

## THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 7/18-19/2022 *Revelation Chapter 22*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

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### OPENING PRAYER

***Revelation Chapter 22 – The River of Life – vs. 1-5; The Time is Near – vs. 6-11; Jesus Testifies to the Churches – vs. 12-17; A Warning – vs. 18-19: I Am Coming Quickly – vs. 20-21***

- ***Revelation Chapter 22.*** We are there! There is it, the climax! The last chapter of Revelation and the final chapter in the Bible! In chapter 21, John was describing the New Jerusalem, the city of God, where the bride of Christ will live. As he describes the New Jerusalem, here in chapter 22, he is continuing in the description of this city. It is the city of God. It is the city that Abraham and the Old Testament saints were looking for. They confessed that they were just strangers and pilgrims here. They were searching for the city, which has foundation, whose maker and builder is God. John describes for us that beautiful city of God in chapter 21. Chapter 22 continues the description.

### ***The River of Life***

***Rev 22:1 And*** (note the frequent use of “and,” a marker of various events) ***he*** (the angel) ***showed me a***

**pure river (potamos – river, stream) of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.**

- ***A pure river of water of life***, (not characterized as water of life, but water is life itself!) ***clear as crystal, proceeding, out, from the throne of God and of the Lamb***, through the city of God, *from the throne of God and of the Lamb* – the very source of all purity. We note now in the eternal state that **the throne of God and of the Lamb, is now singular!** During the Millennial reign, God's throne is in heaven. Jesus' throne is in the temple on earth in Jerusalem.
- **(Rev 21:6)** *And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. (Eze 40:12– during the millennial reign) Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine."*

**Rev 22:2** *In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month (mane – month). **The leaves of the tree were for the healing** (therapeia – health giving, therapy, curing, healing, care? beautification?) **of the nations.***

- **The river of life and on either side, the tree of life.** In Genesis we see man driven from the tree of life! In Revelation, man is restored to paradise! (Gen 2:9b) The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil'
- **In the Book of Genesis when God placed Adam and Eve in the garden**, there were all kinds of fruit trees from which they could freely eat. There was a tree that was known as the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. **(Gen 3:22)** *Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever. God had warned them not to eat of that tree, that the fruit of it was deadly. There was another tree in the garden, and the fruit of that tree, seemed to have an antidote for the tree of death, or the poisonous tree, so that man had a choice. A choice of all of the trees, but basically the tree of death and the tree of life.*
- **It is fascinating and surprising to me, that with that choice**, man would choose to eat of the tree of death. **(Gen 3:24)** *So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. (Rev 2:7- church of Ephesus) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."* When Adam sinned, God banished him from this garden, put the cherubim, at the gate of the garden to prohibit man from returning into the garden, eating of the tree of life, and living forever in that sinful state, the state of rebellion against the commandment of God.
- **You would think with the choice of the tree of death and the tree of life that surely man would choose the tree of life.** Why would he ever choose to eat of the tree of death rather than the tree of life? But we need to realize that the same is true today! God has offered to us the tree of life! That is, of course, in the cross of Jesus Christ, where God has provided that we can have eternal life. People have a choice, today of life and death. **Which will you choose? Life or death? Which have you chosen?**
- **Now, evidently that tree of life has been transferred into heaven, the city of God.** Here is this crystal-clear stream proceeding from the throne of God through the city of God, the streets of gold beside the stream, the river, and there on the banks, *the tree of life. It yields twelve different types of fruit, a different type each month. The leaves are for the healing of the nations, a source of life and health in the eternal state.*
- **John said I saw a new heaven and a new earth.** There is within this new heaven and new earth, the city of God, the new Jerusalem. This is where God dwells. God said I am going to make all things new. There will still be an earth. There will still be nations on the earth. What kind of people will inhabit it? The Bible does not tell us. There are many things of the future that are just not revealed to us in the Word of God. God's left some surprises for you so that when you get there you can have many surprises of the things God has prepared in that future.

- **We see the leaves of these trees have a medicinal, therapeutic, value in that they bring health to the nations.** But in the new heaven and new earth, there will be no sin, there will be no rebellion against God. All of the creation of God will be living in harmony with God, and it will be a beautiful experience. You, who are the church, will have a special place as the bride of Christ. You will have glorified bodies and you will be there and dwelling in the city of God in the very presence of God.

**Rev 22:3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants (duolos) shall serve (latreuo – to minister, to serve, to worship) **Him.****

- **There shall be no more curse.** This is the ultimate proof that this indeed is a return to Edenic conditions in seeing that this divine curse is no more! The Old Testament record of man's rebellion against God begins and ends with a curse. (**Gen 3:17**) *Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. (Mal 4:6) And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.* How different the New Testament's record! It opens with Jesus Christ, and it closed with Jesus Christ. It begins with His first coming and concludes with His second coming!
- **His servants** (duolos - king-slaves) **shall serve** (latreuo – to minister, to serve, to worship) **Him.** We read in (**Rev 7:15**) *Therefore they are before the throne of God and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.* concerning the martyred saints that come up out of the Great Tribulation, that they do stand in His holy temple and do serve Him day and night continually.
- **But now the worldly sanctuary has been replaced by the heavenly.** Would not "His servants," slaves, include all the saints, who will serve, minister, and worship Him, continually? This word, *serve*, is the same word used in (**Mat 4:10**) *Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.)* It may be a special, unique service to God that you and I will perform in eternity. What it is, we are not told. Most likely, the interests and inclinations that the Lord built into each of us will at last be fully utilized in heaven, where, free from time limitations or financial obligations, we will use them to serve the Lord, doing the things that we have always wanted to do!

**Rev 22:4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.**

- **They shall see His face!** The God who has always been there for us shall be there in person! Man will at last see His face! This was Moses' supreme desire in the Old Testament and Philip's in the New Testament. It is the highest objective for living. What divine satisfaction, as this will come and last forever!
- **What an experience that will be to see the face of God!** Moses wanted to see the face of God. God said you cannot do it Moses and live. I will pass by. You can see the afterglow, but no one can see My face and live. But we will be in our glorified bodies, and we shall see the face of God. What will it be like, the first time I see His face? Wow!
- **His name shall be on their foreheads.** The Lord promises to the overcomers that He would give to them a new name, which no man knew except he that received it. Does this mean that each saint will bear the name of Christ, each being like Him, yet without disturbing his own unique personality?

**Rev 22:5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light.**

(**Dan 12:3**) *Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever. (Psa 148:3,6) Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light! [6] He also established them forever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away.*

**And they shall reign forever and ever** (without end)!

- **That is our position with Christ, reigning with Him forever and ever.** Now, there is no need of a sun, because the place will be illuminated by God. The scripture said that God is light. Thus, it will

just be illumined by the presence of God. *No night there.* They shall see His face. Jesus said, blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God!

***The Epilogue or the Conclusion - Jesus Is Coming*** (Come or coming, used seven times in chapter)  
***Rev 22:6 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 (doulos) the things which must shortly take place.***

- ***Then he said to me, "These words are faithful*** (dependable, trustworthy) ***and true*** (genuine)! **The first of seven words of comfort in the epilogue!** Again, it is so wonderful! It is so far beyond our comprehension! It is so glorious! It is so beautiful that God affirms over and over in these last few chapters that He is telling us the truth! *These words are faithful and true!* It is not just some kind of a fairy tale. This is God's truth that He is revealing unto us.
- ***And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.*** The first chapter introduces the Book as the revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to Him, which He showed to His angel who sent and signified it to John. So, John has been guided by an angel through this marvelous revelation, the revelation of Jesus Christ and His future glory. Here again, we have the declaration that these are faithful sayings! They are *faithful and true!*

***Rev 22:7 "Behold, I am coming quickly*** (rapidly, rapid succession)! ***Blessed is he who keeps*** (continually keeps) ***the words of the prophecy of this book*** (*Biblion*- Bible) (8x in this chapter)."

- ***Behold, I am coming quickly!*** Jesus speaks here, saying this three times in verses, 7, 12, and 20! The word *quickly* there is not shortly, but quickly, in rapid succession! There is a difference. As we have been reading the events of the Great Tribulation, when these things begin to come to pass, Jesus said look up, "lift up your head, for your redemption is drawing near." The Lord is *coming quickly*.
- **The coming of the Lord will be very quick! It will be in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye!** There will be that change. Paul said, (*1Co 15:51-52*) *Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— [52] in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed* That is what the Lord is referring to here. He is coming quickly. It does not mean that He was going to be coming in the next year after this revelation to John or within five years or ten years. It has been almost two thousand years. But when it comes, when the time comes, it is going to be a quick transformation! In a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, we will be changed! For this corruption must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality. We need to be ready now. There will be no time to repent and turn to Jesus, when He calls the church in the Rapture!
- ***Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book. This is the sixth of seven*** promised blessings. Again notice, *Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.* Back in chapter one, as John was given the revelation, there was a built-in blessing back in (*Rev 1:3*) *Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.* Here, God has promised again and reaffirming the promise to those that will keep the words of this book.

***Rev 22:8 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.***

- ***Now I, John*** (used three times, *Rev 1:9, 21:2*, and here), ***saw and heard these things.*** John says, I was there! I, John saw these in a vision! He heard the things. It was both by sight and by sound that the revelation was given to John as he was taken by the Spirit to the Day of the Lord, hearing the things that would transpire, seeing the things, and thus describing them here in the Book of Revelation.
- ***And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things.*** This angel that has been guiding John on this tour of the future. John is so overwhelmed by the revelation and is so appreciative that he falls down before the angel that has been guiding him through these experiences.

***Rev 22:9 Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that*** (an imperative!) ***For I am your fellow servant*** (*sundoulos*, a co-slave), ***and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the***

**words of this book. Worship God** (second imperative! Seven times it is the *Logos -This book!* Eight times it is the *book!* )"

- **Note that although an angel is in a higher category of a man**, yet the humility as he refuses to receive worship from John. The angel does not allow John to worship him, declaring, I am just a fellow servant, a *sundoulos*, a co-slave. I serve God too. He acknowledged himself just as a servant, a fellow servant and just a brother of the prophets. I keep the sayings of the Book, worship God!
- **We remember when Satan took Jesus into the high mountain, showing Him the kingdoms** of the world, promising to give them to Jesus if He would bow down and worship him. Jesus responded, quoting (*Deu 6:13,14*) *You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. [14] You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are all around you.*
- **The declaration that only God was to be worshiped.** Therefore, the angel worshiped God.

**Rev 22:10** *And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.*

- **This is quite different from the Book of Daniel.** As Daniel comes to the last chapter, he is questioning some of the things that he had seen in visions, the Lord told him (*Dan 12:9*) *And he said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. It is for the time of the end and in the last days knowledge would be increased. The prophecies of Daniel were not for the present time., but for the future. Daniel was told to seal them up. These days the Book of Daniel now has become quite open. The sealing is no longer needed, because we are in the last days there is a much better understanding of the prophecies of Daniel because we have been able to see so many of the things that were prophesied already fulfilled! We now have a clearer understanding.*
- **But the Book of Revelation was not to be sealed!** This is the mistake that so many people make. There are too many pastors and churches that will not touch the Book of Revelation, saying that it is a sealed book. No, the Lord said, do not seal it! It is not a sealed book. It was intended to be read! It was intended to be understood! It was intended to be obeyed. There are special promises for those who will read and will keep the sayings of this book. ***Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.***

**Rev 22:11** *He who is unjust, let (first of four imperatives of divine permission, not commands for us to change people) 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."*

- **Note the urgency here!** We are shown that those who are in rebellion against God, who are unjust, who are filthy, that they are going to continue in their same rebellion against the Lord! They are not going to change. Surely, we have seen that as we have watched the plagues being poured out upon the earth and people cursing God.
- **He who is holy, let him be holy still.** On the other hand, those that are righteous will continue in that righteousness. What a glorious and engaging prospect this should be for the child of God! We shall have all eternity to grow in knowledge!
- **What can we do?** We can pray, for prayer can change natural law and human government! We can stay in the Scriptures! We can fellowship! (*Heb 10:25*) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. We can love one another and give to one another! We can stand up to lies, not to endorse or embrace lies! We still have freedom to say, I do not agree with that. This is what I believe! One person standing up for what is right can do much more than we can imagine! We are to serve Jesus with all of our heart! With all of our soul! With all of our strength!

**Rev 22:12** *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one (singular, to each individual) according to his work.*

- **The Bible does speak about the rewards each one's work.** Now, salvation is the gift of God through grace. But having received this wonderful gift of God through grace, my salvation, now as He is my Lord, I am obligated to serve Him and to obey Him as my Lord. You and I will be rewarded according to our faithfulness in doing the things that He has commanded us to do. It has nothing to do with salvation. It does have much to do with our position in the Kingdom of God!

- **The parable of the Talents.** Jesus said that the master went away to a far country and left his goods entrusted to his servants? To one he gave five talents, to another, two, to another, one. When he returned, he called them in to give an accounting. The one who had five said, lord, I have increased it. I brought you ten. And the lord said good job! Well done good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in a few things, now I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of the Lord! Jesus said the same thing to the one who was given and doubled the two talents.
- **But to the one who had taken the one talent and had buried it and did not use it,** how that talent was to be taken away from him! He that is faithful in a few things will be faithful and given much. But he who is not faithful will be taken away even that which he has.
- **Paul the apostle in writing of the judgment of the saints, said in (2Co 5:10)** *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.* One day, we will give an accounting to the Lord of what we have done with the things that He has entrusted to us. This is not a matter of salvation at this point. It is a matter of receiving or not receiving rewards. So, the Lord is declaring here concerning this, **“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to everyone according to his work.**
- **Jesus warned us, in the Sermon on the Mount, not to do our righteousness in such a way as to draw** the attention of men to ourselves. Because, He said, if you do it before men to receive the praise, adulation of men, then you have received your reward. Do not let your right hand really know what your left hand is doing, and your Father which sees in secret will reward you.
- **The Bible tells us that one day our works will be judged of what manner or sort they are.** The Lord is basically going to judge the motivation behind the things that we do. My heart, the motivation of my heart is the issue. Did I do it as unto the Lord for His glory, or did I do it for my glory and to receive the applause of man? It is a very serious business! When the Lord comes, He is going to be judging.

***Rev 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."***

- **Here again Jesus is declaring His deity.** It is said of God in chapter one, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Now, Jesus lays claim to that for Himself. God came in flesh to the earth. **(Joh 1:1-5, 14)** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God. [3] All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. [4] In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. [5] And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. [14] And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.* Jesus is God manifested in the flesh. Great is the mystery of the Godhead or godliness, for God was manifested in the flesh. *I am the Alpha, the Omega.*

***Rev 22:14 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.***

- **Blessed are those who do His commandments.** The NIV and other Alexandrian texts read “*who wash their robes,*” instead of “*who do His commandments.*” James tells us that we need to be doers of the Word and not hearers only because you can deceive yourself. Paul spoke against the Jews who felt that because they had the law they were justified. But he said it is not having the law that justifies you, it is the doing or the keeping of the law! We boast that we have the Word of God. We have the New Testament and all, but obedience is the key. Doing the Word, the commandments, not just having the commandments. This is the ultimate purpose of Jesus Christ, who is the Alpha and Omega, having complete authority, who died in our place, that we might have the right to *the tree of life and may enter into the city.* There is a blessing of those who go through this world keeping His commandments, yielding to Christ, studying His word, letting Him be the Lord of our lives, not just our Savior. What a blessing that is considering that those outside the city are forever existing in the lake of fire, as described in verse fifteen.
- **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.** It is good, sometimes just to meditate on what it will be like when I step through pearly gates into the city of God, beholding that beautiful crystal-clear river proceeding

from the throne of God, going up and picking the fruit off of the tree of life and taste of it. That is the privilege that will be offered to those who do His commandments! ***And may enter through the gates into the city!***

***Rev 22:15 But outside are dogs*** (morally impure, unclean, unbelievers) ***and sorcerers*** (*pharmakos*, those who have been drug users), ***and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.***

- ***But outside are dogs and sorcerers...***Some have mistaken this to mean that these morally impure, unbelievers will be living outside the walls of the new Jerusalem. Not so! The lost, those whose names will not be found in the Lamb's book of life, will have already been thrown into the lake of fire, forever. Therefore, there is not any chance that they could ever live just outside the city gates. This verse is God's assurance that the unsaved will never gain access into the celestial city!
- ***Paul gives a list of the thing that is are done by the people in the world, in (1Co 6:9-11) Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, [10] nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. [11] And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. We were all there. We were all guilty. We were all under the penalty of death. We were all at one time excluded. But you who are far off, Paul said, He has brought near through the blood of Jesus Christ.***
- ***You are no longer a foreigner or an alien to the promises of God,*** but you have been made a part of the family of God! Oh, the wonderful grace of God that reached down and picked us up out of the pit, washed us and cleansed us from all of the past and made us heirs of the Kingdom of God! We do not look around with self-righteousness and think oh, those horrible people. How can they do such things? Because we understand how they behave as they do. We have done those same things! But oh, how grateful we are for the grace of God that reached down and washed and cleansed us and made us children of God!
- ***Here are those who are excluded. Why? Because they have not come to God for the cleansing.*** They continued in their rebellion and in their acts of unrighteousness. Thus, because they rejected the invitation of God to receive the pardon and the cleansing, they will have to then face the judgment of God for these things and will be excluded from God's kingdom.
- ***This certainly puts the lie to the teaching that Satan brought along the final restitution*** of all things that God will finally restore everything and everybody including Satan, will one day enjoy the kingdom of God and the glories of God's kingdom. Not so! ***But outside are*** those who have not come and received the forgiveness.

***Rev 22:16 "I, Jesus*** (emphatically, the only place, the only time, where this is used in the whole Bible!), ***have sent My angel to testify to you*** (plural) ***these things in the churches. I am*** (again emphatic) ***the Root and the Offspring of David*** (only time used!), ***the Bright and Morning Star*** (only time used in the Bible)."

- ***I, Jesus have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches.*** This is for the church. Jesus said I have sent My angel to testify of these things in the churches. The Lord intended the church to study this. Jesus, in saving the best for the last, in giving us this title for Himself!
- ***I am the Root and the Offspring of David.*** God promised to David that from His seed there would be one that would be sitting on the throne forever. Jesus declares *I am the Root, the Offspring of David*, the fulfillment of that promise of God.
- ***The Bright and Morning Star.*** *Jesus is saying, I am splendor and glory to My kingdom; as the morning star ushers in the sun, so shall I usher in the unclouded and eternal glories of the everlasting kingdom!*

***Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come*** (imperative, You have got to come, Lord!)" ***And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.***

- ***And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!*** God's Spirit giving the invitation. This church being given the invitation to come to Jesus Christ to receive the cleansing

and the pardon of their sin because God is offering the forgiveness. *Come*, come to Jesus! *Come* and receive God's love! *Come* and receive God's forgiveness! *Come* and be made a child of God! *Come* and be blessed by becoming an heir of God, a joint heir through Jesus Christ!

- ***And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires!*** It is open to everybody! God has not closed the door to one person! He has left it up to us and to our choice, ***whoever desires!*** When God created us, He created us in His likeness and in His image! One of the characteristics of God's nature is that of self-determination. The power to will. Your ability to choose and to determine your future. God has given to us that gift, self-determination! I can determine my future by exercising my choice and my will. Choose this day, light and life! Once the door is shut! It is shut! But now, you can come!
- ***Whoever desires, let him take*** (continually and forever) ***the water of life freely.*** It cannot be any easier or more simple than that! God has left it up to you. You will have no excuse for rejecting God's love. No excuse for turning down God's offer of salvation. ***Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.***

***Rev 22:18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone*** (singular) ***adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book*** (*Biblion- Bible*);

- **Do not tamper! Do not mess with this Book!** Do not' mess with the Bible! If you seek to add to it, God will add to you the plagues that are written in the Book!
- (***Deu 4:1-2***) *"Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you. [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.*
- (***Deu 12:32***) *"Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.*

***Rev 22:19 and if anyone takes away*** (diminishes, detracts) ***from the words of the book*** (*Biblion- Bible*); ***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.***

- **We are at the end of the Bible!** We must note the severity of this last warning! Is this not summing up the totality of Scriptures? Are we talking about the Book of Revelation or are we talking about the Bible and God's revelation over this period of time to man in the Book that we have, the Bible? The word for this "book" in the original is *Biblion*, so it would appear this tampering warning, while certainly applies to the Book of Revelation, would likely also apply to the whole of Scriptures, which is the Bible! Considering the consequences being what they are, no one should want to tamper with it.
- **Often times, people are wanting to add or are wanting to take away.** There is a group of "scholars," who meet at Claremont College to take away from the Book and to go through the gospels and tell you what parts were inserted by the apostles and what parts are genuine. The things that Jesus really did say and the things that the writers said that Jesus said, but He really did not. No one should tamper with the Scriptures like that! We must take seriously the warning of Jesus, not to add to and not to take away from the words of this prophecy, from this Book.
- **We are to reverence the Bible as the Word of God.** God has given to us all is that is necessary for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him given to us in this book! Everything that we need is in this book! You do not need any more. This is sufficient! This is all that you need! Everything is here for you to live the life of godliness, the life that God would have you to live! It is all here.
- **We should not really be searching for new truth, but for new experiences in the old truth!** There are enough things that are in this Book that I have not yet experienced that I desire to and would love to that I do not have to go to these new exotic thing that is people are talking about, exotic experiences and all. ***I am not looking for something new. I am wanting new experiences in the old!*** I am open to that! I am open to the things that are here in the Word of God. But I am not really open to the things for which you do not have a solid Scriptural base. I am not interested in adding. I am not interested in taking away.

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

- ***He who testifies to these things says.*** Jesus is talking! ***Surely I am coming quickly." Amen.*** That is the final word! There is and will be no further prophetic word to be given from Him! The last word spoken by Jesus in the Bible is "*quickly.*" To the end, we see the Revelation emphasizes being watchful and being ready! If we miss the importance of this watchfulness and readiness, **we miss what is really important!** In fact, it is essential for salvation, to be ready when the Rapture occurs or each of our last breaths, whichever comes first! The words of Jesus, *I am coming quickly. Amen!* So be it!
- **John says, *Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*** We see the book closes indicating John's longing for the return of Jesus Christ for His people. He wants to see the Rapture of the church! He wants to see an end to this state of sin, sorrow, and temptation; to gather Your people out of this present evil world, and take them up to heaven, that state of perfect purity, peace, and joy, and so finish Your great design, and fulfill all that word in which You have caused Your people to hope. As we heed God's Word, and while we await this coming, we pray with John: *Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*
- **I am sure that that is the response in all of our hearts, right now! *Even so, come, Lord Jesus.***
- **Are you ready?** And John closes with:

***Rev 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.***

- **In closing, John adds his personal greeting and prayer for his own friends in the seven churches** who will soon be reading and hearing his amazing record of things to come. The Holy Spirit, however, is also sending the same message to all churches everywhere. He would convey the same greeting and exhortation to them, for there is no more fitting way to close the Book of Revelation and the entire written Word of God, than this.
- **The Revelation begins with Christ appearing to John on Patmos and it ends with Christ's promise to return again.** It begins with *grace (1:4)* and it ends with *grace (22:21)*. Even John's final benediction is a prophecy of all the redeemed people of God who will experience the riches of His grace in the ages to come.
- **The way to eternal happiness is to receive Christ as Savior and Lord!** This will entitle you to enter into the glorious holy city and partake of *the tree of life* and all the marvelous blessings of God. All this and much more is available to us...all because of His amazing *grace*.

**WHAT HAVE WE BEEN TOLD IN CHAPTER 22?**

- **Paradise restored! A Return to the Garden of Eden conditions.**
- **God is With us! God is There!**
- **The Final Testimony** – This book is the testimony of Jesus Christ, used eight times.
  - 1) Over and over, we can trust these things, ***they are faithful and true!***
  - 2) Context of eminence – ***they are coming quickly!***
  - 3) There is warning for the ungodly and a promise to the believer – They are going to determine their destiny – each has their own responsibility!
- **The Final Appeal** – ***I am coming quickly! 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!***

**WHAT DOES THIS PROPHECY MEAN TO US, NOW?**

- **We need to watch, pray and be ready!** A choice must be made! Choose life or choose death!
- **Be the witness He wants us to be – to both believers and especially unbelievers!**
- **What can we do?** We can pray, for prayer can change natural law and human government!
- **We can stay in the Scriptures!**
- **We can fellowship!** (*Heb 10:25*) *not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*
- **We can love one another** and give to one another!
- **We can stand up** to lies, not to endorse or embrace lies! We still have freedom to say, "I do not agree with that." This is what I believe! One person standing up for what is right can do much more than we can imagine!
- **We are to serve Jesus with all** of our heart! With all of our soul! With all of our strength!

## **CLOSING SONG:**

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

### **JESUS IS COMING SOON! EVEN SO COME - Hillsong (3:51)**

*All of creation All of the earth Make straight a highway A path for the Lord Jesus is **coming soon** Call back the sinner Wake up the saint Let every nation shout of Your fame Jesus is **coming soon** Like a bride waiting for her groom We'll be a Church ready for You Every heart longing for our King We sing "**even so come**" Lord Jesus, come **Even so come Lord Jesus, come** There will be justice, all will be new Your name forever, faithful and true Jesus is coming soon Oh, like a bride waiting for her groom We'll be a Church ready for You Every heart longing for our King We sing "**even so come**" Lord Jesus, come Even so come Lord Jesus, come*

*So, we wait We wait for You God, we wait You're coming soon  
So, we wait We wait for You God, we wait You're coming soon  
Like a bride waiting for her groom We'll be at Church, ready for You Every heart longing for our King,  
we sing  
Like a bride waiting for her groom We'll be at Church, we'll be ready for You Every heart longing for our  
King, we sing "**even so come**" Lord Jesus, come  
Even so come Lord Jesus, come Even so come Lord Jesus, come Even so come Lord Jesus, come*

## **CLOSING PRAYER:**

**Next week, a review of the entire Book of Revelation!**