

Coming Quickly

Revelation 22:12-19

By Scott Huckaby

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Review: Rev 22:1-11 – The Time is at Hand Applications...

- Eternal life is living in the presence of our Creator/Savior in a fantastic city on a new earth
- We will rule with Jesus in eternity... there will be responsibilities where we may express our creativity
- In the context of eternity, the return of Jesus is very near... be ready!

Revelation 22:12-17, Jesus Testifies to the Churches

¹² “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 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.

v12 – What does it mean Jesus is coming quickly?

He is coming soon and His coming will be very fast when it occurs. For the church, in the twinkling of an eye (1 Corinthians 15:51-52); for unbelievers, like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2).

Daniel 9:26 – *The end of it shall be with a flood*

How is it that Jesus will reward everyone when He returns?

- For those who know Him as Savior and Lord, we will receive crowns recognizing our works along with the promise of assignments with authority in acting for God during the Millennial Kingdom and the Eternal State.
- For those who rejected God’s plan of salvation, they will receive the consequences of being separated from the Creator. Their works will fall short of the glory of God.

v13 – How did Jesus describe Himself?

He is the Eternal One... He was before the beginning of all things and will exist beyond the resolution of all things.

v14 – How are those who obey God blessed?

- They may have access to the tree of life... thus live forever.
- They may enter the New Jerusalem... where we will find the abode of God.

v15 – What will we find outside the New Jerusalem?

dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie – sinners, those who rejected the salvation of God

How is that possible? I thought all Christ-rejecters would be confined to the lake of fire... does that mean they can get out to be on the New Earth?

No, there is no escape from the lake of fire... At the Great White Throne judgment, “*there was found no place for them*” (Rev 20:11), only the lake of fire.

- So, this comment might just be rhetorical emphasizing the special privilege of having access to the New Jerusalem (Christian Privilege).
- Or, there could be some future creative work of God necessitating the promise of an eternal sanctuary for glorified humanity.

Speculation: We know God is Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

Scripture also reveals that there was an Age of Angels involving a different earth that preceded the Age of Mankind. Might there be a future use for the earth for some future Age in a new creation of God? God, the Son was our Creator & Savior, was the Father or Holy Spirit the Creator & Savior of the angels? Does the third person of the Trinity get to be Creator & Savior for a new creation? We don’t want to miss out on the answers to these questions.

v16 – Why did Jesus have an angel reveal the future to John?

So that we in the churches may know what is to come
Amos 3:7 – Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

Why does God want us to know what is to come?

It blesses us. Knowing that this fallen world will pass away to a new one where everyone will know the Lord is a blessing...

Habakkuk – For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea.

How does Jesus describe Himself here?

Root and the Offspring of David – He came as a descendant of King David as prophesied to be our Savior.
the Bright and Morning Star – He is the personification of the promise of a blessed New Day

v17 – What is the desire of the Spirit and the church?

For Jesus Christ to come... return to earth as the conquering hero that He is.

What should those who hear about the Revelation of Christ say?

They too should say, come, desiring the return of Christ to the earth. If you're not looking forward to the return of Christ, you need to wonder if you are really a follower of Jesus.

Who are those who thirst?

Those who long for more than they find in this mortal life.

What should those who thirst for more than this mortal life do?

Come to Jesus to drink from the water of life...

John 7:37-39 – On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

How do we drink from the water of life?

Be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit listening to and obeying what He reveals to our human spirits.

How do we recognize the voice of the Holy Spirit? How do we distinguish what He is saying to us from our own brilliant thoughts?

Knowing God's Word... the Spirit is not going to contradict Himself.

A Warning – Revelation 22:18-19

¹⁸*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.*

What is the warning here?

Don't add to or take away from the book of Revelation. This principle applies to all of God's Word.

How to people add to or take away from what is written the book of Revelation?

They take away from it by ignoring it; by being a "pan-millennialist" (it will all pan out in the end)
They add to it by spiritualizing it... saying it means something other than what is says.

What does it mean to suffer the plagues described in the book of Revelation?

That people would suffer the same fate of unbelievers.

Why would God take away a person's part in the Book of Life?

Those who neglect or twist what is revealed in the book of Revelation are in danger of spending eternity in the Lake of Fire.

What are the implications here for Christians who neglect the Bible prophecy of the Revelation?

Those professing Christians who don't look forward to the return of Christ enough to study Revelation taking it for what it says really need to evaluate if they are a true follower of Christ...

Matthew 7:21-23 – ²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Bible doctrine matters... Jesus' warning in Revelation makes a case for having a correct understanding of eschatology as an essential for salvation.

- eschatology is a part of theology concerned with the final events of history, or the ultimate destiny of humanity

I Am Coming Quickly – Revelation 22:20-21

²⁰ *He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

²¹ *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

Why did Jesus emphasize that He is coming quickly?

It is important to live ready for His return... getting done today what He is calling us to do.

- This implies imminency of His return for the church... it reinforces the pre-tribulation rapture expectation.

What should our attitude be about His return?

We should look forward to it and pray for Jesus to return.... Maranatha, come Lord Jesus!

What were John’s last words of encouragement to us?

That we should all experience the grace of God; the abundant life that only comes from trusting in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross as full payment for our sins. And Amen – that we as he does agree with God.

What applications do you see from this discussion?

- Jesus is coming back as promised, we can count on it.
- Events related to the return of Jesus will transpire rapidly.
- Don’t add to or take away from God’s Word... there are severe consequences for those who do.