

## Revelation 22

**Revelation 22:3-5 NKJV** And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. (4) They shall see His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads. (5) There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

The greatest thing in the Eternal Life is that we will forever be with the One Who redeemed us from bondage to sin, self and the separation from our Loving God who created us. He removed the weight of these burdens by the incredible sacrifice and resurrection of His Son, Christ Jesus. And soon He will replace those burdens with the weight of His glory!

Just as His body was prepared for life on earth, our bodies will be forever prepared for everlasting life. And to top it all off, we will see Him face to Face. And as a sign of the relationship we have with Him, His Name will be written on our foreheads. Perhaps this is symbolic. But, I believe, it will certainly fulfill the intimate and beautiful relationship described in the Song of All Songs:

**(Song of Solomon 6:3 NKJV) I am my beloved's, And my beloved is mine.** He feeds *his flock* among the lilies.

And now we come to the end of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. But truly it is just the beginning.

**(Revelation 22:6 NKJV)** Then he said to me, “These words *are* faithful and true.” And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

Everything John saw, heard and experienced is True. We have taken a literal approach to our understanding this Truth. We know that there is symbolism, but we have learned that much of it is understandable and, in many cases, explained in the text.

Of course, with any prophetic book, the proof is in its fulfillment. Before that occurs, we only have our faith IN GOD and IN HIS WORD to stand upon. But there's no need for blind

faith nor a leap of faith because we have the complete counsel of God to rely on from Genesis all the way through this magnificent book. This is why the angel told John that the words were also faithful. What else could they be? In this book, these two words are used together 4 times. Twice as a description of the God the Son and twice as a description of the words He spoke! For John wrote elsewhere: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God". (John 1:1 NKJV)

If you have heard that this book is too obscure, too mysterious, too vague then that person is, quite frankly, too lazy or frightened to dig deep into the revelation that is this Book.

**So, let begin the end:**

(Revelation 22:7 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

The word 'keep' means to guard or protect. The LORD wants us to not forget it. Our diligence is also needed to make sure we don't fall into strange theories or doctrines about what these things mean. Keep the plain text before you! The "blessing" is supreme happiness.

In addition, this also means we are to trust and obey God, and diligently apply His truth to the way we *live*.

(Revelation 22:8 NKJV) Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. (9) Then he said to me, "See *that you do not do that*. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

In chapter 19, John was so overwhelmed at what he was witnessing, he fell down to worship someone who turned out to be a man.

Revelation 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

John falls down to worship someone who he thought was an angel. But once again, he is mistaken for the one speaking to him was “of your brethren the prophets”. Don’t you wish you knew which one it was? But the point is: Both times he was told: “Worship God!”.

It is interesting that Jesus never rebuked anyone who worshipped Him. Nor should He have. But we have an entire religious organization that worships a woman who would, if she had the chance, rebuke anyone who bows down to her.

**(Revelation 22:10 NKJV)** And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.

In Daniel 8, he receives a vision of a ram and goat. The ram had 2 horns and was a prophesy of the coming Medo-Persian empire. The goat was the future coming of the Greek empire. And in that vision appear one who “exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host” That would be the antichrist. There’s more to it than time permits. The vision was also of the end of days.

After interpreting the vision for Daniel, the angel tells him:

“And the vision of the evenings and mornings Which was told is true; **Therefore seal up the vision, For it refers to many days in the future.**” **Daniel 8:26**

The sealing didn’t mean that it should not be read. It meant that it was so far into the future that they truly would not understand it until that time. The sealing also implies ‘preservation’ of the vision! Don’t reject it just because you don’t understand it! (*You can Daniel read Daniel 12 as well especially verse 9 where a similar thought is conveyed*).

**(Revelation 22:11 NKJV)** He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

This is an expression that essentially means that there will come a day (and we saw it at the middle of the tribulation) where what we have decided will be set in stone (actually, a better way to say that is that it will be written on the foreheads and hands of the unrighteous and the filthy and they will have no more

opportunities to repent. The righteous and holy (declared by God through the work of His Son) must remain **in** Him until the end!

(Revelation 22:12 NKJV) "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."

Words shift back to Jesus. And a second time in **this** chapter He declares that He is coming quickly. And once again, this means that when He comes, it will happen quickly and without delay.

His reward can be thought of as two different rewards. The first is at the Rapture and the Bema Seat of Christ where believers will receive heavenly rewards for those things done for Jesus. The second is at the White Throne Judgment where those who worked for their salvation or those who rejected it altogether will be judged for everything they did on earth. It will become immediately apparent how their works were totally deficient to make them worthy to enter into life!

(Revelation 22:13 NKJV) I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

And for the third time the I AM says, "I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End and the First and the Last". The repetition is purposeful, and it is certainly a proclamation of His eternal nature for He was before all things because He created all things.

(Revelation 22:14 NKJV) 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.

Our salvation is secure. Our salvation is by grace. But there are blessings that come from our loving obedience to our God. All throughout Scripture, God's commandments are always for our good and disobedience is for our detriment (and I'm not speaking of just the consequences for disobeying, but the consequences from the sin itself. For example, violating God's commandments regarding sex has led to dozens of STD's and hundreds of millions ST Infections. Sadly, many of these are deadly.

Some of your translations might say, "***Blessed are those who***

*wash their robes*". The difference is between two ancient Greek words that are very similar in their spellings and are seen in different manuscripts. In this case the two phrases have a similar meaning of obedience as evidence of our salvation not our works to try to obtain it.

Our blessing is our entry into the city and to eat of the Tree of Life. But keep in mind that ultimately it was Christ's obedience to the Father that is our source of blessing!

(Revelation 22:15 NKJV) But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

There will not be a pack of rabid or zombie sinners outside the gates of the new Jerusalem! This is a repetition of Revelation 21:27 and is meant to encourage those who read or listen to this book. We have lived under the sun since the Fall with these people. It has been the cry of many prophets and even folks like us who have complained to God about His purposes and graces extended to sinners. But in the end, these will have their eternal abode in the lake of fire! Thank God, we will not remember their filthy lifestyles and their affronts to all that God declares as good, righteous and clean!

(Revelation 22:16 NKJV) "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."

I like this reminder. Jesus commanded 7 messengers to write to seven churches. We often gloss over what was said to these churches and, in reality, to us today. We don't like being told of His displeasures with members of His Body. But chapters 2 and 3 are as important as any of the "cool" prophetic things that follow. If we **only** concentrate on understanding the prophetic utterances in this or other books of the Bible, we will be missing out on the blessings of overcoming so that we are not derailed or detoured as we walk with our Messiah.

The word testify means to witness or record. Of the nearly 80 times it is used in the NT, John's Gospel uses it 33 times and for all His writings, it is used 47 times (but only three times in this Book). The root of this word means martyr but that's not its primary usage.

**Revelation 12:10-12** Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. **(11) And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.**

But the power of testimony is clear. In this verse their testimony of Jesus was instrumental in overcoming adversity. It is also important in witnessing because our testimony of our relationship with Jesus goes a long way in showing people that what we have is not religious observance but a vibrant, living covenant.

The second part of this verse, **"I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star"**, is another reminder of who Jesus is. In this case, He is once again revealing His humanity. These terms are engrained in the Words of the OT Prophets:

**Isaiah 11:1** There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

**Jeremiah 23:5-6** "Behold, *the* days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. **(6)** In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this *is* His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

And of course, the one verse that Jesus quoted and then silenced the religious leadership:

**Psalms 110:1 A Psalm of David.** The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

**Matthew 22:45** **If David then calls Him 'LORD,' how is He his Son?"**

**The bright Morning Star:** To the overcomes in the Church of Thyatira **Revelation 2:28** and I will give him the morning star.

**Malachi 4:2** But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.

**(Revelation 22:17 NKJV)** 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.

While this could be an invitation to Jesus to return. But it could also be a bidding for the readers to come to Jesus. Those who hear His voice can come. Those who have a thirst for Him can come. And whoever has a desire in His heart through the work of the Holy Spirit, can come.

Remember **Isaiah 55:1**? "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price.

Spurgeon spoke about the summation of all the prophetic warnings, all the threats against idolatry, all the promises of Bible, all these things seem to coalesce into a bright shining ray of pure light that speaks: Come to Jesus, Come a drink from the water of life, deeply and freely!

**(Revelation 22:18 NKJV)** 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.

For I testify. This is a different word than testify as in witnessing. This word here means to bring the hearer into agreement with the one speaking. In other words, it might read "I solemnly swear with you that if anyone adds to or takes away any of the words in this book will suffer judgment".

And this isn't just for this book, because else where we read:

**Deuteronomy 4:2** You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

And,

**Proverbs 30:5-6** Every word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him. (6) Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

And, God is serious about this! “God will **add** to him the plagues that are written in this book”. “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.”

BTW: some believe that because of the seriousness of these two verses that they were spoken by Christ.

**(Revelation 22:20 NKJV)** He who testifies to these things says, "**Surely I am coming quickly.**" Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Is this a promise or a warning? I think both. The promise is so sure that Jesus says “surely” before and “amen” after. “Truly, I am coming quickly. It will be so”

And John “Even so, Come Lord Jesus”. With 14 chapters devoted to the Tribulation, and knowing the “hell on earth” that will come upon those who are alive during that time, why would John cry out “Come, Lord Jesus”. Haven't we sang and said the same? The answer is in the “Even so”. John wanted His return then just as much as we do today. We are not being cruel or sadistic or cold and unfeeling. We are just expressing, like John, our weariness, our disillusion, our heart break due to the wickedness that is spiraling out of control and the inability of man to fix or create a better world. **Come, Lord Jesus** and mete out the justice that seems to be missing, **Come Lord Jesus**, fulfill your many promises to destroy your enemies and punish the unrepentant wicked. **Come Lord Jesus** for it is growing more and more difficult and it maybe even impossible for us to reach the lost and dying of this world for they are

resisting and rejecting the free gift of salvation to the point that those who testify to the Gospel of Jesus will be silenced and then killed.

**(Revelation 22:21 NKJV)** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

A fitting ending to a marvelous Book. When we boil down all that we have studied in this Book, the one thing that remains is His grace. It is that one attribute of God that truly boggles the mind. We can wrap our minds around the things we have read in the pages of this Book:

1. He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End and the First and the Last...who was and is and is to come. All of which tell us of His Eternal nature.
2. He was alive but was dead and is alive forevermore.
3. He is able to grant heavenly gifts to those who reject all the lies ever spoken about Him and live an overcoming life.
4. He is the Judge who will cast His enemies, all wickedness, and even death itself into an eternal lake of fire.
5. He is the only One worthy in all of creation, both in heaven and all the earth, to take the Scroll and break its seals!
6. He is the only One who can rightly be called Faithful and True
7. He is the only One who appears as the Slain Passover Lamb whose blood washes the robes of every saint pure white, spotless, and clean.
8. He is the only One who can be rightly called the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.
9. He is the One who will rule with a rod of iron and fight every battle with a two-edged sword that is His Word.
10. He is the only One of whom it can be said is fulfillment of every prophetic word ever written.
11. He is Creator of all things and will create again. All of creation had us in mind. And when He creates again, He will have us mind again, for He will cloth us in glory and our bodies will be perfectly prepared for eternity.

And that is just a taste of Who He is! The incredible truth is that this was all done because of His grace and the Good Pleasure of His will. He truly is our first love and our last love.

Now think about this book as compared to others:

What other book gives you 7 blessings? What other books encourages you to overcome 7 times and even tells you in advance the rewards for overcoming, the harms of not overcoming and even what you need to overcome? What other Book reveals how all OT latter days prophecies are fulfilled? What other Book has hundreds and hundreds references to prophetic utterances made hundreds and hundreds of years before it was written? What other book completes the Revelation of Jesus Christ that was started in Genesis as the Seed of a Woman, hidden throughout the OT in types, pictures and obscure prophecies about the Promised Messiah who will bless both Jew and Gentile, and then uncovered in the four Gospel accounts as the King, Man, Servant and the Great I AM? All this in a mere 400 verses compared to the other 31,000 verses in all the other 65 books.

What else can I say? Nothing. But I will tell you some of what those in heaven have proclaimed:

**Revelation 4:8** "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

**Revelation 4:11** "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

**Revelation 5:9-10** "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

**Revelation 5:12-13** "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" "Blessing and honor and glory and power *Be* to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

**Revelation 7:10, 12** "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *Be* to our God forever and ever. Amen."

**EVEN SO, COME LORD JESUS, AMEN**