

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known  
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*Behold, I Am Coming Quickly!*

**Revelation 22:6-21**

**Keywords:** Revelation, End Times, Heaven, New Heavens and Earth, Eternity

**PowerPoint Presentation included:** None

**SermonAudio Blurb:** In this final chapter of Revelation John writes a series of quick statements that closes out the book. Ranging from a promise of eternal blessing to those who hear to a final warning to those who reject its message, John closes with a final prayer that his beloved Lord would come quickly.

**I. Introduction.**

- A. We come to the end of this wonderful book. I hope it has been helpful in unfolding the message of this book and de-mystifying how you should view it.
- B. Before we look at this final part I want to give you are very high fly-over of the whole book to remind you of its flow and purpose.
  - 1. I want to first remind you what is the point of this book. It is explicitly stated in 1:1 which tells us that Jesus Christ is giving us a revelation/unveiling of what is to come. Often this is improperly said that it is a revelation ABOUT Jesus Christ but it isn't. It is Jesus Christ revealing to us what is to come, which is exactly what that verse says.
  - 2. In 1:19 there is a very basic outline of the entire book.
    - a. "What you have seen" = what John had just seen in this first vision of Jesus among the various local churches in chapter 1.
    - b. "Things which are" = what is then writes to specific churches in chapters 2-3.
    - c. "Things which shall take place after these things" = chapter 4 to the end of the book.
  - 3. Chapters 4-5 shifts us from the earth to the very throne room of God where we see our Lord, pictured as a Lamb who was like a Lion. And because of His death and resurrection He alone was able to open and set into motion the final judgments of God contained in a seven-sealed scroll where all wicked would be judged and then all things would be made new.

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4. Chapter 6 then describes the first series of judgments as each seal is broken and the scroll read and in chapter 7 there is the description of God setting aside 144,000 Jewish men who are devoted to Him and shall suffer for His Name.
  5. Chapters 8-9 then move to the next set of judgments (all of which are set loose with the breaking of the 7<sup>th</sup> seal). These are more intense and are called the “trumpet judgments.”
  6. Chapters 10-11 is another break in the judgments with a description of two key men who preach against the wickedness of these final days. They are powerful and are divinely protected until the end of their work. Then the Anti-christ is revealed and he kills them. But then they are raised to life and taken into God’s presence. A glimpse of the future victory over the Anti-christ.
  7. Chapters 12-15 cover a lot of background material regarding the time called the Tribulation. Satan’s work is revealed and the rest of the Unholy Trinity is revealed in the persons of the Anti-christ and the False Prophet.
  8. Chapter 16 is the description of the most intense series of judgments known as the “bowl judgments.”
  9. Chapters 17-18 then focuses upon destruction of the subtle, yet powerful, influence of what is called Babylon throughout the ages. A constant but shifting spiritual deception working in the various kingdoms and empires across time. Then it shifts to the physical city of Babylon in the last days where the unholy trinity has set up as the capital city of Satan.
  10. Chapter 19 then gives us the glory of Christ’s second coming, the judgment of the Anti-christ and the False Prophet.
  11. Chapter 20 described the binding of Satan, the 1,000 year earthly reign of Jesus Christ, the final judgment of Satan and the final judgment of all who are unbelievers.
  12. And last week we saw the wonderful description of the new heavens and earth with a focus on the capital city of eternity.
- C. With all of this behind us we now have the privilege of reading the final commands and exhortations. **Read 22:6-21.**

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D. Today I want us to see ten specific statements and exhortations that John gives us as we come to the end of this book.

1. I hope to communicate a sense of urgency as you hear and read it. This is wrapped up in the thrice repeated statement, “Behold, I am coming quickly.”
2. May the Lord bless us in this time.

## II. **Nine final thought on the message of Revelation.**

A. First is an assertion that all that was told is true (6).

1. This is the key one. Frankly, if this is not embraced by you then we are all wasting our time.
2. So this is my charge to you. Do you believe God?
  - a. Parents, do not let this week go by without sitting with each of your children to extensively talk about this. Find out what they believe. Exactly. Don’t be vague and don’t let vague answers exist unchallenged.
  - b. Each of you here: Do you believe that this is true? How? What does it look like?
  - c. I think that there are many ways that parents inadvertently end up teaching their children to not trust God and His Word.
    - (1) They are taught in SS that God keeps His promises but at home they watch a dad or mom fret over the smallest of problems.
    - (2) They are taught that this world is passing away and to not store up our treasure here but they don’t see mom and dad function in a way that breathes generosity and Kingdom-giving.
  - d. At some point each of us must confront ourselves regarding our real, not stated, conviction about the Word of God.
3. The bible never tries to prove itself. The bible never tries to prove God. It simply declares it to be true and we are left with a decision to make.

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- a. We have heard many things over these last several months and they will either affect us or they will lie in the dust heap of ignored lessons and warnings.
  - b. But if God is true and His Word is true then we must grasp that whatever the Word of God declares is to come should be heard very carefully.
- B. Second, He is coming again (7a).
1. If God is faithful and His Word is trustworthy then this is a huge statement.
  2. There are many who might say that “quickly” is not true simply because we are still waiting for this to happen.
    - a. But like all things related to God we ought not define His quickly with ours.
    - b. In reality He is coming soon and today is sooner than yesterday.
    - c. But more important is that this declaration is designed to motivate you and I to live in a certain way. Not unlike how when parents leave for a few days and the kids essentially do nothing around the home until about two hours before the parents come back.
  3. Again, as already stated in the first point, we reflect how much we believe this in how we live. What motivates us? And how we spend our money.
- C. Third, is a promise of blessing (7b).
1. So if God is true and Jesus is coming quickly then what should we take and hold close to our hearts?
    - a. And the answer is simply that we must believe what is written in this book. This is partially why I tried to confront various ways the book is approached for I think they detract from this command here.
    - b. We need to consider the words of praise and warning Jesus gave to the seven churches.

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- c. And we to understand that things are not going to get better. There is not a better day if only we try harder. This world lies in the lap of Satan and he works his evil in every way possible.
  2. And so we must see that the book of Revelation is actually a very practical book—though often not seen that way. It is not a book to be avoided but rather it is one to be studied and acted upon.
  3. And so I would ask you this, how does your life reflect the fact that God and His Word is true and the promise that He is coming soon?
- D. Fourth, is the central point of the chapter—Worship God (8-9).
  1. The message, in its totality is simply too great for John—he falls to worship.
  2. The angel is true to his character, worship God. It needs to be our message as well.
  3. It is most used in Revelation where worship becomes the dividing line of those saved and those under God’s wrath.
    - a. The angels in heaven are pictured as worshipping God (4:10; 5:14).
    - b. Those who worship demons and idol (9:20).
    - c. Those in heaven (11:1, 16).
    - d. Those who worship Satan and the Beast (13-16).
    - e. John worshipping an angel is rebuked by the angel (19:10).
    - f. Those who did not worship the beast (20:4).
  4. The point again is the remind us that there is but one God and He alone is worthy of our worship. But it also reminds us that every person in this room worships something or someone.
  5. Remember that the great sin of humanity according to Romans 1 is that though all people know God they do not worship Him or give Him thanks.
- E. Fifth, our future is in our hands (10-11).

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1. This section is connected back to Daniel 12:9-10, “He said, ‘Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time. Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.’”
2. But now instead of sealing them up the time is to keep them unsealed, available to all who will read, hear and obey.
3. In verse 11 these are called imperatives of permission.
  - a. Then, here, the angel says to all who read it, “do with it as you like. . . but you know how it all ends.”
  - b. I am learning this more and more as I get older and hopefully wiser. You cannot make a man obey and you cannot convert a soul. This is God’s work.
    - (1) You faithfully point the way. You model the faith that you call those people to exhibit. And you entrust them to the Lord.
    - (2) But you also remember that humanity loves its sin, whatever flavor it is in their minds. Left to your own will you shall find only the wrath of God in the end.
    - (3) And as you say to yourself that God does not see nor care or that God does not exist, all the while God withholds His hand from you as you store up more and more wrath for yourself.
    - (4) And when you whisper to your heart that it is “ok” because tomorrow you will do better, on that day one of two things will occur, God shall require from you the life that you wasted or Christ shall return and you will cry out that it was too soon.
- F. Sixth, the promise to true reward (12-15).
  1. Building off of the prior verses, now is a promise or a curse.

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2. To those who love Jesus Christ and follow Him there is the right to eternal life. But the bible also gives some tantalizing indications of other rewards.
    - a. There is the ability to somehow suffer loss of rewards due to unfaithfulness (1 Corinthians 3:15).
    - b. There is the idea of responsibilities and oversight given by God (Matthew 25:14ff).
    - c. Just as there are various types and rankings among the angelic host there is every reason something similar will be true for us.
  3. To those who have chosen to go their own way, they stand outside of life.
    - a. This list, like most lists in the bible, are broad categories that capture a range of things.
    - b. The key point is that hell is not vague and the charges brought against you will not be vague. All that truly fills your heart shall either affirm or condemn you.
  4. The great divide is seen yet again. Those belonging to Jesus can enter the capital city of eternity. Those who are His enemies shall be banned forever.
- G. Seventh, Jesus gives His approval of the prophecies given (16).
1. Here what stands out is how it shifts from God speaking of His truthfulness to now it being Jesus.
  2. It is given to the churches and it is expected to be read, heard and acted upon.
- H. Eight, A final call to believe (17).
1. Note the Spirit and the Bride (all of God's people) bid others to come.
  2. Note that this is another example of the Trinity. God the Father in vs 6, Jesus in vs 16 and now the Holy Spirit.
- I. Ninth, a warning to give a full, yet limited, exposition of the book (18-19).
1. This is probably to those who teach.

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2. They are not to add things that are not there, nor are they to seek diminish/remove what is there.
  3. It refers to intentionally altering the Word of God to bring about a different meaning. It is putting false words above the prophecies given.
  4. This is a warning not to those who hate Jesus, but to those who profess Him as Lord.
    - a. To claim to follow Christ and to believe in Him, yet to pervert His words and warnings is simply to bring those very things upon yourself.
    - b. To have your name removed means one of two things:
      - (1) You lose your salvation.
      - (2) You were a professing believer who by your actions and words are shown not to be his. And it is this view that fits the whole of the Scriptural teaching.
- J. Tenth, a desire to see His return (20-21).
1. It is the heart throb of a believer to want to see the new heavens and earth.
  2. At times it is a distant desire as this age can crowd you to the point of suffocation, but it is always there.
  3. But the desire for the Lord to come quickly is the heart throb of those who suffer in this age for the sake of the Lord. John is in exile, his life has been hard because of his faith. His eyes have seen what is to come, and he wants it to come quickly.

### III. Conclusion.

A. That final invitation in vs 17 is an allusion to Isaiah 55:

Allusion from Isaiah 55, “Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And delight yourself in abundance.



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Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, According to the faithful mercies shown to David. (1-3)

- B. I saw what I have said repeatedly through this book. Those who can, please hear my voice.
1. This book is honest and does not lie to you.
  2. There are but two paths and two choices. The one that leads to the wrath of God all, by nature are on. Will you hear? And will you come?

#### **IV. Benediction/Doxology.**

To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.  
Amen.

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### **Small Group Questions**

- Take any questions that this series has created so that I may have a chance to answer them.
- What are things that tend to cause you to walk by “sight” rather than by “faith?” This is in relation of where our hope lies: In the here and now or in what is to come but not yet seen.
- What has changed in your thinking since we started in Revelation? What is more clear to you? Are there any surprises for you?