

# REVELATION

## VISIONS OF VICTORY

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### Come Quickly, Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22:1-21 (NKJV) – Bible passage [explanatory notes]

#### 1) The Wonders (Rev. 22:1-7)

- <sup>1</sup> And he showed me a pure river of water of life [symbolizes eternal life, but echoes of the rivers of Eden (Genesis 2:10) and Ezekiel 47:1-12], clear as crystal [reflects the holiness and perfection of God.], proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. [All life and blessings originate from God's sovereign rule and Christ's redemptive work.]
- <sup>2</sup> In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life [once barred from humanity after the fall (Genesis 3:22-24), now reappears as a source of abundance], which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. [This represents God's continual provision, and its monthly yield emphasizes the continual blessings of heaven.] The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. [signifies the complete restoration of humanity and the removal of sin's consequences, bringing perfect unity and peace among the nations.]
- <sup>3</sup> And there shall be no more curse [reverses the consequences of humanity's fall in Eden (Genesis 3:17)], but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him [not burdensome but joyful and fulfilling].
- <sup>4</sup> They shall see His face [a privilege denied to sinful humanity (Exodus 33:20) representing the deepest intimacy with Him], and His name shall be on their foreheads. [signifies belonging, ownership, and identification as God's people.]
- <sup>5</sup> There shall be no night there [reflects the absence of fear, darkness, or evil]: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. [fulfilling God's promise of their inheritance and restored dominion in His kingdom]
- <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets [These prophecies are faithful and trustworthy, given by the same God who inspired the prophets of old. God's Word can be trusted.] sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. [indicates the certainty and speed with which these events will unfold when the time comes]
- <sup>7</sup> "Behold, I am coming quickly! [This highlights the need for constant readiness.] Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." [emphasizing faithful obedience to God's Word as a mark of genuine discipleship]

#### 2) The Worship (Rev. 22:8-15)

- <sup>8</sup> Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.
- <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." [John's overwhelmed response of worshiping the angel is gently corrected. Worship belongs to God alone. The angel reminds John—and all of us—that worship must be directed only to the Creator, not His creation.]
- <sup>10</sup> And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. [Unlike Daniel's prophecy, which was sealed until the end times (Daniel 12:4), Revelation is meant to be understood and proclaimed. The urgency of the message reflects the imminence of Christ's return and the importance of proclaiming the gospel.]
- <sup>11</sup> 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." [This verse emphasizes the fixed nature of one's eternal destiny after death. The righteous will remain righteous, and the wicked will remain wicked.]

- <sup>12</sup> “And behold, **I am coming quickly**, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. *[While salvation is by grace, rewards reflect the works done in obedience to God and highlight the eternal importance of faithful living.]*
- <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”
- <sup>14</sup> 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. *[Some manuscripts read, “Blessed are those who wash their robes,” emphasizing that access to the tree of life and the New Jerusalem is granted to those cleansed by the blood of Christ. Obedience to God is a mark of genuine faith and ensures eternal blessings.]*
- <sup>15</sup> But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. *[Those excluded from the New Jerusalem are those who have rejected Christ and persisted in unrepentant sin. “Dogs” refers to those who are morally impure, and the list of sins represents rebellion against God.]*

### 3) The **Warning** (Rev. 22:18-19)

- <sup>18</sup> 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; *[This solemn warning underscores the sacredness and finality of God’s Word. Adding to the prophecy invites God’s severe judgment, as represented by the plagues written in this book. While it applies specifically to Revelation, the principle extends to all Scripture.]*
- <sup>19</sup> 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. *[Taking away from the words of Revelation results in a severe judgment—exclusion from the Book of Life and the blessings of the eternal city.]*

### 4) The **Welcome** (Rev. 22:16-17, 20-21)

- <sup>16</sup> “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.” *[Jesus affirms His divine authority over the prophecy and identifies Himself as both the source (Root) and fulfillment (Offspring) of David’s lineage. The title “Bright and Morning Star” reflects His role as the hope and light for humanity, heralding the dawn of a new era.]*
- <sup>17</sup> 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. *[This universal invitation to salvation highlights God’s grace. The Holy Spirit, the Church (bride), and those who hear the gospel extend the call to come to Christ. The water of life is freely available to all who desire it, symbolizing the simplicity and accessibility of salvation.]*
- <sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, “Surely **I am coming quickly**.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! *[Jesus reaffirms His imminent return, and John responds with heartfelt anticipation. The phrase “Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” reflects the longing and hope of believers as they await His return.]*
- <sup>21</sup> The **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. *[The Bible concludes with a benediction, emphasizing God’s grace as the foundation of salvation and the sustaining power for believers as they await Christ’s return.]*

#### Applications for Today:

1. **Prepare for Christ’s Coming** (Revelation 22:7, 12, 20) Jesus says, “Behold, I am coming quickly.” This repeated promise calls us as His followers to live in a state of constant spiritual readiness, eagerly anticipating His return.
2. **Proclaim God’s Grace** (Revelation 22:17, 21) The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!”, extending an open invitation to freely receive the “water of life.” God’s grace is the foundation of salvation, freely offered to all. Personally accept and rest in the gift of God’s grace, enjoying the peace and joy in the assurance of your salvation. Also, recognize the Spirit and the Church need to continually invite others to receive God’s grace (See Isaiah 55:1-3 and John 7:37-38).
3. **Protect God’s Word** (Revelation 22:18-19) The warning against adding to or removing from Scripture reminds believers of the sacredness and sufficiency of God’s Word. It is complete, authoritative, and eternal. Preserve the truth of Scripture by faithfully studying, obeying, and applying it in your life (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Also, stand firm against false teachings and distortions of God’s Word. Be a defender of truth, keeping God’s Word central to your beliefs and actions (Psalm 119:105, Jude 3).