

WORSHIP SERVICE - 5.15.2022

I AM COMING SOON

I. INTRODUCTION

MAIN POINT: Christ's return brings to completion God's redemptive plan and the hope of His second coming should motivate our obedience and worship.

REVELATION 22:6-21

6 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."

8 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."

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

12 "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."

14 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.

16 "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.

18 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.

20 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.

II. THE TRIPLE TESTIMONY

1. THE WORDS THEMSELVES ARE TRUE

6 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.”

- This phrase not only signals the end of the last series of seven visions John was given, but also the end of the visions contained in the book.
- The chain of revelation - **Revelation 1:1** The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,
- 16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches.
- The book is God’s word! It is a statement of the infallibility and inerrancy of this book which was divinely inspired.
- The book was written for the church. They are the main audience.
- The book has a distinct audience and a distinct purpose—to show the church what must soon take place.
- Jesus says that is why he sent his angel to testify to John about these things. It’s for the church.

2. THE FIRST HAND WITNESS OF JOHN

8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things.

- John is giving a first-hand account.
- John was instructed to write God’s truth—God's words.

3. THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

20 He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.”

- Christ himself testifies to the veracity of the things contained in the book.
- It is a statement that confirms the validity of His testimony.
- The complete vision given to John is true.
- The fact that Revelation closes out with this triple declaration of the truthfulness of what is contained in the book is extremely important. Its message is not to be ignored or diminished

III. THE TRIPLE EXHORTATION

1. A BLESSING TO THOSE WHO OBEY THE WORDS

7b Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

- This echoes the first benediction in the opening chapter, Revelation 1:3, Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.
- To ‘keep’ means to observe, to conform one’s action or practice to.
- Joel Beeke, Revelation Commentary, “It is important for us to understand that the purpose of prophecy, here and throughout Scripture, is not to fire the imagination or to intrigue the intellect. It is to challenge the conscience and feed our faith so as to produce obedience to God rather than conformity to the pressing claims of the world. The foremost purpose of studying the book of Revelation is not to understand mysteries we have never understood before, but to encourage our obedience to God, to His law and gospel, so as to make progress in our sanctification.”
- This is the right effect that all of Scripture should have upon us and our response to what we read and hear in God’s Word must be obedience and worship.

- The message of Revelation is to inspire true worship of God.
- Notice how the exhortation is a blessing. The one who obeys the words is blessed. Not just in the world to come, but in the here and now. They will enjoy all of the things that Christ says will be there for those who conquer to the end.
- Do you love and treasure God's word?
- You are blessed if you obey them.

2. A COMMAND TO PROCLAIM THE WORDS

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

- Daniel was told to seal up his vision because the time of the fulfillment of those things was not yet (Daniel 8:26; 12:4). It wasn't the last days yet. That was still off in the future.
- Rev. 1:3 says the time is near, it is at hand. We are now in the last days, we have been in the last days, and we will be in the last days until Christ comes again.
- What Daniel was told to seal up has begun to be fulfilled, continues to be fulfilled in the present, and will continue to be fulfilled until their consummation in the future.
- John was instructed not to seal them up because we are in the last days.
- It is not sealed because It's for the church. We must respond with obedience, with worship, and with proclamation of the truths it contains.
- There is an urgency implicit in this command—the time is near!
- We need to tell people that we are in the end times and that Jesus is coming soon even if they think we're crazy.

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."

- At the end of Daniel's prophecy in Dan. 12:10 a similar declaration is made about the destiny of the righteous and the unrighteous.
- The point is simply that at Christ's return, both groups will remain in their present condition. At his return, they will find themselves in a fixed state.
- There are no second chances for the unrighteous who are continuing in their sin and doing evil.
- God's work is finished and complete. When he comes back, there will be no further opportunities for repentance and salvation.
- This is an exhortation both to holy living and to faithful proclamation.
- People need to know that at Christ's return, there will be no second chances.
- When Christ returns it will be too late.
- When he returns it will not be to redeem people, but to reward. "*I will bring my recompense with me, to repay to each what he has done.*"
- Your reward will depend on whether Christ's blood has washed away your sin and your name is written in the Lamb's book of life.
- The last blessing in v14, says that those whose robes are washed are the ones who have access to the blessing of eternal life.
- Our robes are our works. They are our deeds and thoughts and words done in the flesh. Those robes are stained and defiled. We cannot enter the holy city with our robes in that condition.
- Only by washing our robes in the blood of Christ can they be made clean.

15 Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

- We are reminded that those whose robes are not washed in the blood are outside the holy city. They cannot enter.
- These have no right to the tree of life and cannot enter the holy city.

- Where will you be found at Christ's return?
- Whatever state you are in, will be the state you continue in forever.
- May those words provoke you to turn to Christ for salvation and life and may they stir and motivate you to faithful gospel proclamation, recognizing the urgency of the hour.

3. A WARNING TO THOSE WHO HEAR THE WORDS

18 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.

- This warning is true for all of Scripture but especially true as it concerns the book of Revelation.
- Notice this exhortation and warning is not directed to the unbelieving world.
- This warning is to the church. It is a warning to all who twist the Scripture and pervert it in the name of Christ.
- It is a warning to those who take away part of Scripture they don't like to make it more palatable to the unbelieving and sinful world.
- It's a warning to false teachers in the church who preach about their dreams and visions and angelic visitations and distort the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and lead his people into idolatry and apostasy.
- They are God's words not yours! You are not free to alter them, add to them, or take anything away from it.
- The penalty for tampering with God's word is severe.
- It's presented in an ironic manner. Add to the words of the book and you will have added to you the plagues described in the book. Take away from the words of the book and you will have taken away from you the eternal blessings described in the book.
- The punishment is in direct proportion to the sin of tampering with God's word.

IV. THE TRIPLE INVITATION

- **Spurgeon**, preaching on this verse stated, "It is placed at the very end of the Bible, and placed there because it is the sum and substance, the aim and object of the whole Bible. It is like the point of the arrow, and all the rest of the Bible is like the shaft and feathers on either side of it."

1. THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE

17 The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come."

- The Spirit and the Bride are extending an invitation not to unbelievers, but to Christ.
- It is an expression of the church's longing, through the power of God's Spirit, to be with Christ.
- Do you long for Christ? Do you yearn for his return?

2. THE ONE WHO HEARS

And let the one who hears say, "Come."

- The invitation is for those who hear the exhortation of the Spirit.
- Recall the admonitions at the end of each of the seven letters to the churches in ch2&3, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."
- Those who have been granted spiritual hearing by the regenerating and indwelling work of the Spirit can respond to the invitation.
- The one who hears, longs for Christ's return. They join with the true church, calling on the Lord to come.

- This is also a call to the dull of hearing in the church to come to Christ, to believe the gospel, and to live and long for his return.

3. THE THIRSTY

And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

- The invitation to come to Christ is extended to the thirsty. Those who thirst after God.
- This is a call to persevere, to come and drink deeply of Christ.
- The invitation that is extended to us is not one that can be ignored.

V. THE TRIPLE EXCLAMATION

- The reality that punctuates the conclusion of this book is Christ's triple exclamation, "I am coming soon."
 - 7 "And behold, I am coming soon.
 - 12 "Behold, I am coming soon,
 - 20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."
 - These are the words of Christ. We know that because of the "I am" declarations he makes that can only be attributed to Christ.
 - 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."
 - 16 "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."
 - These can only be attributed to Christ.
 - At the end of it all, on the last page of Scripture, Jesus says, "I am coming soon!"
- He says, "I am coming soon." That is in the present tense.
 - What does that mean?
 - It is also a reminder of the suddenness of Christ's return.
 - 16:15 ("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!")
 - It's an exhortation to readiness. You don't know the day or hour, so be ready.
 - It is also a reminder of the nearness of Christ's return.
 - On God's calendar concerning his redemptive program, it is the next major event to occur.
 - Christ has already been coming in the events that are described in Revelation. It is all moving forward to the climactic moment of his glorious appearing.
- Peter warns those who mock and scoff the promise of Christ's coming.
 - 2 Peter 3:4 They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation."
- How do we respond to this? In what way is his coming soon?
 - We are to understand his coming soon as a period of preparation that must fully be completed prior to his visible appearing.
 - Christ's coming involves a great deal of preparation.
 - Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
 - Christ will not come back until all of the preparations are completed. Which involves his elect church from every nation to be gathered in before He can return.
 - His return is a process that has long since begun, and is well under way.
- To Christ's last exclamation, John adds his own. "*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*"
 - Don't lose hope in the promise.
 - He says, "Yes, I am coming soon!" Believe it

CONCLUSION

- Revelation is filled with so many symbols and images of judgment, punishment, and wrath.
- But that's not the last word of our Bible.
- The last word is a word of blessing, a word of grace.
- 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

- And it is by the grace of our Lord that we can say, "*Come, Lord Jesus.*"