

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.

¹² *“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing My recompense with Me, to repay everyone for what he has done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” ¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. ¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. ¹⁶ “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” ¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. ¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. ²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen. (ESV)*

Text: Revelation 22:12-21 A 11-26-17 Psalm 126 Luke 22:24-30 Psalm 145 Resp. Psalm 103
Hymns: 794, 605, 351, 616

AMEN. COME, LORD JESUS!

Dear fellow believers in Christ,

In our text from the book of Revelation, sometimes Jesus speaks directly, and other times the Apostle John, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is speaking. Jesus begins by saying, “Behold” – “See!” that is, “Pay attention!” Jesus has something very important to tell us, and we need to listen. Jesus says, “I am coming soon.” It has been almost 2,000 years since John recorded those words, so why hasn’t Jesus come yet? Speaking of Jesus’ second coming on Judgment Day Peter says, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. ... You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:9, 17-18a). The Judgment Day hasn’t come yet because God is giving people time to come to faith in Jesus so they can go to heaven. Until the Judgment Day comes Jesus urges us to remain in our faith in Him so we’re ready whenever He comes again.

Jesus says, *“I am ... bringing My recompense with Me, to repay everyone for what he has done,”* whether in faith, or in unbelief. The Bible says, *“We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ”* (2 Cor. 5:10). Everyone will be judged by Jesus on Judgment Day.

Jesus says, *“Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.”* The seventh chapter of Revelation describes those in heaven as having *“washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”* (Rev. 7:14). So when our text speaks of *“those who wash their robes,”* it’s referring to being cleansed from our sins by Jesus’ blood that He shed for us on the cross. It’s by faith in Jesus that we’re forgiven and saved. We’re told that we *“have the right to the tree of life and ... may enter the city by the gates.”* By faith in Jesus we’re going to heaven, where we will live forever!

We’re told, *“Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”* “Dogs” in the original text refers to wild, stray dogs. This is a description of the unbelievers. They refuse to follow God and instead look for human answers to their important questions, live how they think is right, treat others the way they want to, and put their trust only in people and/or things. We’re told they *“[love] and [practice] falsehood.”* They refuse to repent of their sins and turn to Jesus for forgiveness and salvation. Everyone who does not believe in Jesus will be left *“outside”* of heaven on the Judgment Day, condemned to spend eternity in hell.

Jesus says, *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”* Jesus Christ is eternal God. Jesus says, *“I am the root and the descendant of David.”* As *“the root of David”* Jesus is the eternal God who created David. As the *“descendant of David”* Jesus is the promised Messiah and Savior of the world, descended from David. Jesus says, *“I am ... the bright morning star.”* Like the light of a new day, Jesus brings light and new life. Jesus says, *“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life”* (Jn. 8:12). *“I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live”* (Ezek. 33:11). Jesus doesn’t want to have to condemn anyone to an eternity in hell. He wants to bring everyone to believe in Him so He can give them eternal life in heaven.

Jesus says, *“Let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.”* In the chapter before our text John says that in heaven there is *“a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb”* (Rev. 22:1). This is a picture of eternal life that comes from God the Father and Jesus. The book of Revelation is full of frightening warnings of death and destruction for everyone who doesn’t believe in Jesus. These are loving warnings from God to wake people up to the eternal consequences of remaining in their sin and unbelief. Revelation is also full of beautiful promises

of God's forgiveness and love and eternal salvation for all who believe in Jesus, to draw people to Jesus and be saved.

Jesus says, *"I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book."* The book of Revelation teaches us about these last times in which we're living, preparing us for the Day Jesus comes again. Jesus warns against changing Revelation's warnings and promises in any way. Everyone needs to hear the condemnation of the Law and about the eternal suffering in hell so that we see our sin and our need for Jesus to save us. And everyone needs to hear the Gospel's promise of complete, unconditional forgiveness and eternal life in heaven by faith alone in Jesus Christ.

Jesus says, *"Surely I am coming soon."* Twice in our text, and for the third time in this chapter Jesus tells us He is coming again *"soon."* It will be sudden. No one knows when that time will be. Be ready. Remain in your faith in Jesus. We don't need to be afraid of the Judgment Day. Jesus says that when the Judgment Day comes, *"Look up and lift up your heads, for your redemption draws near"* (Lk. 21:28b). On the Judgment Day we'll see Jesus coming to take us to heaven!

As we wait for that Day John leaves us with this blessing: *"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all."* We have Jesus and His love to sustain us now, and see us safely into heaven forever! We're told, *"The [Holy] Spirit and the Bride"* (all of us members of the Christian Church) *"say, 'Come.'"* *"Amen"*: "Yes, it shall be so!" *"Come, Lord Jesus!"* Amen.