRILLIANCY OF HIS NAME - Why is it called BRIGHT? To the saints who wait and watch for His coming, His name shines brighter because the darkness of the world becomes deeper and deeper. We watch not for the day, but for HIM to come during the night! The darker this world becomes, the brighter our hope should cheer us. "When these things begin to come to pass, look up and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh" - Luke 21:28. Our Saviour warned us of the darkness - Matt. 24:37, 38. Likewise the Apostle Paul - 2 Tim. 3:13, and other Apostles. It is the fourth watch of the night - "In the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea" - Matt. 14:25, no matter how rough the path! As the bright and morning star, Christ should shine in our hearts brighter than ever - 2 Pet. 1:19.
- 3 - THE RESPONSIBILITY TO HIS NAME - Note Rev. 22:17 very carefully
- (a) To unite our voices with the Holy Spirit. "The Spirit AND the Bride say Come!" The Holy Spirit expresses His desire for Him to come, to energize bridal affection and longing in the hearts of His people. "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him" - Matt. 25:6. Are we believers uniting with sincere hearts in joining with the Spirit, saying - "Come, Lord Jesus"?
  - (b) To personally invite Him to come! - "Let him that heareth say come!" - If not corporately, individually, believers are to possess bridal affection and longing to have the Lord come! "For where your treasure is there will your heart be also" - Luke 12:34.
  - (c) To minister unto thirsty souls - "Let him that is athirst come" - The Spirit directs our attention here to the fact that many anxious and dissatisfied hearts await the invitation to quench their spiritual thirst. Among the crowds on the great day of the feast, Jesus knew that some were spiritually thirsty, and cried - "If any man thirst, let him come to me and drink." - John 7:37. He still says - "Come unto Me" - Matt. 11:28. May we reach them!
  - (d) To invite all sinners to Christ - "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" at the completion of God's Word, the loving and compassionate heart of God still flows out in mercy to all. After the eternal destiny of all mankind is revealed, heaven or hell, the great heart of God offers a free salvation to all. Many "will not come" as Jesus once said - John 5:40 but God says, invite them, give out the invitation! These are the responsibilities: (1) Christ, the Morning Star, first and supreme in our hearts. (2) Fellow believers, in love, upon our hearts. (3) Thirsty anxious souls a concern of our hearts. (4) Finally, to ALL lost, perishing souls, invite them to "drink of the water of life". They may reject the invitation, but there will be some "whosoever" who will drink!

Beloved, is Christ as "The Bright Morning Star" shining in your heart? Be like the wise men of Matt. 2:10 - "When they saw the Star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." The greatest joy you will ever have will be to see your Saviour face to face!

  
Sincerely yours in the blessed hope,