

while leaving them to the judgment of the Lord, far from violent attacks upon them, in quiet separation from all the evil, patiently waiting and watching during the long dark night of sorrow for the Morning Star of the day of glory. "To him that overcometh . . . will I give the Morning Star," and this Morning Star is Christ Himself. And He is in this way known to those who, though in the night, yet are not of the night, being children of the day. The morning star is gone before the world sees the sun, before the sun rises, before the day appears. But before the sun rises, there is the morning star for those who are watching in the night. The world will see the sun ; but the morning star is gone, so far as the world is concerned, before the sun rises. So we shall be gone to be with the Morning Star before the day of Christ appears to the world ; and when Christ shall appear, then shall we also appear with Him in glory.

There are three passages which refer to this morning star, to which it is important to refer you. In 2 Peter i. he says : "We have also a more sure" (that is, "confirmed") "word of prophecy ; whereunto ye do well to take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-star arise in your hearts." Israel's prophets had prophesied the full day of blessing on the earth, saying, "Arise, shine, for thy light is come." "A king shall reign in righteousness." And their testimony was confirmed to the disciples by the vision on the holy mount. They prophesied,