

THE STAR AND THE SCEPTER, NUMBERS 24:17

(ENTERING INTO THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST)

INTRODUCTION: This was a prophesy of Balaam about the coming of Christ. The star over Bethlehem led the wise men to the child who was born to be a king. They saw the One who was to receive the scepter of God and rule all the world as the King of Kings. However, this prophesy also has a second spiritual fulfillment. Christ is to be formed in us (Gal.4:19), so Christ's life is also a pattern for our spiritual growth. There is also a star and a scepter for each of us who fully follow the Lord!

I. THE MEANING OF THE STAR AND SCEPTER:

A) the STAR - Speaks of a Heavenly Vision

- 1) The stars in heaven are to give light to the earth, Gen.1:14-15.
- 2) Light from heaven can guide us on life's journey (as sailors & travelers can aim their course, Mt.2:2).
- 3) The entrance of God's word can give us light, Ps.119:130. The high call of God grips our vision and guides us to become overcomers, so that we can become a star, Dan.12:3.

B) the SCEPTER - Speaks of the Authority of a King. A scepter or rod is a symbol of their power.

- 1) Ps.2:9 & Rev.19:11-15, Christ shall rule with a rod or scepter of iron.
- 2) In Rev.2:26-27 & Rev.20:5, many overcomers will gain power over the nations to rule with a rod of iron.

II. THE ORDER OF THE STAR AND SCEPTER: FIRST the Star, THEN the Scepter-

A) 2000 years ago, God gave a star as a sign to help prepare for the new thing He began to do. The star was to lead the wise men to the coming King who would hold the scepter.

B) TODAY, God is placing a spiritual star in our hearts: new light from heaven, or a fresh vision, Ps.119:130. God is preparing to give authority to the overcomers of the Body of Christ. This vision is given so that we can prepare to receive the scepter and rule & reign with Christ! WE MUST UNDERSTAND that we must do more than just see the star. We also have to follow it! We will have to pay a price to follow the new light and see it's fulfillment, like the wise men.

III. RECEIVING THE STAR AND THE SCEPTER: WHO gets the Star? WHO gets the Scepter?

The prophecy of Balaam reveals to us more clearly about how we can get both the star & the scepter. The star comes out of JACOB but only ISRAEL gets the scepter, Num.24:17. To understand this we have to study about Jacob & Israel, a man with two names (speaking of two natures).

A) Gen.25:24-26 The name Jacob means a supplanter, or deceitful, 1 Sam.25:25. This was his natural adamic nature from birth. He stole his brother's birthright (Gen.25:29-34) and lied to his father to have him pray God's blessing to him, Gen.27:1-36. Yet he wanted God and His blessing.

B) Gen.28:10-22 Jacob (while running away to protect his life) saw a heavenly vision, a ladder to heaven. The call of God began to apprehend his life. Jacob followed God's call, and the Lord prepared him for the scepter through trials and suffering!

C) Gen.31:41 Laban deceived Jacob 10 times. Jacob reaped for his sin, Ps.18:25-27, Ob.15. Suffering changed him, Prov.27:17, Is.48:10. After many years the dealings of God made Jacob a desperate man, Gen.31:3; 32:3-8. He desperately needed God's blessings & power. Jacob's ability, lies, & deceptions, were not enough to save him! The natural man cannot obtain God's call.

D) Gen.32:24-28 Jacob wrestled with the Angel until he became Israel, a prince with God! Jacob's character had been transformed, and as Israel he was ready to receive the scepter, "as a prince you have power with God and with men" Gen.32:28. We need to wrestle with the Holy Spirit in prayer until we are changed and empowered!

E) Gen.33:1-4 Esau didn't want to kill Jacob, because the Jacob he hated was dead, Gal.2:20. Israel had a scepter of power with God and with men, and was saved.

CONCLUSION: We all need to see a star, or see the heavenly promise, that the Lord is preparing overcomers who will rule with His authority. As the vision shines bright in our heart, we can press on to apprehend this high call of God. We will then let God change and prepare us to become like Israel- a prince who will inherit the scepter!