

Subject: The Imminency of Christ's Return – Closing Reflections on Revelation 22

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a journey we have completed together through the book of Revelation. As we concluded this powerful study, I find myself reflecting on the profound truths we discovered in Revelation 22:6-21 and what they mean for our daily walk with the Lord.

**Summary:** The sermon explored the closing verses of Revelation, emphasizing three foundational truths that anchor our faith: the absolute lordship of Jesus Christ, the authority of Scripture as led by the Holy Spirit, and the transformative power of God's grace. These truths remind us of our Christian destiny and call us to live with anticipation for Christ's return while remaining faithful witnesses in a world filled with confusion and false teaching.

**Takeaways:**

1. Jesus is both David's offspring and David's Lord, fulfilling prophecy while establishing His authority as Messiah and King. The Spirit and the church extend His invitation to "come" and receive the gift of eternal life—an invitation we must both accept personally and share with others.
2. We must remain faithful to Scripture without adding to or subtracting from God's Word. In an age of countless denominations, deconstructionism, and internet "experts," our call is to obediently follow the unchanging truth of God's Word for His glory, not our own.
3. Christ's return is imminent and certain. We should live with readiness and anticipation, saying with John, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" Our weaknesses reveal our desperate need for God's grace, which alone gives us the power to be overcomers and remain under His protective, life-giving cover.

As we close this study, let us remember that we do not have the strength to live victoriously on our own. But God—because of His grace—empowers us to see, know, be changed by, and live out His rescue plan with joy and excitement.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all as we await His glorious return and prepare for our heavenly home.

Pastor Jim

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## The Imminency of Christ's Return – Part 3 Revelation 22:6-21(16-21)

### I. Introduction: Three Big Ideas

1. Well, we made it. I pray that you have been ½ as blessed as I have been as we have made our way through this book making clear the Christian and non-Christian's destiny.
2. One of the big takeaways for us is that we have learned that its symbolism is not meant to confuse, but to explain truth.
3. As we close today, we will use the outline of our text as our guideposts. The 3 “big ideas” in our closing passage are:

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- A. Jesus is Lord;
- B. Led by the Holy Spirit, Scripture is to be our Authority; and
- C. The working power of Grace

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### II. Revelation 22:16-17: Jesus is Lord

1. Many, actually most, in Bible times rejected Jesus as Messiah.

Despite the great inroads made in witnessing Christ across the globe, even today a brief internet search reveals some 10,000 world religions with over 45,000 Christian denominations. What's more, the Christian deconstruction movement is alive and well, false teaching is in much of what claims to be the church, and the number of “Christian” podcasters, theologians, pastors, and others holding errant biblical views on the wild-wild west of the internet is exploding.

What's more, the Bible makes clear that false teaching will reach a fever pitch as we draw close to the day of the Lord.

2. So, in verse 16, we see Jesus building upon His words from **Matthew 22:41-46**. Let's go ahead and turn there:

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41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them,  
42 saying, **“What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?”**  
They said to Him, *“The Son of David.”*  
43 He said to them, (*Quoting Ps 118:22-23, I note*) **“How then does David  
in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’** saying:  
44 *‘The Lord said to my Lord,  
“Sit at My right hand,  
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool” ’?*  
45 **If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?”** 46 And no one was  
able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question  
Him anymore. - Matthew 22:41–46

- D. As David's root, He is David's offspring (fulfilling prophecy) while also pointing the Jews to the conclusion that He is also David's Lord and King. **What is unfolding in these closing verses is the conclusion of the matter...**the bible is the progressive revelation of Jesus Christ because He IS God and Messiah. **He IS the sovereign One with all authority, power, and wisdom.** He gives life. **He took the penalty for our sin.** He is freedom, love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness.
3. Because He is all these things, v 17 is the invitation of all invitations...the invitation to live the abundant life eternally. **This is the invitation of which the Spirit of God testifies and the church is to witness that all may have the opportunity to choose Jesus as Lord and heaven as home.**
4. One final note here. **Outside of veiled references** (e.g., the 24 elders, the lampstands, the bride at the marriage supper, the armies of heaven), **this is the first time the church has been expressly mentioned since the opening 3 chapters of the book of Revelation**

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### III. Revelation 22:18-21: Two Warnings and Grace

1. **Scripture is our Authority:** In v18, we are told to stick to the Bible. **DON'T import our opinions, ideas, or philosophies.** His word and plan are unchanging and ours is to obediently, lovingly, worshipfully, and faithfully follow Him.

A. Frankly, we could do a whole sermon series regarding the creative and not-so-creative ways mankind, including far too many in the church, have tinkered with or even ignored the plain meaning of Jesus' words here. **And, I might add, this is never done for the glory of God, but for the glory of man.**

2. In v20 we have the second warning, or what for some will be a sure hope. "Surely I am coming quickly".

The Lord will return and will do so quickly. **His judgement and consequences are sure.** Numerous verses, including many we have already studied, repeatedly remind us to be ready! **What's more, being ready means looking forward to His coming with anticipation all the way being shaped and molded increasingly into His image as we live out His promises on this side of the heaven.**

To which, His children, just as John wrote, say..."Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

3. The last thing I want to note today is John's valediction in v21; **specifically that John points to the power of the Lord's grace making all things possible.**

Having been reminded who Jesus is, with these parting thoughts and prayer, the Apostle John reminds us that our weaknesses testify clearly and unabashedly of our desperate need of God. **We do not have the wisdom nor power to be overcomers in our daily lives, but God does.** We do NOT have the spiritual foundation to not suffer from fear, worry, and discouragement and even to not wander away from the protective, live-giving cover of Jesus.

But God...Because of His grace we can see, know, be changed by, live out, and have hope in God's rescue plan – including our great adventure and even greater homecoming as children of God!

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The message of Revelation is: **Jesus wins, evil loses, and God dwells with His people.**

# Revelation 22:6-21, Part 3 (16-21)

## Discussion Prompts

Don't be shy or embarrassed, this is a safe place to talk, learn, and grow. All of us should walk with an attitude of grace and Godly love in encouraging one another to contribute to our shared growth in the Lord.

***For more discussion questions helping your faith to grow, please download the sermon documents typically posted the day after each sermon on the watch tab of our App or website.***

1. How does the reality of over 45,000 Christian denominations and widespread false teaching affect your confidence in discerning biblical truth, and what safeguards can you put in place? What impact do you see AI having in this respect?
2. In what ways might modern Christians be guilty of adding to or taking away from Scripture, even unintentionally, in their personal interpretations or church practices?
3. Working together, come up with a 1-3 paragraph summary of the book of Revelation that would serve to answer a question from someone regarding what you think of this book and what it shares with us.

# **Revelation 22:6-21 (16-21)**

## **The Imminency of Christ's Return – Part 3**

### **I. Introduction: The Big Ideas**

### **II. Revelation 22:16-17: Jesus is Lord**

- Jesus is the invitation to live the abundant life – eternally.

Additional Scripture References: Mt 22:41-46

### **III. Revelation 22:18-21: Two Warnings and Grace**

- Don't add, subtract, or change the word of God.
- He is coming quickly and we need be ready.
- By His grace, we \_\_\_\_\_.

# 5-Day Devotional

## Revelation 22:6-21

### The Imminency of Christ's Return Part 3

**Day 1: Jesus, Our Root and Offspring**

**Reading: Mt 22:41-46; Re 22:16**

**Devotional**: Jesus identified Himself as both the "Root and Offspring of David," a paradox that reveals His dual nature. As David's root, He existed before David, establishing His eternal deity. As David's offspring, He fulfilled messianic prophecy through human lineage. This mystery confronts us with a crucial question: Is Jesus merely a good teacher, or is He truly Lord?

In our age of countless voices claiming spiritual authority, we must anchor ourselves in this truth: Jesus alone holds ultimate authority. He is not one option among many religious paths; He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Today, examine your life. Have you truly surrendered to Jesus as Lord, or have you relegated Him to advisor status? Lordship demands total allegiance, not partial compliance.

**Day 2: The Invitation to Living Water** **Reading: Revelation 22:17; John 7:37-39**

**Devotional**: "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!'" This is the most gracious invitation ever extended. The Holy Spirit testifies, the church witnesses, and together they beckon thirsty souls to drink freely from the water of life. Notice the invitation's simplicity: Come. Not "work harder," not "clean yourself up first," but simply come.

This invitation remains open today. Perhaps you feel spiritually dry, distant from God, or unworthy of His presence. The beauty of grace is that it meets us in our thirst, not our worthiness. The church's primary mission is to echo this invitation to a dying world. Are you drinking deeply from Christ's living water? Are you inviting others to do the same? Let this verse remind you that salvation is freely offered to all who come with open hands and thirsty hearts.

**Day 3: Guarding the Word**

**Reading: Re22:18-19; 2 Ti 3:16-17**

**Devotional**: Scripture comes with a sobering warning: do not add to it or take away from it. God's Word is complete, sufficient, and unchanging. Yet throughout history, humanity has consistently attempted to modify God's message to suit personal preferences, cultural trends, or philosophical ideologies.

Today's landscape is cluttered with voices claiming to improve upon, update, or reinterpret biblical truth. The temptation to soften hard teachings, ignore inconvenient commands, or elevate human wisdom above divine revelation remains powerful. But God's Word needs no improvement; it needs obedient followers. As you read Scripture today, approach it with humility, asking God to conform your thinking to His Word rather

than conforming His Word to your thinking. The Bible is our authority, not our suggestion box. Submit to its truth, even when—especially when—it challenges you.

**Day 4: Living Ready**

**Reading: Rev 22:20; 1 Thes 5:1-11**

**Devotional:** "Surely I am coming quickly," Jesus declares. For two thousand years, believers have lived in light of this promise. Some mock this hope, asking, "Where is this coming He promised?" Yet the delay is not negligence but patience, giving more time for people to repent.

Living ready for Christ's return is not about date-setting or anxious speculation. It means conducting daily life with eternity in view. It means making decisions that honor God, investing in what lasts, and maintaining spiritual alertness. Are you living as though Jesus might return today? Would His sudden appearance find you faithful or distracted? The promise of His return should produce both comfort and urgency—comfort that our suffering is temporary, urgency that our mission is time-sensitive. Today, evaluate your priorities. Are you storing up treasures in heaven or merely accumulating earthly possessions?

**Day 5: The Grace That Empowers**

**Reading: Re 22:21; 2 Cor 12:9-10**

**Devotional:** John's closing prayer focuses on grace: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all." After visions of judgment, cosmic warfare, and eternal destinies, the Apostle concludes with grace. Why? Because grace is the power that makes everything possible.

We lack the wisdom to navigate life's complexities, the strength to overcome temptation, and the endurance to remain faithful. But God's grace is sufficient. His power is perfected in our weakness. Grace is not merely God's kindness in saving us; it is His enabling power that sustains us daily. When you face fear, worry, or discouragement, remember that grace empowers you to stand. When you stumble, grace lifts you up. When you feel inadequate for the calling God has placed on your life, His grace equips you. Today, stop striving in your own strength. Lean into God's grace, allowing His power to work through your weakness. Say with John, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!"

## Small Group Study Guide

### Revelation 22:6-21

### The Imminency of Christ's Return Part 3

**Opening Prayer:** Begin your time together by thanking God for His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and application of these truths.

**Key Takeaways:** Query the group for takeaways first...you may stay with one or more of those.

1. Jesus is Lord – He is the fulfillment of prophecy, David's root and offspring, and the sovereign King
2. Scripture is our Authority – Led by the Holy Spirit, we must not add to or take away from God's Word.
3. The Power of Grace – God's grace makes overcoming possible in our weakness

**Discussion Questions:** Did the Holy Spirit prompt any questions with you? Start with those.

1. Understanding Jesus' Identity: What does it mean that Jesus is both "David's root" and "David's offspring"? Why is this significant?
2. The Invitation: Verse 17 contains an invitation from the Spirit and the church. How would you describe this invitation in your own words? Who is it for?
3. Personal Reflection: When did you first respond to the invitation to "come" to Jesus? What drew you to Him?
4. The Church's Role: The church is mentioned here for the first time since Revelation chapter 3. What does this tell us about the church's responsibility in extending God's invitation?
5. Protecting God's Word: Why do you think people are tempted to add to or take away from Scripture? What are some modern examples you've observed?
6. Cultural Pressures: In what ways does our current culture pressure Christians to modify or ignore biblical teachings? How can we resist these pressures?
7. "Surely I Am Coming Quickly": How does the promise of Christ's imminent return affect the way you live day-to-day? Should it change anything about your priorities?

8. Ready and Waiting: What does it practically look like to be "ready" for Christ's return while still fully engaged in life today?
9. Recognizing Our Need: John ends with a reminder of our need for God's grace. In what areas of your life do you most feel your weakness and need for God's power?
10. Grace in Action: How has God's grace enabled you to overcome something you couldn't handle on your own?

**Practical Applications:** Query the group for applications first...you may explore one or more of those.

1. Extend the Invitation: Identify one person in your life who needs to hear the gospel invitation. Pray for them daily and look for an opportunity to share Christ with them.
2. Scripture Integrity: Examine your own Bible reading habits. Are you approaching Scripture to understand what God says, or to find support for what you already believe? Commit to reading one passage this week with fresh eyes, asking God to reveal His truth.
3. Live Ready: Identify one area of your life that would be different if you truly believed Jesus could return today. Make one concrete change this week.
4. Grace Dependence: Each morning this week, begin your day by acknowledging one specific weakness and asking God for His grace to overcome it.

**Closing Prayer Points:**

- Pray for grace to live faithfully until Christ returns
- Pray for opportunities to extend the invitation to others
- Pray "Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" together

**Discussion Questions**  
**Revelation 22:6-21**  
**The Imminency of Christ's Return Part 3**

4. How does understanding Jesus as both David's root and offspring challenge or deepen your understanding of His dual nature as fully God and fully man?
5. What does it mean practically to live with the anticipation that Christ could return at any moment, and how should this shape your daily priorities and decisions?
6. Why do you think the church is not explicitly mentioned between Revelation chapters 3 and 22, and what might this suggest about the church's role during the events described in Revelation?
7. What is the relationship between grace and our weaknesses, and how does recognizing our desperate need for God actually strengthen rather than diminish us?
8. When you consider the invitation in verse 17 to come and drink freely of the water of life, what barriers or hesitations might prevent people from accepting this offer?
9. In what specific areas of your life are you most tempted to rely on your own wisdom and power rather than depending on God's grace to be an overcomer?
10. How should the warning that Jesus is coming quickly impact the way the church prioritizes evangelism and discipleship in an increasingly secular culture?
11. What does it mean that the Spirit and the bride both say come, and how can individual believers participate in extending this invitation to those around them?

**Dinner Conversation Starters**  
**Revelation 22:6-21**  
**The Imminency of Christ's Return Part 3**

**1. Jesus is Lord in Our Everyday Choices**

How would our family's daily life look different if we truly lived as if Jesus is Lord over every decision—our time, money, entertainment, and relationships?

**2. The Bible as Our Authority**

In what practical ways can we show that the Bible—not podcasts, social media, or popular opinion—is our final authority when we face tough choices or disagreements?

**3. Responding to False Teaching**

With so many voices online and even within churches, how can we as a family tell the difference between true, Bible-based teaching and false or twisted teaching?

**4. Living in Light of Christ's Coming**

If Jesus really could return "quickly," how should that affect the way we handle conflict, plan for the future, or spend our free time this week?

**5. Depending on God's Grace**

Where do each of us feel our weakness most right now (fear, worry, temptation, discouragement), and how does God's grace—rather than our willpower—make it possible to keep following Him?

# Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens

## Revelation 22:6-21

### The Imminency of Christ's Return Part 3

#### AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Jesus is the Boss of My Choices**: Help your child see that Jesus is “Lord” by talking about Him as the loving “Boss” or “King” over their actions—at school, with siblings, and on screens.

##### Discussion Questions:

“If Jesus is the boss of your heart, what do you think He would want you to do when friends are being mean?”

“How could you be kind to the person being made fun of, even if others are not?”

“What could you say to your friend that is kind but shows you don’t want to be mean?”

2. **The Bible Helps Me Decide What’s Right**: Show them that the Bible is our “guidebook” that helps us know what to do when they’re confused or pressured.

##### Discussion Questions:

A. “Did the people in that video do something that the Bible says is wrong? What was it?”

B. “What does the Bible say about telling lies and being honest?”

C. “Next time you watch something and someone does something wrong, what could you say or think to remember what God says?”

3. **Jesus Helps Me When I Mess Up**: Emphasize God’s grace. When they disobey or are unkind, we don’t just say “try harder,” but “let’s ask Jesus to help us change.”

##### Discussion Questions:

A. “When you got angry, did you feel like you were in charge, or Jesus was in charge?”

B. “What do you think Jesus wants you to do now that you’ve done something wrong?”

C. “How can we ask Jesus to forgive you and help your heart be more loving next time?”

#### AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Choosing Jesus Over Popular Opinion**: Teach them to filter peer pressure through who Jesus is and what He says—even if that makes them stand out.

##### Discussion Questions:

A. “If Jesus is Lord, who gets the final say—your friends, the show, or Jesus?”

B. “What parts of that show or trend don’t match with what we know from the Bible?”

- C. “What’s a kind way you could say ‘no’ to something that doesn’t honor Jesus, without being mean to your friends?”
2. **Letting the Bible Be Louder Than the Internet**: Teach them to be suspicious of any message—online or offline—that contradicts God’s Word, even if it sounds nice or is popular.

*Discussion Questions:*

- A. “What does the Bible say about our hearts—are they always right, or can they be wrong sometimes?”
- B. “Can you think of a time your feelings told you to do something, but God’s way was different?”
- C. “How can we check what we hear online against what the Bible says?”
3. **Living Like Jesus Could Come Back Any Time**: “Help them see that Jesus’ return being “soon” should shape their choices today—especially in how they treat people and use their time.

*Discussion Questions:*

- A. “If Jesus came back right in the middle of that chat or game, would you be proud of how you were treating people?”
- B. “What would it look like to be ready for Jesus in how you talk online?”
- C. “Is there anything about how you use your devices that you’d want to change if you remembered Jesus could come back at any moment?”

**AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS**

1. **Jesus Is Lord Over My Online Identity**: Help them see that Jesus’ Lordship includes what they post, like, share, and how they present themselves online.

*Discussion Questions:*

- A. “When you post or share something, whose approval are you wanting most—friends, followers, or Jesus?”
- B. “If Jesus is really Lord, how should that shape what you’re willing (or not willing) to post?”
- C. “Is there any kind of content that seems ‘normal’ for teens but clearly clashes with what you know from Scripture?”
2. **Testing “Christian” Voices by Scripture**: Encourage them to evaluate Christian podcasts, TikToks, and posts by the Bible, not by charisma or popularity.

*Discussion Questions:*

- A. “How can you tell if someone who talks about God is actually teaching what the Bible says?”
- B. “What specific verses or truths from Scripture would you use to test what that person said?”
- C. “What do you do if a ‘Christian’ voice you like says something that clearly doesn’t match the Bible?”

3. **Standing Firm in Friendships by Grace, Not Just Willpower**: Help them understand that resisting pressure—sexual, moral, or social—isn't just about trying harder, but relying on God's grace and the Spirit's help.

*Discussion Questions:*

- A. "What do you feel you might lose if you say 'no' to what your friends are doing?"
- B. "If you relied only on your willpower, how might this go? How is depending on God's grace different?"
- C. "What prayer could you honestly pray in that moment, asking the Holy Spirit to help you choose Jesus as Lord instead of going along with the group?"

**Tips for Parents**

- Be patient and listen: Give your child time to think and respond.
- Relate to everyday life: Use real-life examples and stories familiar to your child to make abstract concepts more tangible.
- Encourage questions: Let your son or daughter know it's okay to ask questions, even if things don't make sense right away.
- Share personal insights: Tell a personal story about a time you experienced these themes, adapting as needed for age appropriateness.

# Family Conversation Guide for Gen Z

## Revelation 22:6-21

### The Imminency of Christ's Return Part 3

#### 1. Jesus Is Lord Over My Group Identity

Bible Reference: “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” – Luke 6:46

“I, Jesus... I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.” – Revelation 22:16

Application: Your main identity is not your friend group, school, activity, or online community; it's belonging to Jesus as Lord. His voice outranks the group's expectations, trends, and unspoken rules.

Scenario: Your friend group makes fun of a classmate, posts memes about them, or excludes them from a group chat. You feel pressure to stay quiet so you don't become the next target.

Discussion: When my group's culture clashes with Jesus' commands (like loving my enemies or defending the weak), what does it practically look like to choose Jesus as Lord over my group's approval?

#### 2. The Bible, Not Feelings or Trends, Is My Final Authority

Bible Reference: “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” – 2 Timothy 3:16

“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...” – Revelation 22:18

Application: Feelings, vibes, and trends change. God's Word doesn't. When popular ideas (even “Christian” ones) disagree with the Bible, the Bible wins—even if it costs you likes, followers, or friends.

Scenario: A popular influencer says, “The Bible's old. Times have changed. God just wants you to be true to yourself and happy, no matter what.” It sounds kind and affirming, and your friends repost it.

Discussion: How can I practically “fact-check” spiritual or moral advice from social media against Scripture before I let it shape what I believe or how I live?

### 3. Testing “Christian” Content and Leaders

Bible Reference “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” – 1 John 4:1

“For false christ’s and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” – Matthew 24:24

Application: Not everyone using Jesus’ name or Bible verses is trustworthy. Measure sermons, podcasts, TikToks, and posts by clear Scripture, not by how entertaining, emotional, or “relatable” they are.

Scenario: A TikTok “Bible teacher” confidently explains that hell isn’t real, God doesn’t judge, and everyone gets to heaven eventually—using a couple of verses out of context. The comments are all: “This freed me!”

Discussion: What specific questions should I ask (about Scripture, context, and character) before I let an online “Christian” voice influence my beliefs or decisions?

### 4. Living Like Jesus Could Return at Any Time

Bible Reference: “He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” – Revelation 22:20

“Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” – Matthew 24:44

Application: If Jesus could show up today, then every DM, Snap, joke, and decision matters. Being “ready” means living in a way you wouldn’t be ashamed of if He returned in the middle of whatever you’re doing.

Scenario: You’re in a private group chat where people share explicit content, roast others, and send screenshots of conversations to mock people behind their backs. You don’t always participate, but you stay.

Discussion: If Jesus returned in the exact moment I’m scrolling, chatting, or posting, what would I want to change about my digital habits to be genuinely ready to meet Him?

**These points aim to empower Gen Z to live out their faith genuinely and courageously in various aspects of their daily lives, reflecting Biblical integrity, compassion, and steadfastness.**