

Revelation 22:10-21 "Come, Lord Jesus... Come!"

"Today dear Church, I am here to speak to you and you are here to listen. Let's hope we both finish at the same time!"

In chapter 22 John takes us cruising down the main drag in the New Jerusalem...

The street leads to the throne of God. Beside the street flows a crystal river. Growing out of the center line of the golden street, and over-arching the river is the tree of life. Its fruit is never out of season. **THERE'S HEALING IN ITS LEAVES.**

Remember, when Adam and Eve sinned, God closed off access to the Garden of Eden, and the tree of life. He dispatched an angel to guard its entrance." **"The HEART of the human problem is the HEART of the human. Our only hope is a full transplant. Good thing Jesus is our BLOOD TYPE" GOD FORMED US, SIN DEFORMED US, CHRIST TRANSFORMED US!**

Jesus meets all our needs... Who we are? Why are we here? Where are we going when we die? We know how things turn out... what the future holds!

REVELATION 22:1-9 declares that God is going to keep his word and return those who trust him to a new and better Garden of Eden.

4 They shall see His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads.

Spurgeon "By which I understand two things: first, that they shall literally and physically, with their risen bodies, actually look into the face of Jesus; and secondly, that spiritually their mental faculties shall be enlarged, so that they shall be enabled to look into the very heart, and soul, and character of Christ, so as to understand him, his work, his love, his all in all, as they never understood him before."

HEAVEN IS MORE THAN A DESTINATION IT IS A MOTIVATION!

ERDMAN "AS THE BIBLE OPENS WITH THE STORY OF PARADISE LOST SO IT HERE CLOSES WITH THE STORY OF PARADISE REGAINED."

We see the return of Paradise in the

1. Idea of a river,
2. A tree of life,
3. Revocation of the curse,
4. Intimacy restored,
5. and reigning resumed.

Revelation 22 verse 10 And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. **11** He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.” **12** “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work. **13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last.” **14** Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. **15** But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. **16** “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.” **17** And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. **18** For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; **19** and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book. **20** He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! **21** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

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Notice that these **“LET HIM”** statements are imperatives, not indicatives. They are commands to act a certain way, *not statements about how people are acting*. In a surprising and paradoxical way, this command for people to act according to their nature establishes **human responsibility**. Reality has been made known, and now in light of reality, people are commanded to do what they want to do on the basis of who they are.

Evil people want to do evil. Filthy people want to be filthy. In the same way, righteous people want to do right, and holy people want to be holy.

I think these commands are given here to scare us into changing our ways.

Imagine being at the Grand Canyon and having a tour guide take you to some massive precipice. You look over the edge and realize that the drop is so deep it makes you dizzy. Then the tour guide says, “Let the self-assertive fool who wants to destroy himself disregard caution, ignore my instructions, and go over the edge.” Is that what the tour guide wants you to do?

No! He wants you to take care. He wants you to heed his warning. He wants you to realize that if you disregard what he says, your life is over.

God wants you to repent. God gives you this command not because he wants you to keep doing what is evil and filthy but because he want you to realize that is what you are doing.

The thought here is probably "since Jesus is coming so suddenly, there won't be time for change." There will be no time for last minute repentance, but there is time now. If what you have read in Revelation hasn't changed you, there isn't much hope!

Walvoord "If the warnings of this book are not sufficient, there is no more that God has to say."

12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, **HIS MESSAGE IS ALWAYS BE READY!** and My reward is with Me, **Bema Seat... Works don't save a man but a saved man works, works are not the root but the fruit of salvation... works don't justify a man but a justified man works... Rewards await!**

Again verse 12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, "Quickly" again...It is unbiblical to become careless and lazy just because we believe Jesus is coming soon. and My reward is with Me to give to every one according to his work. **13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." **Alpha and Omega (4X: 1:8, 11; 21:6; 22:13). What He starts, He will finish.**

Robertson reminds of, "The term **Alpha and Omega** is "Applied to God in 1:8; 21:6; and here alone to Christ, crowning proof in this book of Christ's deity."

The title **the First and the Last** is also irrefutable proof that Jesus is Yahweh, the LORD: [Isaiah 41:4](#) *I, the LORD, am the first; and with the last I am He."*

SPURGEON "These terms together mean that Jesus is the beginning, middle, and end for the Christian. "Preach orthodoxy, or any form of doxy; if you have left out Christ, there is no manna from heaven, no water from the rock, no refuge from the storm, no healing for the sick, no life for the dead. If you leave out Christ, you have left the sun out of the day, and the moon out of the night, you have left the waters out of the sea, and the foods out of the river, you have left the harvest out of the year, the soul out of the body, you have left joy out of heaven, yea, you have robbed all of its all. There is no gospel worth thinking of, much less worth proclaiming in Jehovah's name, if Jesus be forgotten."

He started everything, and he will finish everything. No one will outlast him. No one will escape him. No one will have an excuse based on a pre-existing condition of which he is unaware. Jesus has all the evidence because he has always been. He will judge justly.

14 Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. *If you love me obey my commandments... We really can't say we love God when we disobey His word!*

They get to eat of “the tree of life,” and they get to “enter the city by the gates.”

And they are like new and better Adams in a new and better Eden with authority over a new and better tree of life.

15 But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. *Why does it say that all dogs will be outside? Is this is a refutation of the idea of "doggie heaven"? Robertson notes, "What is meant here is "Not literal dogs, but the morally impure ... Dogs in the Oriental cities are scavengers and excite unspeakable contempt (Matthew 7:6; Philippians 3:2)."*

Dogs come off rather badly in Scripture: (Isa 66:3; Mt 7:6; Ps 22:16, 20; Jer 15:3; Deut 23:18; 2 Pet 2:22); they were the scavengers of the ancient world, and considered unclean. Also, “dogs” were a designation for Gentiles (Mt 15:21-28) and Paul’s label for Judaizers (Phil 3:2).

They roll in filth, they stink, and they cannot cleanse themselves.

16 “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. **THIS BOOK... FANTASTIC! YES. SEEMS TO GOOD TO BE TRUE! YES. BUT TRUE!**

The Book of Revelation is written to **the churches**. This book is not a private affair, knowable only by an elite - it is for all believers. It's also worth noting that this is the first reference to the *church* since the letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2-3.

I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

ROOT AND THE OFFSPRING OF DAVID: A wonderful Messianic title (Isaiah 11:1). It shows that Jesus is both the *Creator* of King David and His *descendent*. Jesus spoke to this same idea in Matthew 22:41-46.

BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR: This is another Messianic title from the Old Testament (Numbers 24:17) and the New Testament (Revelation 2:28). Just as the Morning Star (generally held to be the planet Venus) shines and welcomes the new day, so does Jesus.

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. **Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. Is this an invitation to Jesus, asking Him to return? Or is it an invitation to those with a spiritual thirst to come to Jesus? Either sense is certainly true.**

So how do you know if God has worked in your heart? Go through a little checklist. Have you heard? Are you thirsty for God and eternal life? Do you want Him? Then **come!**

It is really this simple: do you **desire** Jesus and His salvation? Then **come**. Can you say, "Now, Lord, I desire to be saved, give me a new heart; I desire to give up my sins; I desire to be a Christian; I desire to believe and desire to obey. But I have no strength to do this. I have the desire, give me the power." If this is your desire, then you are freely invited to come, if you are only willing. There is no barrier between you and Jesus except your stubborn will.

Spurgeon "It is fitting that this great invitation closes the Book of Revelation and the Bible. All the prophets of the Bible, all the apostles of the Bible, all the threatening's of the Bible, all the promises of the Bible, gather themselves up, and focus themselves into this one burning ray, 'Come to Jesus. Come, and take the water of life freely.'"

18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; **Walvoord** "What a solemn warning this is to critics who have tampered with this book and other portions of Scripture in arrogant self-confidence that they are equipped intellectually and spiritually to determine what is true and what is not true in the Word of God."

19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book. **20** He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." **To the very end, the Book of Revelation emphasizes readiness and watchfulness. If we miss this practical lesson from the Book of Revelation - the lesson of readiness - then we miss the essential message of the book.**

- From death came life.
- From defeat came victory.
- From darkness came light.
- From despair came hope.
- From judgment came salvation.

- From shame came glory.
- Through Satan's machinations God's purpose was fulfilled.
- By the wicked deeds of men God accomplished his ordained plan.
- From the breaking came healing.
- From the defiling of the Holy One comes cleansing.
- Because he was forsaken of God, Jesus Christ can promise his own that he will never leave them.
- Because he rose, we know that he will come again.

Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! Mounce "At the very close of the book is the confession that the answers to the problems of life do not lie in man's ability to create a better world but in the return of the One whose sovereign power controls the course of human affairs."

Are you ready? Let us remember that this book was written not only to inform the believer, but was also written to warn the lost of their eternal doom and to bid them to seek the Savior who alone can deliver them from a godless eternity. How far away is eternity? Only a heartbeat, for all of us.

We have come to the end of the book of Revelation, the last words of the whole Bible.

21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. "Whatever you may miss, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with you. In whatsoever points you or any of us may fail, may we never come short of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Spurgeon)

God's Riches At Christ's Expense The law was truth, but it was truth without grace

GRACE IS EVERYTHING FOR NOTHING TO THOSE WHO DON'T DESERVE ANYTHING... EVERYTHING TO YOU AND ME!!! AMAZING GRACE

Grace: of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting His holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues

27 BOOKS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT... EVERYONE ONE OF THEM SHOUT GRACE.

Grace delivers, Grace provides, Grace brings relief, Grace brings freedom, Grace redeems, Grace restores, **Grace brings life**

If God's AMAZING GRACE ever leads you to sin... you don't understand grace... His amazing grace should keep us from sin

Grace that is free and yet so expensive that you could never earn or buy it.

*Grace is love that is on the house... and it comes through Jesus... If you want justice demand the law... but if you need grace **CALL ON JESUS.***

Grace flows in it will flow out... as **Martin Luther said**, *"this spring is inexhaustible, it is full of grace and truth from God, it never loses anything, no matter how much we draw, but remains an infinite fountain of all grace and truth; the more you draw from it, the more abundantly it gives of the water that springs into eternal life, Just as the sun is not darkened by the whole world enjoying its light, and could, indeed light up 10 worlds; just as 100,000 lights might be lit from one light and not detract from it; just as a learned man is able to make a thousand others learned, and the more he gives the more he has-- so is Christ our Lord, an infinite source of all grace, so that if the whole world would draw enough grace and truth from it to make the world all angels, yet it would not lose a drop; the fountain always runs over, full of grace."*

He was, at the very least, the most remarkable person to walk this earth. **He came with words too incredible to believe, and with wonders too incredible not to.** His footsteps shook the world, leaving a crevasse across the centuries, separating the ones that stretched ahead of Him from those that lay behind him. The prints left by those steps were made not by the hobnailed boots of a soldier or by the tailored footwear of a senator. **They were made by sandals**, the sandals as unaccustomed to floors of marble as they were to fields of battle. Who was the man that wore them? This man who wielded no sword, commanded no army. This man whose steps were so foreign to the corridors of power. About him we know so very little. We know next to nothing about His childhood. And comparatively little about his adulthood. For John tells us that if everything had been written down that he did, the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. Yet he himself wrote nothing, published nothing. His sermons were short. His prayers, mostly private. His ministry, a scant three-and-a-half years. Who was this man who changed the world, walking wherever he went in such ordinary sandals?

His name was Jesus. **May we all fall at His feet to love Him whose**

sandals the very greatest have always felt least worthy to untie.