

Jesus Is Coming- Revelation 22:1-21 (Part 29)

Revelation 22:1 *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb*

River of the water of life: Water was essential for life, every city had to have water. It is ultimately symbolic of Jesus Christ as central in the city of eternal life.

Revelation 22:2 *through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

The tree of life: Every city needed a food source. The tree is symbolic of Jesus and symbolizes eternal life for those who are sustained by it. **Genesis 2:9, Genesis 3:22-24**

Twelve kinds of fruit...fruit each month: The fruit is symbolic for sustaining life. There is no off season or reason to store up, plenty of fruit throughout the year.

Leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations: Death, sickness, disease will be no more in heaven. The leaves are symbolic of having a cure for whatever sickness might be, though none will be needed.

❖ Water, food, healing or health are the big 3 needs that no one will ever need to worry about ever again.

Revelation 22:3-5 *No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.*

Nothing accursed: No more curse. Nothing will be affected by the curse of sin ever again.

His name on their foreheads: God's name on their foreheads literally or symbolically refers to His ownership, security, and relationship.

No night: Darkness being symbolic for sin and evil, it there will be no more. The night was an unproductive time for labor and a time to sleep and recover.

God will be their light: God illuminates literally and symbolically the physical and spiritual realms that combine into one.

Revelation 22:6-7 *And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place." 7 "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."*

These words are trustworthy and true: The exactness, detail, and precision with which past prophecies already fulfilled came to pass forms the pattern for those yet to be fulfilled.

God of the spirits of the prophets: The Bible was written by men in a wide variety of situations, and their spirits were fully engaged in writing their histories, poems, and prophecies. Yet God was ruling over this entire process.

I am coming soon: This is stated in Revelation before the Tribulation begins and then again at the end. This was future when it was written and is still future since we are presently in the Church Age of chapters 2 and 3.

1. Be ready by proclaiming, discipling, and serving.

Revelation 22:8-9 *I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, 9 but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."*

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things: John is claiming to be an eyewitness and testifies that all the things he wrote are true.

I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me: John's claim that all this is true is backed up by his error in worshiping an angel in 19:10.

2. Do not confuse the messenger with God.

Revelation 22:10 *And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.*

Do not seal up the words of the prophecy: Daniel was told to seal up his prophecy because the next event was the first coming of Christ as a man and sacrifice for sins. Here John is told not to seal up the words because they are concerning the second coming of Christ and the next event to happen.

Daniel 12:9-10 He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end. 10 Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.

Revelation 22:11 Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy."

Let the evildoer still do evil ... and the holy still be holy: All through the tribulation men and women make their choice of who they will trust and follow, Christ or Antichrist.

Revelation 22:12-23 "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Reward...to repay each one for what he has done: This Greek word is used as both reward and wages earned. Everyone will receive their wages based upon what they do with Christ.

Alpha and Omega, first and last, beginning and end: All 3 say the same thing, Jesus is God, eternal, divine and infinite.

3. Heaven is a gift and rewards are earned.

Revelation 22:14-15 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. 15 Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

They may enter the city by the gates: This who receive Jesus as their Christ and put on His righteousness have access to heaven.

Outside are the dogs and sorcerers...: Those who refuse Jesus as the Christ are not covered by His righteousness, but are still characterized by their sinfulness.

Revelation 22:16-17 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." 17 The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

I, Jesus...testify...for the churches: Jesus authenticates the entire book with it's fantastic events and judgments. The book is written to the "churches" showing it is for believers.

I am the root and the descendant of David: Jesus is before (root) David and will reign from the line of David as Messiah and King.

The bright morning star: The morning star was a signal that the sun was about to come up, the night was ending and the day was to begin. Christ is the hope of a new day.

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come.": The Holy Spirit and the Church invite Christ to return or they invite the lost to come to Jesus.

Revelation 22:18-19 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

The words of the prophecy: The book of Revelation is foretold truth. Future events told in advance.

If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues: Warning is given not to tamper or change the words written in this prophecy.

Deuteronomy 4:2 You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you.

Deuteronomy 12:32 Everything that I command you, you shall be careful to do. You shall not add to it or take from it.

4. Do not change God's Word to make it fit the world.

Revelation 22:20-21 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

Come, Lord Jesus: Our attitude is for Christ to come. Heaven is more important than this world.

The grace of the Lord Jesus: The last statement is one of grace and not judgment. Grace is God's answer for man's sin and devastation.

10 Reasons to Interpret Revelation Futuristically

1. His return will be global not local.

Revelation 1:7 *Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.*

2. A tribulation of judgments that impact the whole world hasn't happened yet.

Revelation 6:8 *And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.*

Revelation 9:18 *By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths.*

Mark 13:19-20 *For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. 20 And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days.*

3. Millions saved from every nation. There has to be enough time pass for this to happen.

Revelation 7:9-10 *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

4. The beast and the false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire after Jesus' return.

Revelation 19:11-16, 20 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

5. The transition from the focus on "churches" in chapters 2 and 3 to a focus on "Jews" and "Jerusalem" from chapter 4 and following.

6. Daniel 9 predicts 490 years for Israel and 7 have not been fulfilled yet. In the middle of the 7 years the Antichrist desecrates the temple.

Daniel 9:27 *And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."*

7. 3 1/2 years is mentioned several times in Revelation. This gives credibility that the time frame of the tribulation is 7 years while half is highlighted.

Revelation 11:2 *but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.*

Revelation 12:6 *and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.*

Revelation 12:14 *But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.*

Revelation 13:5 *And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.*

8. Chapter 20, the millennial reign of Christ, follows the return of Christ in Chapter 19. This also coincides with Christ ruling the earth in Daniel chapter 2 after conquering all earthly kingdoms.

9. Christ will return physically and literally as is promised to His disciples.

Acts 1:9-11 *And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

10. There are celestial signs that coincide with a world-wide tribulation and return of Christ that have not happened yet.

Joel 2:30-31 *And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.*

Mark 13:24-26 *But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.*

Revelation 6:12-13 *When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale.*