

# It's a Gardener's World!

Had to search for the name of this one! With its pleated bright-green leaves & warm-red branching trumpets, the Crocosmia 'Lucifer' sets any garden alight! I've seen many a vibrant display walking round Stokesley.



'Lucifer' is an aptly-named variety of the Crocosmia family because its flowers are the hottest coloured of all - a searing paprika red. The fiery-red flowers with orange-yellow throats are held on gently arching stems.

'Lucifer' is Latin for "light bringer" or "morning star". This stems from the ancient pagan religions, where Venus was worshipped as the bringer of the dawn (light bringer). Venus is visible before sunrise, being the brightest "star" in the sky. As the dawn comes, Venus is still visible in the sky (morning star).

The name 'Lucifer' appears twice in the Bible. In the Hebrew, the name Lucifer is translated from the Hebrew word "helel," which means brightness. This designation, referring to Lucifer, is the rendering of the "morning star" or "star of the morning" or "bright star" which is presented in Isaiah 14 v12. "How you have fallen from heaven, O Morning Star, son of the Dawn!" This passage describes the King of Babylon who believed himself to be greater than God and was struck down for his blasphemy. He became so impressed with his own beauty, intelligence, power, and position that he began to desire for himself the honour and glory that belonged to God alone. This pride led to his downfall & represents the actual beginning of sin in the universe, hence why some believe that 'Lucifer' is also the Devil.

And give the devil his due, the Crocosmia 'Lucifer' has never looked more appealing!!!!!!

The second time is in Revelation. Revelation 22 v16 reads 'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.'

How can the same name be given to Satan & Jesus? We have to remember that the idea of a morning star was one of a bright star that outshines others. The King of Babylon thought his greatness 'outshone' that of God; with Jesus, the concept of the morning star is also used to denote His greatness, but this is a greatness that is far above all others.

I think it relates to HOPE and Jesus' imminent second coming. When Venus rises, it means the sun will follow very soon. Christ's coming means/will mean God's light is about to shine forever on the universe, making all wrongs right, wiping away all tears, and fulfilling Revelation 21, with the creation of the new heavens and new earth, etc. On a long dark night, the appearance of the morning star means daybreak is imminent. In the long dark night of suffering on earth, Jesus being seen as the morning star means the eternal morning is about to dawn. Hence, Christ as the morning star is a picture of great promise and hope – a vital message we all need in these present times!

I did my teacher training at the College of St Hild & St Bede in Durham & one of my favourite leisure activities was to walk around the beautiful Cathedral – the glorious setting for these words by the Venerable Bede (a quotation from one of his prayers which hangs on the east wall above his tomb):

**"Christ is the Morning Star, Christ is the Light of Life, Christ is the Morning Star. His day is everlasting, and when the night of this dark world is past, He brings light.**

**Christ is the Morning Star who when the night of this world is past brings to his saints the promise of Light and Life of Life."**