THIS IS JESUS

UNIT 1: THE MESSIAH NAMED JESUS
PART 2: HE IS
Lesson 4: He Is Coming Again

Devotion 1

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

Revelation is the very last book in your Bible. And today, you will be reading some of the very last words Jesus gives us.

Revelation 22:12-13.

Jesus' final words to us begin with the word 'behold.' It's a powerful word that's a formal way of saying, "Listen up!" What follows is His declaration that He will return. And soon. It's pretty clear that this is an important thing. Jesus isn't coming back every now and then to check in for a bit, grab a cup of coffee, and leave for another hundred years. When Jesus returns, it will be with finality and purpose.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

- Write down your first thoughts about how you feel knowing that Jesus is coming back.

- Why do you feel this way about His return?

Devotion 2

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. (Revelation 22:14)

In Matthew 5, Jesus gives the Sermon on the Mount. Perhaps you've read this before:

> *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.* (Matthew 5:2-11)

Well, in Revelation 22, Jesus brings back the familiar format.

Read Revelation 22:14.

Take some time to reflect on how this one verse compares to the verses in Matthew 5:2-11. Does this fit seamlessly into Jesus' message in the Sermon on the Mount?

Devotion 3

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. (Revelation 22:17)

Read Revelation 22:17.

In the context of Jewish wedding customs, the groom (who would be Jesus in this verse) choses his most loyal friend, and the two of them would go to the bride's home. The bride (which would be the Church) would be dressed and ready, and then the groom and best man would escort her to the temple for the wedding ceremony.

Like a bride waiting excitedly at home, we should be dressed up and ready for that knock on the door. But what do we do until then?

The role of the Church (people who follow Jesus) is to fulfill the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, which is to "Go and make disciples," as well as the command of Jesus in Acts 1:8, "Be my witnesses." The bride (Church) and the Holy Spirit are playing an active role in spreading the Good News of Jesus in Revelation 22:17.

To end your time today, think of a few people that you can talk with who might not know Jesus yet. You don't have to know everything yet; in fact, their questions might help you learn more yourself! But as a member of the Church, you have the honor of sharing the great news that Jesus is on His way back to all of us.

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Devotion 4

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. (Romans 13:11-12)

Hey, you've been doing a really good job reading your Bible lately! Are you ready for a little challenge? Today's devotional is going to test your knowledge of this week's passage, while also encouraging you to connect the dots between Scripture, all on your own! (Don't worry, you can do it!)

Start by reading Romans 13:11-12.

Take a moment and highlight the shared themes between Romans 13:11-12 and Revelation 22:12-17.

Ask yourself, how do these passages work together to point me to the return of Jesus?

Then, once you've compared the two, identify the action that Romans 13:11-12 calls believers to. Finish up your devotional by writing down some ways that you can cast off the works of darkness, and challenge yourself to put on the armor of light.

Devotion 5

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:20)

Revelation can be difficult to understand at times. Questions abound as to what will happen when Jesus returns. There are many things we do not and cannot know about the second coming of Jesus *until* He returns. John, the author of Revelation, was taken on a very big journey to be able to write down some of what we do know. He passes on this knowledge through symbols like beasts and horsemen. But ultimately, John has this to say at the end of Revelation.

Revelation 22:20.

At some point, if you haven't already, you will take time to read through the entirety of Revelation. And like many before you, you will wonder what in the world all of it means. But never lose sight of what John says in verse 20. "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" At the end of the day, no matter how bad life seems, we always have hope in Jesus. And, no matter how good life may get, we know that it will pale in comparison to what Jesus offers us upon His return.

Throughout the rest of today, as well as the rest of the week, practice saying this in your prayers. Whenever you end a prayer, no matter what the context, simply say "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" Reflect on how it changes your mindset towards life and towards God.