

Revelation #62**October 29, 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 5; Revelation 22:12-21**

Today we will conclude our study of Revelation.

The Revelation concludes with the expressed desire for the Lord Jesus to return and take His redeemed people to be with Him in Heaven, forever enjoying the beauty of the majesty and glory of God in the face of the person of Jesus Christ!

This longing for His coming has been on the hearts and minds of God's people from the very beginning. I don't know that the faithful people of the Old Testament had in mind a clear distinction between both the first and second coming of God's Messiah, but I do know that the desire for His coming was real and expected. To be sure Daniel and the prophets Isaiah and Zechariah could "see" both a first and second coming, but most Old Testament believers saw and longed for the coming of God's Messiah, Christ, and were filled with hope.

Some examples:

Adam and Eve. After the fall God promised Eve that she would have a son who would crush the head of the beguiling serpent (Gen. 3:15). So great was her hope and expectation that when she gave birth to Cain she exclaimed, "With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man! (Gen. 4:1)"

Abraham. Abraham was chosen by God to be the head of the earthly lineage of Messiah. God called him from Ur of the Chaldeans to "go to the land I will show you. (Gen. 12:1)" God made a promise to Abraham that through him all the nations of the earth would be blessed (Gen. 12:3). How would the nations be blessed? By the coming of *the Offspring of Abraham*— the seed of Abraham (Gen. 12:7). Furthermore, in Genesis 15 God promised Abraham an heir from his own body; Abraham believed God. The Apostle Paul adds clarity by saying that the promised "seed", or heir coming from Abraham's body was none other than Christ, the Messiah of God!

Moses. According to Hebrews 11:24-27, by faith Moses saw Christ and chose disgrace for His sake rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time!

David. In 2 Samuel 7 God promised David a forever dynasty ruled by a forever king sitting on a forever throne! David believed the promise of God!

Isaiah. In John 12:41, John explains that Isaiah saw the glory of Christ and spoke about Him. No doubt He was referring in part to Isaiah's glorious vision of the Messiah in Isaiah 6!

Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel, Amos, Jonah, Micah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi and John the Baptist saw His day and rejoiced. They longed for His appearance. And, in many of the prophecies concerning the coming of Messiah, there was both the expectation of two Messiah's two comings: His first as Sacrifice/ Savior; His Second as Sovereign/ Judge.

Finally there are people mentioned in the gospels who were looking for Messiah.

Simeon and Anna: In Luke 2:25-32 we are told the beautiful story about the elder Simeon who had been “waiting for the consolation of Israel. And, there was the prophetess Anna, an elderly woman who was “waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. (Luke 2:36-38)”

It is not a stretch for us to think that Mary and Joseph, and Zechariah and Elizabeth and those who were called to be apostles (except Judas Iscariot) were among them as well (John 17:6)! I would not be surprised if Lazarus and Mary and Martha were also among them waiting for Messiah. All these people were gladly looking for His coming!

Let’s not forget the Samaritan woman or the blind man named Bartimaeus calling out as Jesus walked by. The Samaritan woman was looking for Messiah. It was she who said, “I know that Messiah is coming. When He comes, He will explain everything to us. (John 4:25-26). And it was Bartimaeus who called out to *David’s son*, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me! (Mark 10:46-52)”

Now we come to the end of Revelation. What is your response to the majesty of the glory of Christ? Do you long for His appearing to bring all things under His sovereign control? I think that is John’s intent in these last verses of Revelation.

Here are two questions you need to wrestle with as we conclude Revelation: Why should I eagerly look forward to His second coming? And, how should I live in light of this knowledge of His second coming? I will try to answer these questions in three ways: 1) The Second Coming is the yearning of Heaven (22:17); 2) The Second Coming is Expected because the Bible gives the True testimony concerning it (22:18-19); and 3) The Second Coming is Going to happen (22:20-21)

I. (22:17) The Second Coming is the yearning of Heaven

A. The First Invitation expresses the yearning of Heaven directed to the Lord Jesus.

1. The Holy Spirit says, “Come!”

- a) The Spirit responds to the announcement by Jesus Christ of His imminent return: “Behold, I am coming soon” (22:7, 12); “Yes, I am coming soon (20)”
- b) This verse doesn’t say why the Spirit yearns for Christ’s coming, but we can deduce from other Scripture why He may be so eager. John MacArthur suggests several reasons:

(1) Throughout human history men and women have continually rejected, ignored and denied Christ. That grieves the Holy Spirit.

(a) In this they have mocked the Spirit’s call (Mt.12:31-32)

(i) God is a jealous God. And it is the Spirit’s work to point people to Christ (John 15:26; 16:18)

(a) This rejection is offensive to the Spirit.

(2) There is a limit to God’s patience with sinful, rebellious people

(a) Genesis 6:3: “My Spirit will not strive with [wicked] man forever...”

(i) Case study 1: Israel’s history of stubborn, hard-hearted rebellion; resisting the Spirit.

(a) They provoked the Spirit continually (Neh. 9:30; Is. 63:10; Acts 7:51)

- (ii) Case study 2: the sinful world has rejected Jesus Christ down through history.
(Rom.1:18-32)
 - (a) The apex of this rebellion is seen in Revelation during the tribulation
 - (i) No repentance, just resistance.
 - (3) The long-grieved, Spirit yearns for Christ to finally be exalted in glory! He will settle for nothing less than the exaltation of Christ!
 - (a) John 16:14: Concerning the work of the Spirit Jesus says, "He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you."
- 2. The Bride (the Church) says, "Come!"
 - a) Since His ascension God's people have prayed for, watched and waited for His second coming: **They have "longed for His appearing"** (2 Ti.4:8)
 - (1) The Bride is battle weary
 - (a) Weary of the battle against sin, persecution, and suffering
 - (b) Weary of the world mocking, rejecting and hating Christ.
 - (2) The Bride is ready to be with Christ forever
 - (a) In glory, beholding His glory, honor and power!
 - (i) For Christ to reign: New Heavens and New earth.
 - (b) Ready to **live with** Him in His house! (John 14:3; 1 Thess. 4:17)
 - (i) To suffer no more sorrow, tears, crying or pain!
 - (c) Ready to be **clothed** with new bodies like His glorious body! (Phil. 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:53-54)
 - (d) Ready to be **presented** to Jesus "as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. (Eph.5:27)"
- B. The Second invitation expresses the yearning of Heaven directed toward unbelievers
 - 1. "Let him who hears say, "Come!"
 - a) This invitation is for those who hear the Spirit and the Bride saying, "Come!" to join with them by responding to what they hear and say, "Come!"
 - (1) It is a call to faith in Christ expressed in a faith-filled response!
 - (a) Unbelievers DO NOT wish for Christ's return!
 - 2. "Whoever is thirsty, let him come;" This is a call to repentance: Come!
 - a) Isaiah 55:1: Is a **reasonable response** to soul-thirst: "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;"
 - (1) What do you do when you're thirsty? Drink.
 - (2) When your **soul thirsts**? Drink in Christ, the Living Water
 - (a) John 7:37-38: "...Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever

believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'Streams of Living Water will flow from within him.'

(b) See also John 4:10-15!!

3. "...and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life."
 - a) Man's reasonable response is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ!
 - b) It is unreasonable not to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. (22:18-19) The Second Coming is Expected because the Bible gives the True Testimony concerning it.

- A. What do we learn about this book of Revelation
 1. What is true of the rest of Scripture is true about the book of Revelation
 - a) It is God's word.
 - b) It is understandable just the way it is. God means what He says.
 - c) It is God's communication to us for understanding the way to **Life**.
 - d) It is how God communicates divine knowledge for life and godliness.
 2. To Add or take away from Scripture. To do so brings judgments listed in Revelation
 - a) See Dt. 4:2; 12:32; Prov.30:6 and Jer. 26:2 for similar warnings.
 - b) Interpretation is a serious matter.
- B. What does "Add" or "Take Away" mean? And how does it relate to the dire warning?
 1. We believe that Scripture is complete.
 - a) Do not tamper with Scripture, i.e., removing from or adding to Scripture.
 - (1) Examples: Old Prophet; Joseph Smith, Mormons; JW's,
 - b) Be careful as you watch TV and internet preachers and teachers. What do they do with Christ? What do they claim about the work of the Holy Spirit? How do they talk about sin? How do they talk about and treat the Bride of Christ?
- C. John is telling us to believe the prophecy of the book and expect the second coming.

III. (22:20-21) The Second Coming is going to happen.

- A. Jesus Himself confirms His second coming
 1. He, Himself testifies to the Truth and events of the revelation in this book.
 2. He, Himself, confirms again, "Yes! I am coming soon!"
 - a) If God says something once it matters. If He says something twice, listen very, very carefully. When He says something three times there is no room left for doubt or discussion.
 - (1) Three times in Revelation 22 He says, "I am coming soon!"
 - (a) How should you respond?
- B. John speaks not only for himself but for all true believers: "Amen (Even So.). Come Lord Jesus."
 1. After all that John has seen and heard, rather than plead with God for mercy, or for more time for repentance, or for more understanding of what God means... After all has been said and heard, he says, "Even so! Come Lord Jesus."

- a) How should I live in light of His imminent return? You do not need more time to repent, or more understanding of what God means. **Now is the time to repent. Now is the time to act in faith!**
 - (1) Repent from loving the thing of this world so much that they come between you and God. What are some of those things? What do you love so much that you are willing to sin to get them? Repent now. Pray for the grace to repent (2 Tim.2:25)
 - (2) Now is the time to act in faith and believe and obey the Gospel.
- C. And then he ends with this benediction of UTTER DEPENDENCE:
 - 1. "The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen."