

Revelation: The Time is Near

I Am Coming Soon

Revelation 22:12-21

Jesus says “ I am coming soon” 3x in this chapter

Verily, verily i say to you

There's a repeating here. I almost get a sense, in a way, that it's like the entire Trinity telling us, testifying to us, that it's true. He's coming. Be ready.

[Acts 1:9-11 NKJV] Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This [same] Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Revelation Review:

- John on Patmos, **revealed** Jesus in glory, in heaven
- Letters to 7 Churches, then, throughout history, and now
The end of the world (as we know it) - The Great Tribulation (great reset for the great tribulation)
- **Judgment on the nations and those who follow satan (it's clear)**
- **A last ditch effort to get the world to repent**
- **Judgment for the sins of everyone without Jesus and destruction of the universe corrupted by sin**
- **New Creation, No more sin and death**
- **Heaven: God makes his home with us**

Creation originally created for us as our home, and God would walk with us. I don't think it was meant as a full-time home for him, but a place to visit, spend time with us. His throne was still in heaven, the earth was his footstool.

Where we're going is his home and ours. No more separation.

[Pray]

Read 22:12-15

LOOK behold

The command is to look, but to look intently. Interested. Longing. Desiring. In anticipation of. *Christmas coming. The advent calendar.*

Turn to Matthew 25:1-13

Our bridegroom is coming.

We need to be washed. Ready. Excited. Dressed. Makeup ready. Bags packed.

We won't be living in the home of our parents any longer.

Jesus has a reward with him when he comes

Not a gift

Gifts are just out of love, and God gives us those - spiritual gifts right? Not rewards.

But these rewards are for our **work**

- business, employment, that which any one is occupied
- that which one undertakes to do, enterprise, undertaking
- any product whatever, any thing accomplished by hand, art, industry, or mind
- an act, deed, thing done: the idea of working is emphasized in opp. to that which is less than work

What occupies us in this life? What's our life's work? Is it ultimately the kingdom of Jesus?

I've known and heard of many folks who are very successful in business, but their underlying aim was to advance the gospel. The business was a means to that and they were also called to send rather than to go.

[Luke 2:48-49 NKJV] So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

They were one day away, took them three days to find him...so one day to get back, then two whole days in Jerusalem until they finally checked the temple...

Do those around us know where to find us? Do they know that we're in the word of God? Do they know they can come to us for prayer, or for a question about the Bible, or for help spiritually or practically? Are we given to hospitality? Are we about our father's business?

Payday, bonuses, etc... I look forward to those days because I've done work. Things have been extra busy lately, especially for some, and I'm sure they look forward to the reward for their work even more.

If we're not looking forward to Jesus' return, could it be because we haven't done the work and don't expect a reward?

Even if the chickens come running to me selfishly just in case I give them some extra scratch, I still want them to be running to me. And if they didn't, even if I had a reward with me, they wouldn't get it.

Remember - it's a reward for our work done from the blood, from salvation. Not a reward of salvation from the work.

Jesus is everything

Alpha Omega First Last Beginning & End

He made everything
He held everything together
He ends everything

All in his time. His way. With his word.

Blessed happy are those who do his commandments
Priests in linen, not to sweat

[Matthew 5:3-12 NKJV] "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 filled. Blessed [are] the merciful, For they shall obtain 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 they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great [is] your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Right to the Tree of Life

Garden, two trees

Cast out that we might not eat from it and be eternally stuck in our sinful condition

May enter through the gates

It's our ticket in. There's no jumping the fence, Climbing over the wall, bribing the gatekeeper. There's no scalping. No forgery that can get you in.

Only one way: Jesus (John 14:6)

"Outside weeping and gnashing of teeth"

Picture the day, walking through the "pearly gates"

It's not just some nice gates sitting on clouds with Peter in a halo at the gate
Not it at all.

Tourists in NYC, always looking up, having a map out

Huge, magnificent doors. Shimmering gold streets, jewels as the foundation. Warm, radiant light everywhere. Singing. Laughing. Talking. Hugging. Jumping. Rejoicing. I'd even imagine birds chirping in sense, flying over. Angels worshipping, us feasting.

This is where God wants us to be. This is the destination. The end game. End goal.

V15 outside are dogs, sorcerers, sexually immoral, murders, idolaters and everyone who loves and practices a lie

(all those things, are in a sense, lies...not the truth, not the way, masquerading as the truth)

When I see all these things taking such deep root, so many people given over to it, I long for heaven, my home, even more.

When my wife can't browse Christmas card template sites with my daughter while I'm editing the photo...because of the abominations they put on display. When Christmas isn't even a narrowing filtering option.

This world is not my home. It's more evident every day.

These people are outside. Not outside in heaven, but kept out. No entry. They're in hell, receiving their reward for their works.

[Psalm 73:1-17 NKJV] A Psalm of Asaph. Truly God [is] good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. For I [was] envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For [there are] no pangs in their death, But their strength [is] firm. They [are] not in trouble [as other] men, Nor are they plagued like [other] men. Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them [like] a garment. Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish. They scoff and speak wickedly [concerning] oppression; They speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth. Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full [cup] are drained by them. And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?" Behold, these [are] the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase [in] riches. Surely I have cleansed my heart [in] vain, And washed my hands in innocence. For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning. If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. When I thought [how] to understand this, It [was] too painful for me-- **Until I went into the sanctuary of God; [Then] I understood their end.**

:16-17

Angel here, messenger

John received a message from Jesus for us. For the church. For the world. For the end.

Root & Offspring of David

He both made Israel and David, but also the rightful king of it through the bloodline

DG commentary

*Bright and Morning Star: This is another Messianic title from the Old Testament (Numbers 24:17) and the New Testament (Revelation 2:28). **Just as the Morning Star (generally held to be the planet Venus) shines and welcomes the new day, so does Jesus.***

**Things are dark. Things are going to get even darker (if you can imagine it).
Dark - without light of Jesus. Without Christian influence. Without Truth.**

But he is our hope. Our path through the night.

Spirit & Bride say come

It's both God's desire and the church's for Jesus to return
He gives us that desire
It should fill us
It should be our cry in life and in death

Looking at death differently, Ash and I talking the other night

It's going to happen whether we like it or not. Whether we want it or not. No matter what the world does. Even from that perspective, why wouldn't you just get on board with fact?

:18-21

John's not playing around

If you add to Revelation - you'll experience it
If you take away Revelation - you'll experience it

Isn't that always the tactic of the enemy - twisting God's word by adding or taking away words, context, other portions, etc.

There is one fate for those who edit God's word. Who think they know what God should say vs. what He did say - the pit.

The word is complete.

From beginning to end. First word to last word.

[Matthew 5:17-19 NKJV] "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. "For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches [them], he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

John speaks of Revelation in a sense

But it's also the Bible

How many cults have added, or taken away

False teachers twisted

Translations cut phrases, etc.

(I always recommend textus receptus based versions e.g. KJV, not Alexandrian NIV)

Surely I am Coming Soon

That's Jesus last words to us.

The very last thing he says in the bible...is that he's coming soon.

Last word. Last written.

John agrees, Amen. Cries out Coing Lord Jesus.

John wants him to come.

Imagine you're John.

You've been a disciple. You've been an apostle. You've ministered and started churches. You were almost martyred, cast to an island.

You see Jesus.

See Heaven revealed

The end times.

Then go back and write it all down. Wouldn't you be filled with such longing for His return?

So should we. We've read it. We've studied it. We've believed it.

The apostle of God's love reminds of us God's grace at the end. That's a comfort.

But in all.

The time is near.

We're experiencing the birth pangs now.

The church needs to get herself ready.

For He is coming.

And he is coming soon.

AMEN?!

Come soon Lord Jesus