

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**Revelation 22:7-21*

“The Lord ... reiterates that reading Revelation is not a spectator sport. We are to keep the words that we read. That means we learn from Jesus words to the churches in chapters 2 and 3, ensuring that we keep our first love strong, that we stand strong in the midst of persecution, that we protect our congregations from heresy and immorality; and that we don't allow ourselves to fall into the nauseating state of lukewarm faith.

We also learn from the judgments that we need to trust that God will carry out His perfect plan in His perfect time, that we can love our enemies knowing that He will bring justice in His time, and that because time is short, we must be a light to our unbelieving friends and family and anyone else that He puts us in contact with.

Finally, these last few chapters remind us of our future reward, which helps us to realize that this short life we live on earth is not about us. We are here as servants. We are called to sacrifice ourselves and follow and carry out whatever the Lord calls us to do, knowing that from an eternal perspective, our years here on earth are just a blip when compared to the forever that we will spend enjoying the rewards of our faith and service.” Amir Tsarfati

- I. The prologue to the Book of Revelation introduces us to the second coming of Jesus Christ. The close of the book emphasizes its imminency. The word imminent means that it could occur at any moment. There are two aspects to the imminency of Christ's return. The first is when he descends from heaven to the clouds to call up His saints to be with him before the seven-year tribulation of God's wrath takes place. The second is when he sets His foot down on the Mt. of Olives to begin His millennial reign on earth. Both aspects are meant to call us to be watchful and ready knowing that he could come back at any moment. It will happen because He says it will. His words are trustworthy and true; therefore, we must be ready!

Rev. 22:6-7

Rev. 1:3; Rev. 1:7

1 Thess. 4:16-18

Rom. 5:9-10

Matt. 25:13

1 Cor. 1:7; 1 Cor. 4:5

1 Cor. 16:22

Phil. 3:20-21

1 Thess. 1:9-10

ταχύ tachý, quickly, speedily (without delay)

τηρέω tērēō, to keep, guard, to attend to carefully, to observe

- II. Everything Jesus says in His closing comments is meant to deepen our understanding of our identity in Christ. He is saying, know that you serve the one and only true God, know that you will be judged and rewarded on how you've lived your faith, know that your salvation set you apart from the godless, which should humble us with gratitude and thanksgiving, and know that you have been granted the right to enter God's holy city as redeemed, cleansed, righteous children of God. It is Jesus' testimony to the church to embolden us to remain holy as we eagerly wait for the rapture to occur. Are you ready?

Rev. 22:8-16

Ps. 51:1-7

Ps. 32:1-2

2 Peter 3:7-9

ἐγγύς engýs – *near, of times imminent and soon to pass*

- III. The imminent return of Christ will remain imminent until all the gentiles who have been appointed unto salvation are saved (Rom. 11:25). That is why, the invitation Jesus gives to drink freely of the gift of the water of life, remains open to anyone who sees their need for a Savior to save them from being eternally banished from God's kingdom because of their sin. Salvation is a gift of incalculable value that is to be cherished and lived well, so that those who are thirsty will taste and see that the Lord is good (Ps. 34:8) through the testimony of a life that takes seriously what it means to stand firmly in the faith.

Rev. 22:17-21

Isa. 55:1,3,6,7

1 Cor. 16:22 *If anyone does not love the Lord, let that person be cursed! Come, Lord.*

"The Greek for Come, Lord reproduces an Aramaic expression (Marana tha) used by early Christians."

"This final book of Scripture which began with the revelation of Jesus Christ ends with a prayer that His grace might be with those who have witnessed the scene through John's pen. Probably no book in the Bible presents in more stark contrast the grace of God as seen in the lives and destinies of the saints as compared to the righteous judgment of God on the wicked. In no other book are the issues made more specific. The book of Revelation is the presentation in the Word of God of what the saints will witness and experience in the glorious consummation of the ages. With John we can pray, 'Even so, come, Lord Jesus.'" John Walvoord