

Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior is the Star of Bethlehem. The windows all focus on our promised Savior from the time of creation through the old and new testaments and for all eternity.

With a church named Star of Bethlehem, the Bethlehem message must be addressed. The windows from the narthex to the sanctuary are the shepherd-Bethlehem windows. When one looks at these windows, it is like the shepherds saying once again, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." (Luke 2:15)

Going into the sanctuary all the windows have a Biblical star reference. On the right hand side of the altar is the nativity window with Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, and the Star of Bethlehem. According to Matthew Chapter 2, this star appeared at the time of Jesus' birth.

On the left hand side of the altar is the creation window. In Genesis chapter one, on day four it says, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years. When one looks up into the heavens and sees the stars and all the constellations one wonders what they all mean. Did you know that they actually tell the story of Jesus our Savior and Redeemer? How omniscient and awesome our God is that even at the time of creation He was giving us the message of our redemption. Unfortunately, sinful man has corrupted this message of the stars with present day zodiac fortune tellers.

To the east side of the church are three old testament windows. These three windows depict the lineage of Jesus through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The first window shows God's covenant with Abram around the year 2006BC. At about that time God said, "Look at the heavens and count the stars. So shall your offspring be." (Genesis 15:5).

The second window is of Abraham and Isaac. In Genesis 22:13-17 it says, "Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called this place "The LORD will provide." And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided." The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky". Isn't it interesting that in this window God does remind us that He will provide for all of our needs as we trust in Him.

The next window then depicts Jacob from Numbers 24:17, "A star will come out of Jacob, A scepter will rise out of Israel." Once again, we see the promise of our Savior given to the third patriarch of Christ.

The west side of the church has five new testament windows. These five windows also depict five star biblical references. The first window is the wise men or the Magi window. In Matthew 2:1-12 it says, "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea during the time of King Herod, Magi came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." The wise men are considered the first gentile Christians. Jesus is the Savior of All Nations! Going on in verse 9-12 it says, "When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him gifts of gold, and incense, and myrrh." May we also present our treasures to him through our church building and these windows!

The next window is a special window for the Star of Bethlehem members. Over the years our motto has been, "Shine like Stars." In Philippians 2 14-15 it says, "Do everything without complaining or arguing so that you may become blameless and pure children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life."

The next star biblical reference is from 2 Peter 1:19. This refers to Jesus' transfiguration. The transfiguration is a time when Jesus revealed his true nature as Son of God and Son of Man to us on earth. He really is Lord of the living as evident by the presence of Elijah and Moses! In 2 Peter 1:19 it says, "And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."

The last two windows are from Revelations, the book of visions or apocalyptic writing where Jesus reveals his promises for his

people's future with picture language. Revelations has seven visions to describe the new testament world, the end of the wo and our eternity. The first window is from Revelations 1:12-20. In this first vision it says, "The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches and the seven lampstands are the seven churches." In this vision Jesus is said to be the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last. In verse 20, it explains that the the seven stars are the messengers in the churches who proclaim the Word of God. May we through our lives, our church, and these windows continue to be God's messengers.

The last window is from Revelations 22:16, "I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." These a all names for Jeus our Savior. Thus in other words, Jesus is telling us that as the Root, he is David's creator. As the Offspring of David, Jesus is true man. As the bright Morning Star, Jesus is our Savior. Through Him we have a promise of new heaven and a new earth.

Thus, in summary, all the windows give us the message of the promise of our savior. Who is our Savior? He is the Word made flesh (John Chapter one). He is Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior (ΙΧ ΘΥΣ).

Birth of Abraham 2167

Abraham's call 2092

Jacob to Egypt 1877

Moses 1526-1406 (Exodus 1447)

Elijah 875-848 BC

David 1011-971