

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

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THE GREAT CONCLUSION OF THE BOOK

R. 22:12-17

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” ¹⁴ Blessed are those who [g]do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. ¹⁵ But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. ¹⁶ “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.” ¹⁷ 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.”

I. QUICK REVIEW

- A. The last two chapters of **Revelation** tell us about how Jesus will restore all that the Father originally wanted when he put Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. When Jesus returns as King and the New Jerusalem descends to earth, literally, heaven will be on earth, He will reverse the tragedy that occurred because of sin.
- B. The highlight of **Revelation** and of all human history is that the Father will dwell on the earth with His people. God's purpose has always been to live together with His people face to face on this earth. This is the ultimate reality that God achieved through Christ.

II. WHEN DOES JESUS COME AND WHAT DOES HE BRING? (Rev. 22:12)

- A. ***“Behold, I am coming soon”*** The words of Christ continue until **v. 19** and He repeats His promise that He will return soon (**Rev. 22:7; 1:3; 22:20**). In no text did Jesus set a specific date, nor was there a promise that the consummation of everything said would occur during the life of first-century Christians. However, the imminent advent of the Lord must always be present in our lives because in fact every day we are closer to meeting Him.
- B. ***“And [I bring] my reward with me”*** What Jesus brings is His reward, that is, He has the authority to deliver it, ***“to reward each person according to what he has done.”*** Jesus, instead of promising a blessing, as He did before (**Rev. 22:7; 16:5**), this time promises to give justly and individually. He will reward both the good and the bad that each one has done, that is to say that the quality of the work we do will bring a consequence that matches the nature of our actions, He calls us to serve faithfully with a good heart full of good sense.

2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

- C. This perspective strengthens the previous warning (**Rev. 22:11**). When all is said and done Jesus Christ will evaluate all of His people on the basis of what they have done, not so much of what they have said they were going to do.

Ap. 20:12 “ And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before [c]God, and books were opened... And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”

Jer. 17:10 ***"But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve."***

- D. In this portion **Jesus described the eternal implications of our acts and choices.** In the same way that salvation is a consequence of grace; Rewards are a result of the works. God gives us His salvation but pays our good deeds, so it is important to fight against all religiosity and be objective in the way we think about ourselves (**Rom. 12: 3; Ps. 19:12**).
- E. Because the tribunal of Christ is just, this may be a time of great remorse, or it may be an occasion of supreme joy depending on how we respond and act during our practical lives..

1 Jn. 2:28 ***"And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."***

- F. In view of the soon return of Jesus Christ, we Christians must be diligent to **"lay up treasures in heaven"** (**Mt. 6:19-21**) while it is still time.

III. WHY CAN HE KEEP HIS PROMISE? (Ap. 22:13-15)

v.13 ***"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."***

- A. Jesus Christ offered three titles for Himself that ensure that He can fulfill His previous promise to reward His people (**Rev. 1:4, 8, 17; 2:8; 21:6**): Jesus Christ, as God the Father, is **"The Alpha and the Omega"** (**Rev. 21:6**). This title emphasizes His eternity and sovereignty.
- B. The Father is from **"A to Z"** of wisdom and power therefore His promises are final. The Father has all the power and all the wisdom in such a way that Satan cannot surprise or prevail over Him. This title emphasizes that God is the origin and goal of history, that is, the highest purpose of all that exists.

Is.44:6 ***"Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the First and I am the Last"***

- C. It means that He has the definitive word at the beginning and the final end in every human and spiritual matter.

v.14 ***"Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city."***

- D. This is the final blessing in the book (**Rev. 1:3; 16:15; 22:7**) and announces the favor of God over those who **"wash their clothes"** that is to say that they clean themselves by turning to Christ for salvation (**Rev. 21:27**) and confess their faults to be washed by the blood of Christ (**1 Jn. 1:7**). The **"robes"** that one wears are our righteous actions that others see (**Rev. 19:8**).

Ap. 7:14 ***"...he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."***

- E. Those of us who wash our clothes in the blood of the Lamb will have access or the right to eat from the **"tree of life"** that is, we will live forever in the new creation. Through that blood that cleanses us we will enter through the gates of the New Jerusalem and there we will be able to eternally enjoy an intimate communion with the Father.

v.15 ***"But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie."***

- F. The opposite of the blessings described in **v. 14** is the exclusion of the New Jerusalem, that is, eternity in the Lake of Fire (**20:15; 21:8**). Jesus described people who will not enter the city because of the works that marked their lives as **"dogs"** which is a metaphor for what is morally impure and for those who despise or attack what is of God (**Deut. 23:18; Ps. 22:16, 20; Mt. 7:6; Phil. 3:2**). In John's day, many dogs were wild and aggressive scavengers. The fate of these human **"dogs"** should warn believers not to fall into apostasy and the vices that it entails. The other classes of individuals named here appear in the other lists of evil unbelievers (**Rev. 21:8**).

IV. WHO IS THE ONE WHO SIGNS APOCALYPSE? (Ap. 22:16)

v.16 "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."

- A. The combination **"I, Jesus"** does not appear anywhere else in the New Testament. Here Jesus used it to emphasize His role in the production of this book, and thus strengthen His authority (**Rev. 22:7, 12**). **"My angel"** refers to the main angel who revealed this material to John (**v.6**). The angel specially appointed by Jesus gave all the revelation to John, but finally it was for all the churches, not just for the seven **"churches"** of Asia Minor (**Rev. 1:4; chs. 2-3**). After the letters to the seven churches this is the last reference to the church (Gr. *Ekklesia*).
- B. Two titles point to Jesus' dual nature of being completely God: **"the root of David"** and completely man: **"the offspring of David."** Consequently, He is the fulfillment of all prophecies about the lineage or offspring of David. **David established ancient Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, but the Great Son of David will establish the New Jerusalem.**
- C. Jesus also called Himself **"the Bright and Morning Star"** (**Rev. 2:28**). Just as the morning star appears and announces the dawn of each new day on earth, the Second Coming will announce the dawn of a new day in the history of mankind. The **'root'** is buried in the ground where no one can see it, but **"the star"** is in the heavens where everyone can see it.
- D. These two titles express how Jesus will help His people in the end times: the bright morning star will lead them to the final victory..

V. THE ANSWER AND FINAL INVITATION (Rev. 22:17)

v.17 "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."

- A. **Here the church that is the bride and the Holy Spirit come together in a universal cry "Come!"** And all who have ears to hear this prophecy also join this prayer. **After all prophesied this is the appropriate response, we must yearn and pray for the return of the Lord.**
- B. **The final words of Jesus and the angel are vital for the church to function in its bridal identity.** Here John prophesied the work of the Spirit in the Church of recent times and is one of the most informative and meaningful prophecies that describe the truths and activities that the Spirit will powerfully emphasize in the generation that the Lord returns. John described the Church saying and doing what the Spirit says and does.

1. **What does the Spirit say?** He is revealing the Groom and the redeemed as His Bride.
 2. **What is the Spirit doing?** He is praying that Jesus will come into power as the Bridegroom, and is calling people to come to Jesus as the Bridegroom and see themselves as His Bride. Therefore, He is praying and calling the nations to Jesus through the lips of His people.
- C. While we wait for the fulfillment of all this we must come to Him because from now on we have access to drink the free water of life to quench our thirst as we walk through the spiritual desert in this world. This promise is repeated throughout Scripture. (**Rev. 7:16; Isa. 55:1; Matt. 5:6; Jn 6:35; 7:37**).

VI. BOOK INTEGRITY GUARANTEE (Ap. 22:18-19)

v.18-19 *"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; 19 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."*

- A. In this verse Jesus continues to speak. No one can or should deliberately take away or add to the words of this book because each one is of immense importance and God will punish anyone who takes such audacity. The idea is that the teaching of this book for the church must be preserved in its entirety.

VII. REVELATION NOW

- A. Those of us in the period of time between the first and second coming of Jesus cry out with that great yearning to see all that the first coming brought us and to anticipate what His return to earth will bring.
- B. **Revelation** is a book written to encourage us to persevere firmly until the end in the midst of all difficulties knowing the plan that God is glorious and will be fulfilled.
- C. We are all called to keep the words of this prophecy (**Rev. 22:7, 9; 1:3**). And as a church we keep them by acting in various ways:
1. **By obeying** the commandments, warnings and promises that Jesus has given us as we persevere in walking in love and holiness.
 2. **By speaking** Jesus' message as stated in "the prophecy" which must be proclaimed by all and all.
 3. **Praying** for a release of power as described in "the prophecy" of Revelation.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. **How should Jesus be encouraged to come soon to reward our good works?**
2. **How are you joining with the Holy Spirit to cry out for Jesus' soon return?**
3. **What is a text that you would share with yours in the entire book of Revelation?**