

It is such a joy as we wrap up our journey through the last book of the Bible. We've come a long way from Genesis, haven't we? And here in Revelation chapter 22, the Lord pulls back the curtain on eternity. It's a scene that almost defies description, but it is "faithful and true" because the Lord has spoken it.

We live in a world marked by brokenness. Everywhere we look, we see indiscriminate death, corruption in high places, economic turmoil, and the devastation of natural disasters. Yet, in the light of eternity, these trials are but a brief moment—a single 'tick' of the clock. We look forward to the day when the curse of sin is finally removed, replaced by the healing of the nations and the total restoration of all that was lost in the Fall. As believers in Jesus Christ, this is our unshakable hope. Let's live as people of that hope, faithfully keeping the words of Scripture and walking in His commands. In doing so, we look forward to the tree of life and the gates of the eternal city (Revelation 22:7, 14).

The Final Invitation: A Study in Revelation 22

The River and the Tree of Life

John begins by describing a pure river of the water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb (Revelation 22:1). Right there in the middle of the street, and on either side of the river, is the tree of life.

Now, this is fascinating. John says this tree bears twelve manner of fruits, yielding its fruit every month (Revelation 22:2). Think about that! We see man today trying to manipulate genetics—grafting citrus so one tree grows lemons and oranges, or creating salt-water tomatoes. But God doesn't need a laboratory. He is the Creator! He designed a tree that provides a fresh, new harvest every single month. I enjoy fruit and can't wait to taste what the Lord has prepared for us in that New Kingdom.

The End of the Curse

One of the most glorious statements in all of Scripture is found in verse three: "And there shall be no more curse" (Revelation 22:3, NKJV).

Ever since the fall in Genesis chapter 3, the earth has been groaning. Thorns, thistles, sweat, and pain—that was the result of sin. But because Jesus went to that cross and shed His precious blood, He paid the price to redeem not just our souls, but ultimately the whole creation. The curse is canceled!

Instead of the curse, we have the presence of God. The text says, "They shall see His face" (Revelation 22:4, NKJV). Remember what Jesus said in the Beatitudes? "*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God*" (Matthew 5:8). We will serve Him, we will reign with Him, and we won't need the sun or a candle because the Lord God gives us light.

Worship God Alone

John is so overwhelmed by these visions that he falls down to worship the angel who showed them to him. But the angel stops him immediately: *"See that you do not do that... Worship God"* (Revelation 22:9, NKJV).

There's an important lesson there. We often make the mistake of worshipping the instrument—the pastor, the teacher, the musician. But we must always point people past the instrument to the Author. Don't worship the messenger; worship the One who sent the message!

The Imminence of His Return

The Lord tells John not to seal the prophecy because "the time is at hand" (Revelation 22:10). When Daniel received his visions, he was told to seal them up because they were for a distant time. But for us, the clock is ticking.

Jesus says, "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work" (Revelation 22:12, NKJV). Now, let's be clear: our salvation is a gift. You can't earn it, and you don't deserve it. It is by grace through faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-9). But once we are saved, our service to Him matters. God is going to reward us based on our faithfulness and our motives. If you're doing things just to be seen by men, Jesus says you've already received your reward. But if you serve Him out of a pure heart of love, there is a crown waiting for you.

Practical Application: Living in the Light of His Return

If we truly believe Jesus is coming "quickly," it ought to change how we live today.

- Check your motives: Are you serving for the "Hallelujah chorus" of men, or for the "Well done" of the Master?
- Stay in the Word: Don't let Revelation be a "sealed book" to you. Read it, believe it, and let it purify your walk.

A Challenge for the Believer

I challenge you this week to live as if the Lord's return is imminent—because it is! Peter tells us that to the Lord, a thousand years is as one day (2 Peter 3:8). In God's economy, it's only been about two days since Jesus ascended. He is right at the door. Let your life be a "light" that points people to the Father.

An Invitation to the Thirsty

Maybe you're reading this and you feel "thirsty." You've tried to fill your life with the things of this world, but you're still dry. You may be thinking that there has to be something more—something that will completely and permanently satisfy the longing of your heart. The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" (Revelation 22:17).

Jesus shed His blood on that cross to wash away your sins. He died in your place, and His resurrection proves He is the Lord of life. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

If you will turn from your sin and put your trust in Him today, He will give you the water of life freely. Don't wait. The invitation is still open but will soon end. Today is the day of salvation.

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