Revelation 22:12-21

Review…

- **Inside the City…**
  - The Angel showed John - THREE more things that are found INSIDE the New Jerusalem …
  - River of LIFE – pure and clean – that can eternally satisfy out thirst…
  - Tree of LIFE – that has TWELVE fruits – leaves that give healing to the Nations [government]
  - Throne of God – there will be no more CURSE – because we will OBEY the Word of God!
- The Timing…
  - All the things written in the Book of Revelation are FAITHFUL and TRUE
  - And they will all take place in a SHORT period of time – once they begin [woman in labor]
  - Therefore – we must be READY – because when Jesus comes it will be QUICKLY [blink]
- The Warning…
  - Unseal the Words of this BOOK – let everyone know they have a CHOICE…
  - Because those who CHOSE to live in SIN – will stay UNCLEAN…
  - But those who CHOSE to put their FAITH in Jesus – will be made RIGHT and HOLY!

Come Lord Jesus…

- **1st – Jesus is coming… vs. 12-13**
  - 1st – Our Command… vs. 12
    - Behold - I am coming quickly!
    - The CLIMAX of the book of Revelation – and the Bible as a whole – comes down to one WORD…
    - BEHOLD [imperative] – the command to LOOK because…
    - Jesus is coming SOON [ταχύ] – He could come for His church at ANY moment!
    - The headlines this week have been filled with NEWS about the WAR in Israel…
    - Hamas [חָמָס] the Hebrew word for VIOLENT – killed 1000 Israeli citizens [including kids]
    - But their FUNDING comes from ONE place – Iran [biblical Persia]
    - And if the WAR spills over into Iran – and their ally Russia is pulled in – **Ezekiel 38**
    - No man can say WHEN Jesus will return – **Mark 13:32**
    - But we can know the SIGNS and the TIMES – **Matthew 16:3**
    - We can see the EVENTS around us unfolding just as the Bible says they will…
    - Telling us we need to LOOK up – because Jesus is coming SOON!
    - **Luke 21:28** – "When these things begin to happen - look up and lift up your heads - because your redemption draws near."
  - 2nd – Our Reward… vs. 12
    - My reward is with Me - to give to everyone according to his work!
    - When Jesus comes – He will bring with Him our REWARD…
    - REWARD [μισθός] – better translated as our WAGE [according to His work]
    - We have all EARNED a one way ticket to the Lake of Fire…
    - Because the WAGES of SIN is DEATH – eternal separation from God – **Romans 6:23**
    - But the GIFT of God – is that He PAID our DEBT on the cross - **Ephesians 2:8**
    - There is a very LIMITED amount of time that we have to receive His GIFT- **Hebrews 9:27**
    - Knowing that Jesus is coming SOON – TODAY is the day to BELIEVE!
    - **II Corinthians 6:2** – "Behold – now… is the day of salvation."
  - 3rd – Our Confidence… vs. 13
    - I am the Alpha and the Omega - the Beginning and the End - the First and the Last!
    - How confident can we be that Jesus is COMING – and that He will bring our REWARD…

- For the FOURTH and final time Revelation Jesus uses the title – the ALPHA [A] and OMEGA [Ω]
- These are the FIRST and LAST letters of the GREEK alphabet…
- But remember - this is NOT a new title – is a VERY old one!
- **Genesis 1:1** – "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
- There are TWO letters that sit untranslated next to the word GOD [אֱלֹהִים] – the [א] and the [ת]
- They are the FIRST and LAST letter of the HEBREW alphabet!
- The God who CREATED all things in the BEGINNING – is the same God who will END all things…
- He was there FIRST – and He will be there LAST – He is the one in charge…
- So when He says He is COMING – we can be absolutely CERTAIN He is on His way…
- And when He says He has our REWARD – we want to make sure we have the right one!

- **2ND – THE CHOICE… VS. 14-15**
  - 1st – Obedience… vs. 14
    - Blessed are those who do His commandments!
      - HAPPY [μακάριος] are the DOERS [present] of His commands – **James 1:22**
      - [NU] reads those who have washed their ROBES – **Revelation 7:14**
      - Because it is not enough to just say we BELIEVE – there needs to be a CHANGE…
      - We can read our Bibles – we might even agree with everything we hear...
      - But if there is no DIFFERENCE in our lives – then what EVIDENCE is there we are CLEAN!
      - **James 2:17** – "Faith by itself - if it does not have works - is dead!"
      - Not that we WORK to be saved – but if we are SAVED our FAITH works [fruit]
      - Our lives after we BELIEVE in Jesus should NOT be the same…
      - Not that we are perfect - but we should NOT be the same person - **I John 3:9**
      - The PROOF of our FAITH is going to be seen in how we live our lives!
    - They may have the right to the tree of life - and may enter through the gates into the city!
      - The REWARD for those who have the FRUIT of SALVATION – **Galatians 5:22**
      - Is they have access to the TREE of LIFE…
      - A TREE that is forbidden to those who are living in SIN – **Genesis 3:24**
      - They will also have their names written in the Book of LIFE…
      - Because only those in the BOOK are allowed through the Gates of the New Jerusalem!
      - **Revelation 21:27** – "Only those who are written in the Lambs Book of Life."
      - So long as we are DOERS of the WORD – bear the FRUIT of our Salvation…
      - We can be confident that our REWARD will be LIFE…
      - And when Jesus comes – SOON – we will live forever with Him in the New Jerusalem…
      - If we are NOT sure – then we should examine our lives – our eternity depends on it!
      - **II Corinthians 13:5 –** "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you."
  - 2nd – Rebellion… vs. 15
    - Outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters!
      - OUTSIDE – not just speaking of OUTSIDE the city – this is OUTER darkness – **Matthew 8:12**
      - One of the euphemism is the Bible for the Lake of Fire [hell]
      - We are given a LIST of FIVE people who will end up there [not exhaustive]
      - DOGS – a generic term in the NT for those who practice EVIL – **Philippians 3:2**
      - SORCERERS [φάρμακος] – where we get the word Pharmacy – those who do drugs…
      - SEXUALLY Immoral [πόρνος] – where we get the word Pornography [extramarital relations]
      - MURDERERS – those who kill others – or HATE others – **Matthew 5:22**
      - IDOLATERS – those who put ANYTHING before God in their lives – **Exodus 20:3**
    - Whoever loves and practices a lie!

- An uncomfortable LIST – perhaps it contains something we struggle with in our lives…
- But struggling with SIN – is not the same as EMBRACING our SIN…
- Those who are OUTSIDE – do not just SIN - they LOVE [φιλέω] to PRACTICE [present] sin…
- Meaning it defines them – they embrace their WICKED ways!
- **John 3:19** – "This is the condemnation… men love [ἀγαπάω] darkness rather than light."
- It seems amazing to us that people CHOOSE not to come to CHURCH…
- Or if they do come to CHURCH – they CHOOSE to not have good fruit in their lives…
- They are HYPOCRITES – they just ACT like Christians one day a week [Sunday]
- Because they would rather have their SIN – than OBEY the commands of God…
- Why - because they believe a LIE [singular] – SIN is worth it…
- Sadly – although it may be FUN for a season – they end up OUTSIDE!
- **Proverbs 14:12** – "There is a way that seems right to a man - but its end is the way of death."

- **3rd – The Invitation… vs. 16-17**
  - 1st – From Jesus… vs. 16
    - I – Jesus - have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches!
      - Most of the book of Revelation has been from the perspective of John…
      - The WORDS he heard and recorded were mostly from ANGELS…
      - But here we are told – Jesus is the one speaking [I – Jesus]
      - He is the one who sent His MESSENGER [ἄγγελος] to those He has called out [ἐκκλησία]
      - His message – the book of Revelation - is an INVITATION to come to the New Jerusalem!
    - I am the Root and the Offspring of David!
      - Who is INVITED to come – the nation of Israel…
      - Jesus is the MESSIAH [מָשִׁיחַ] – He is the promised savior of the Jews – **Psalm 20:6**
      - Jesus is the ROOT of David – He created David [because He is God]
      - Jesus is also the OFFSPRING of David – He came from [son] David [virgin birth]
      - The Man who is the SON of David – has the desire to SAVE His people…
      - The God who CREATED David – has the power to SAVE them – **Romans 11:26**
    - The Bright and Morning Star!
      - Who is INVITED to the come – the Church…
      - Jesus is THE star – that shines BRIGHT early in the MORNING [ὀρθρινός]
      - This is a similar TITLE Jesus gave to the CHURCH of Thyatira – **Revelation 2:28**
      - MORNING star – is actually the PLANET Venus - that is brightest just before the DAWN…
      - When you see it in the NIGHT sky – you know the DAY is about to come!
      - Jesus is telling us the MORNING star has appeared – the NIGHT is almost over…
      - The DAY is about the BREAK – Jesus is coming soon for His Church…
      - But He is not here yet – we are still WAITING – looking for His RETURN!
  - 2nd – Come… vs. 17
    - The Spirit and the bride say - Come!
      - The [Holy] SPIRIT is calling [present] for Jesus to COME [imperative]
      - The BRIDE [church] is calling [present] for Jesus to COME [imperative]
      - The two most excited people in a wedding – are the BRIDE and GROOM…
      - Although the ceremony has a set TIME and DAY when it will take place…
      - Both the GROOM [Spirit] and BRIDE [Church] – want it to happen NOW!
      - As excited as we are to get to heaven and see Jesus…
      - The Spirit – Jesus – God is just as excited for us to get there!
    - Let him who hears say - Come!
      - Anyone who HEARS the Word of this book – and believe they are TRUE…
      - Also must say [imperative] they want Jesus to COME [imperative]

- We have spent the past TEN months going through the Book of Revelation…
- We have seen the FUTURE – we KNOW what is going to take place…
- From the RAPTURE of the church – the WRATH of God – to the RETURN of Jesus…
- We know how the story ENDS – with the NEW Jerusalem coming from heaven…
- That should get us excited for the END to BEGIN – we should want Jesus to COME!

▪ Let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires - let him take the water of life freely!
- We want Jesus to come – because He brings with Him the water of LIFE…
- Because anyone who is THIRSTY – must COME [imperative] to Him…
- If they DESIRE to have their thirst satisfied – they have to drink from His water!
- The same part of our brain that says we are HUNGRY tells us when we are THIRSTY…
- As a result we often get CONFUSED – and EAT when we should DRINK!
- It seems this also happens spiritually – we are THIRSTY for Jesus – **Ecclesiastes 3:11**
- But we get CONFUSED – and try quench our spiritual THIRST – with physical things…
- Then we wonder afterwards why we are not SATISFIED…
- Which is why we pray for Jesus to come – so we can be FREELY drink the water of LIFE!

- **4TH – THE WARNING… VS. 18-21**
  - 1st – Adding… vs. 18
    - 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!
    - I TESTIFY [present] – to give a LEGAL argument – to be a WITNESS in a courtroom…
    - There is some question as to who is speaking [John – an Angel – or Jesus]
    - To all [πᾶς] who HEAR the words [prophecy] of the book of Revelation…
    - If [subjunctive] anyone ADDS to the book [prophecy]
    - Then God will ADD to him ALL of the PLAGUES of this book…
    - PLAGUES [πληγή] – used 15x in the book of Revelation!
    - When Satan tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden – he quoted the Word of God…
    - But He added to what God said – they should not eat of ANY tree in the Garden – **Genesis 3:1**
    - His tactic was to cause CONFUSION by adding to what God said!
    - Times may have changed – but the strategy of our enemy has NOT…
    - If you ask a Mormon if they believe in the Bible – they will say YES…
    - But then they will tell you that we ALSO need – the Pearl of great price…
    - They ADD to the word of God – declaring it is NOT enough – causing CONFUSION!
  - 2nd – Subtracting… vs. 19
    - 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!
    - If [subjunctive] anyone REMOVES any of the words [prophecy] of the book of Revelation…
    - Then God will REMOVE his NAME from the Book of Life…
    - And if their NAME is NOT in the Book of Life – they cannot enter the Holy City [NEW Jerusalem]
    - Meaning the will miss out on all the BLESSINGS written in this Book!
    - When Satan tempted Jesus – he quoted the Word of God – **Luke 4:9-11**
    - He told Jesus to jump from the Temple – and Angels would catch him - **Psalms 91:11-12**
    - But he did NOT quote the whole Psalm – he left out the most important part…
    - We are SAFE when we DWELL in the LORD [not jump from buildings] - **Psalms 91:9**
    - Times may have changed – but the strategy of our enemy has NOT…
    - I know of a BIG church that says they believe in the Bible – the Word of God…
    - But TEACH the Old Testament is not real – just Jewish stories written as moral lessons…
    - They REMOVE part of the Word of God – casting doubt on what God SAID!

- 3rd – Coming Quickly… vs. 20
  - He who testifies to these things says - Surely I am coming quickly!
    - He who TESTIFIES [present] – no question here referring to Jesus Christ…
    - Jesus states unconditionally – that He is coming SOON [quickly] – **I Corinthians 15:52**
    - For the THIRD and FINAL time in this chapter – Jesus repeats this!
    - You may have noticed that the Bible often repeats itself…
    - The same message given in many ways – Jesus is COMING….
    - The reason is because often we MISS it – it does NOT sink in…
    - The Bible tells us over and over in the HOPE we will eventually get it…
    - It is too IMPORTANT for us not to get - we must REPEAT it as many times as needed!
    - **Philippians 3:1** - "I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard [SURE] your faith." [NLT]
  - Amen! Even so – come Lord Jesus!
    - John adds at the end of Jesus statement - AMEN!
    - The word AMEN is used 181x in the Bible – 30x in OT [151 – [אָמֵן]x in NT [ἀμήν]
    - If the word is used at the BEGINNING of a sentence – it means it is the TRUTH…
    - If it is used and the END of a sentence – it means it will HAPPEN…
    - As this is used at the END of the BIBLE [second to last] – it will for SURE happen…
    - Yes [ναί] – the Lord [κύριος] Jesus who said this [vocative] will come!
    - That Jesus will come is NOT in question – it is the TRUTH…
    - What is in question – are we ready for Jesus to COME…
    - We might think – PLEASE come back NOW – I am in CHURCH…
    - But what if He came this AFTERNOON – or TOMORROW morning…
    - When we CHOOSE to live our LIVES – like Jesus could come at any moment…
    - It causes us to be READY – a BRIDE who is anxious to see our LORD!
    - **I John 3:3** – "Everyone who has this hope in Him Purifies himself."
- 4th – Grace for All… vs. 21
  - The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen!
  - The book CLOSES the same way that it OPENS – with GRACE – **Revelation 1:4**
  - GRACE [χάρις] - 156x in NT [important]
  - GRACE simply means GIFT – what GIFT does God give to us – our Lord Jesus Christ…
  - By FAITH we believe He died for us – and God gave us GRACE – **Ephesians 2:8-9**
  - I love that a BOOK known for the WRATH and JUDGEMENT of God – closes with GRACE…
  - Because God does NOT want to JUDGE us – He wants to give us GRACE – **II Peter 3:9**
  - Judgment ONLY comes to those who do NOT receive the GRACE of God – AMEN!