

**Revelation #60****October 15, 2023****Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon****Today's Message: Responding to the Majesty of the Glory of Christ, pt 3; Revelation 22:12-21**

I heard an old message by my mentor and pastor, Kimber Kauffman. He was pressing the point hard that our theology— that is, our understanding of who God is and how God acts and what God has done and what God does and what God will do— has a powerful influence on how we think and how we approach life's problems, pleasures and prospects.

I think it was John Calvin that observed that “everyman is a theologian.” Either your theology is good and reliable, or faulty and broken. If that is the case then we need to be sure that our theology is rooted and grounded in Truth. We believe that God has given us the Scriptures in order for us to develop a good, right, and beneficial theology; a theology that will drive us to Him and humble us before Him so that we, can say , like the psalmist in Psalm 103:1-5,

“Praise the Lord, O my soul! Praise His holy Name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your sins, and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's!”

Good theology will lead us to God—to know God!. Good biblical theology will always put God in the center of history as well as in our lives and our times! Ultimately, good theology will lead us to Christ, the Son of God. It will lead us to call upon Him, and fall upon Him with our full weight in dependence upon Him! Good theology will draw us down to humility before God that we may behold the radiance of His glory in the person of Jesus Christ, and be really, really glad that He is God the Savior and Sovereign; and God, our Savior and Sovereign!

But, having a good theology that will sustain you in the darkest of days and lead you in the paths of righteousness will eager expectation that God will work out everything to the praise of His glory and for our good— that kind of theology is established and sustained over time, often forged through trials and tribulations as well as through joys and successes!

So, your theology will indeed lead you! But, does your theology lead you to think of God, to center your life upon God? Does your theology give you hope? Does your theology bring calm to your soul? Does your theology become the framework upon which you build your life? Does your theology sweeten the prospect of future glory, when you behold the Lord face to face?

The book of Revelation is a theological gold mine! This book is a *revealing* of God in His majesty, glory and power! It is a *revealing* of His Sovereign control over all “that must soon take place.” And now in our verses we will study today we hear Jesus’ own testimony concerning Himself— His eternal and human nature, His co-equality with God, and His supremacy in all things, etc. If you stay alert you will see Jesus in His majesty and glory, and your response will be wonder and awe and along with that deepening desire to know Him, love Him and, even to better love one another!

**I. (22:13) Hear Jesus' testimony concerning Himself: The Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.**

A. First, keep in mind where we are in Revelation.

1. The Epilogue. The future acts of God have a bearing on the present moment in which we live right now!.
2. In heaven what we have read is finished. God knows the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10)!
  - a) "I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'"

B. We see Jesus as He truly is!

1. "I am..": Remember, Jesus Himself is not only speaking to John, but is present before Him bodily! We see the exalted and glorified God-man *revealing* Himself to John, speaking to Him in person.
  - a) Remember, here in 22:13, it is Jesus speaking. Whereas, in Revelation 21:6, it is the Father speaking.
    - (1) God the Father and God the Son are co-equal, co-existent, and co-eternal.
2. (22:13) Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.
  - a) Christ is Eternal, Infinite, full of "boundless life transcending all limitations" (MacArthur).
    - (1) John 1:1-5: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning."
    - (2) Transcending time and space:
      - (a) John 1:14, "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us."
      - (b) Col. 1:15-17: "He is the image of the invisible God, and is supreme over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."
      - (c) Hebrews 1:3: "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining (presently, continually) all things by His powerful word."
  - b) As far as His interaction in "time" and "history" is concerned learn this:
    - (1) He was in the Garden of Eden in the very beginning of time
      - (a) The *Tree of Life* was in the middle of the Garden.
    - (2) He became a human being
      - (a) John 1:14: "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us."

(b) Colossians 2:9: "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity **lives** (remains eternally) in bodily form."

(c) And, as we already read in Hebrews 1:3, Through His divine nature, even while dwelling on earth, He "sustained all things by His powerful word."

**(d) And, we cannot allow ourselves to forget that Christ's first coming into the world was mediatorial in purpose and work.**

(i) 1 Timothy 2:5-6a: "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all men..."

(3) And He will be in the Holy City in eternity when the New Jerusalem descends from heaven!

(a) The Tree of Life in the center of the Holy City!

c) The First and the Last is a title uniquely ascribed to God

(1) Isaiah 44:6: "Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and His redeemer the Lord of hosts I am the first, and I am the last; and beside Me there is no other."

(2) Isaiah 48:12: "Hearken unto Me, O Jacob and Israel, my called: I am He; I am the first, I also am the last."

(3) Revelation 21:6: "It is done! I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End."

(4) But, also, is a title of God the Son, who is Co-eternal, co-equal, co-existent with the Father.

(a) Jesus said in John 10:30, "I and the Father are one."

d) The Beginning and the End

(1) The author and ruler and, I think we can say, finisher of all creation.

(a) John 1:1-3; **1 Corinthians 8:6; Eph. 3:9**; Col.1:15-17; Hebrews 1:2

e) Jesus is fully God; co-existent, co-equal and co-eternal; The Word who was and with God; The One through whom all things came; The Word in Flesh; The Coming One; The Eternal Glory of God, Ruling and reigning forever!

(1) Do you know Him? More importantly, does He know you?

## **II. (22:16) Hear Jesus' testimony concerning Himself: The Root and the Offspring of David, and the Bright Morning Star**

A. (22:16a) Remember the Revelation of Jesus Christ is given by God to the Son Who then sent it by His angel to John (1:1)

1. "You" is plural. This is a direct reminder that this Revelation is sent to the churches, yes, but especially to "He who has an ear let him hear."

- a) So, not only for the 7 churches but for everyone down through time who has an ear to hear.
    - (1) I would think this would include anyone reading this revelation during the Tribulation period who has an ear to hear.
- B. (22:16b) The Root and Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.
  - 1. Root and Offspring of David speaks of Jesus in His humanity as the God-man: Hypostatic union:
    - a) Root of David (**Before David**)
      - (1) Isaiah 11:10; cf. Romans 15:12 refers to the “root of Jesse”
        - (a) Jesse was David’s father.
        - (b) The source out of which David came, for Jesus is the origin of creation as we studied earlier.
      - (2) The God of David
        - (a) This speaks of Jesus’ eternal nature!
    - b) The Offspring (seed) of David (**descendent**):
      - (1) This speaks of His human nature
    - c) Jesus posed a riddle to the Pharisees in Matthew 22:41-46 concerning His relationship as both the Root and Offspring of David: (see Psalm 110:1)
      - (1) Look up Matthew 22:41-46
        - (a) The answer to the riddle is found in both Jesus’ eternality and incarnation.
          - (i) In His deity, Jesus is the God of David (my Lord)
          - (ii) In His humanity, Jesus is in the line of David (the Son of David).
  - 2. The Bright and Morning Star speaks of His deity
    - a) He is the *Shekinah Glory of God* shining into the hearts of people who trust Him by faith even before the dawning of the Millennial Kingdom.
      - (1) The world does not know Him or recognize Him, (John 17:25; John 1:10)
      - (2) “Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed on His name, He gave the right to become children of God...” (John 1:12)
    - b) But, He is the Bright Morning Star to all who receive Him!
      - (1) After the 70th week of Daniel (after the Tribulation), then He will be fully seen in His full glory, as the “Sun of Righteousness!” In that day, the day of the Millennial Kingdom Malachi 4:1-2 declares,
        - (a) “‘Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘Not a root or a branch will be left to them. **But for you who revere my name**, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in His wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall.’”

- C. Application: Good theology should direct your life. Will you commit to knowing God better through more careful study and reading of Scripture?