

Session 2 The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come” (Rev. 22:16-20)

I. JOHN PROPHESED THE SPIRIT’S WORK IN THE END-TIME CHURCH (REV. 22:17)

- A. Revelation 22:16-20 is one of the most informative and significant prophecies in the Bible describing the activity of the Holy Spirit in the end-time Church.

12“Behold, I am coming quickly...¹⁶I, Jesus...am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”¹⁷And 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...

20“Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (Rev. 22:12, 16-20)

- B. This prophecy describes the Church in deep unity with the Spirit, saying and doing what the Spirit is saying and doing. This is what the Spirit of God will emphasize in the end times. There are many significant implications of this prophecy.
1. What is the Spirit doing in this passage? He is interceding for Jesus to come to His Church.
 2. What is the Spirit saying? He is revealing the Church’s bridal identity (as Jesus’ Bride).
- C. This prophecy describes the function of the Church in four ways: 1) *Anointed* with the Spirit; 2) *Engaged* in intercession; 3) *Established* in a bridal identity; and 4) *Effective* in the harvest.
- D. This will be the first time in history that the Church worldwide will be in *dynamic unity* with the Spirit, and therefore the Spirit will move through the Church in great power.
- E. This will be the first time in history that the Spirit will *universally* emphasize the Church’s identity as the Bride of Christ.
1. Note: John does not proclaim that the Spirit and the *family* say, “Come,” nor the Spirit and the *army*, nor the *kingdom*, nor the *body*, nor the *temple*, nor the *priesthood*.
 2. Forever, the redeemed will rejoice in the reality of their spiritual identity as Jesus’ body, temple, priesthood, as sons of God, and more.
- F. It is important to have a bridal paradigm or perspective of the kingdom of God. In other words, we are to see the kingdom through the eyes of a cherished Bride who is in deep partnership with Jesus as the Bridegroom King.
- G. As the redeemed feel loved and cherished, and they see their eternal destiny as Jesus’ eternal companion, they are far more empowered to walk in obedience, faith, and courage and resist compromise, fear, and spiritual boredom.
- H. The wedding of the Lamb to His “prepared Bride” is one of the most significant days in history (Rev. 19:7). Jesus will come *only* when the Bride is ready and walking in unity with the Spirit. She will be prepared in her *character*, operating in *power*, and understanding *who she is* to Jesus.

7...for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” (Rev. 19:7)

II. THE BRIDEGROOM MESSAGE IS A CALL TO ACTIVE INTIMACY WITH GOD

- A. The Bridegroom message speaks of experiencing Jesus’ heart (emotions, affections, etc). God invites us, His people, to experience the deep things of His heart—*active intimacy* with Him.
¹⁰The Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God...¹² we have received...the Spirit...that we might know [experience] the things that have been freely given to us by God. (1 Cor. 2:10-12)
- B. The saints are empowered to walk in fullness (Eph. 3:19) by encountering Jesus’ love (Eph. 3:18).
¹⁸You may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know [experience] the love [affections] of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:18-19)
- C. Jesus cleanses the Church, washing her with the Word, especially revealing how Jesus cherishes her (Eph. 5:29). Seeing Jesus as a Bridegroom King leads to seeing ourselves as His “cherished Bride.”
²⁶that He [Jesus] might...cleanse her [the Church] with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷that He might present her to Himself a glorious church...²⁸He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. (Eph. 5:26-29)
1. The Spirit will reveal Jesus as a Bridegroom King and the redeemed as His “cherished Bride” in cleansing and washing the end-time church, empowering her to walk in God’s glory (5:27).
 2. Daniel prophesied that, in the end times, sin and sinners will reach their fullness (Dan. 8:23). The end-time falling away will be one of the most tragic and serious realities in human history. (2 Thes. 2:3; cf. 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3-5; 2 Pet. 2:1-3).
²³In the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their fullness, a king [Antichrist] shall arise, having fierce features... (Dan. 8:23)
 3. In the generation the Lord returns, immorality and sexual perversion will reach its fullness (Rev. 9:21; 14:8, 18; 17:1-4; 18:2-4, 9-10; 19:2; 21:8).
⁸And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen...because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication” ...¹⁸Another angel...saying, “Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather...the vine of the earth, for her grapes [sin] are fully ripe.” (Rev. 14:8, 18)
- D. David was overwhelmed in discovering the many thoughts that the Lord had for His people.
⁵...and Your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. (Ps. 40:5)
- E. Encountering the beauty of Jesus and His love will cause His people to be “lovesick” for God—that is, to be overcome by love—the first commandment in first place (Deut. 30:6; Song 2:5; 5:8, etc.).
⁸If you find my Beloved [Jesus]...tell Him I am lovesick! (Song 5:8)

⁵*Sustain me...refresh me...for I am lovesick. (Song 2:5)*

III. THE 2-FOLD CRY TO COME

- A. The Spirit will inspire the end-time church in her bridal identity to cry out “Come!” (Rev. 22:17).
¹²Behold, I am coming quickly...¹⁷And 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...²⁰“Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (Rev. 22:12, 17-20)
- B. The cry to “come” is both a horizontal call (outward to people) and a vertical call (upward to Jesus).
1. **Horizontal**—it is an *outward cry to people* to come to Jesus as the Bridegroom King.
 2. **Vertical**—it is an *upward cry to Jesus* in prayer to come to us in His power and presence.
- C. The 2-fold horizontal *cry to people* to come or to encounter Jesus as the Bridegroom King:
¹⁷...and let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely... (Rev. 22:17)
1. **To believers:** We call *believers* to come to Jesus as the Bridegroom King—discipleship.
 2. **To unbelievers:** We call *unbelievers* to come to Jesus as the Bridegroom King—evangelism.
²“The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king [the Father] who arranged a marriage for his son, ³and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding...⁴Again, he sent out other servants, saying..., ‘See....all things are ready. Come to the wedding’... ⁸Then he said to his servants...⁹Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ ¹⁰So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled...” (Mt. 22:2-10)
3. How people are to respond to the Bridegroom message (Rev. 22:17):
 - a. **Let him who hears, say “Come”:** Those who “hear” this message are to respond to it by crying, “Come!” as one of their top priorities in their life.
 - b. **Let him who thirsts come:** They are to “come” to Jesus as the Bridegroom God (in a way that is new to them) based on their thirst for God, reality, and love.
 - c. **Whoever desires let him take:** They are to “take” or engage in the water of life freely—fully and with confidence in grace regardless of their past failures, addictions, etc.
- D. The 3-fold *vertical cry* to Jesus in prayer for Him to come to us in His power and presence:
1. It is a cry for Jesus to come **near us in intimacy**—an individual breakthrough for our heart.
 2. It is a cry for Jesus to come **to us in revival**—a regional or national breakthrough in power.
 3. It is a cry for Jesus to come **for us in the sky**—a historical breakthrough at His return.
- E. The Bride’s cry for Him to come in breakthrough—for our heart, nation, history.

1. **Worship** – “We love You. We worship You. We beckon You to come by our love.”
2. **Intercession** – “Lord, we ask You to release a greater measure of power in and through us.”

IV. JESUS DECLARES THAT HE IS A JEWISH KING WHO WILL GUIDE HIS PEOPLE

- A. Jesus is coming as a Bridegroom King to rule with His Bride over all the earth forever (Rev. 1:5-7; 5:10; 20:3-6). He will cause the New Jerusalem to descend to the earth (Rev. 21:2, 10; 3:12), and He will remove the Satan, the Antichrist, and his evil armies from the earth (Rev. 19:11-20:3).
- ¹²“Behold, I am coming quickly...¹⁶I, Jesus...I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.” ¹⁷And the Spirit and the Bride say, “Come”...²⁰He [Jesus] who testifies to these things says, “...I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! (Rev. 22:12, 16-20)***
- B. Receiving the prophecies in the book of Revelation awakened a spirit of prayer in John as he cried, “***Even so, come, Lord Jesus!***” (22:20). The book of Revelation stirs us to urgency in prayer.
- C. Jesus reveals four things about Himself in 22:16 that are vital to the prophecy in 22:17 and which release the anointing on the end-time Church as a Bride. The first two titles have to do with His nature being fully God and fully man as the Root (God) and Offspring (man) of David. The next two titles have to do with Jesus’ deity as the Bright Star of God and the Morning Star.
- D. ***Root of David:*** Jesus calls Himself the *Root* of David. He is God; therefore, He existed before David and is the cause behind the kingdom of David. He stands behind all the promises to Israel. Jesus is the root of the “tree of Abraham” into which Gentiles are grafted (Rom. 11:16-24).
- ⁵...the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll... (Rev. 5:5)***
- E. ***Offspring of David:*** Jesus is also the *Offspring* of David. He was born in David’s family line as a human being. Meaning, because Jesus embraced the human process, He understands the challenges that face His people in the end times. Jesus is returning to earth as a King in context to a military conflict around Jerusalem. He is saying, “I am a Jewish King who will sit on the throne of David.”
- F. ***Bright Star:*** Jesus revealed Himself as the *Bright Star* that guides His people in the darkness of the Great Tribulation as He dazzles and fascinates their heart with His beauty. Jesus will shine the light of His countenance to stabilize and empower His people to overcome fear. Jesus, as the Bright Star, provides clear and bright direction when the whole world lies in darkness (natural and spiritual). As a star, His light will be out of the reach of men who would seek to diminish or change it.
- ²For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD [Jesus] will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. (Isa. 60:2)***
- ⁶...“Who will show us any good?” LORD, lift up the light of Your countenance upon us. (Ps. 4:6)***

- G. **Morning Star:** Jesus is the *Morning Star* that gives His people the full assurance of victory. The *morning star* is a planet, Venus, which becomes visible in the east just before sunrise. The unprecedented increase of Jesus' glory on and through His people will be a sure sign that the dawning of a new Day is at hand.

¹⁹And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts... (2 Pet. 1:19)