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**Jerusalem the Holy City**  
**And**  
**The Throne of God Descends to Earth.**  
**(Revelation 22)**  
**(2013)**

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## Jerusalem, the Holy City of God.

### The Throne of God Descends to Earth (Revelation 22).

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#### Topics.

- A river of life flowing from God's throne and the tree of life.
- They will see his face and his name will be on their foreheads.
- Behold I am coming quickly.
- Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book.
- The time is at hand.
- Let the evildoer still do evil, and the righteous still do right.
- The alpha and the omega, the first and the last.
- The tree of life and the New Jerusalem.
- The Spirit, the bride and the one who hears say, "come."
- Adding and taking away from the words of this book.

**INTRODUCTION:** to get an idea of where the awesome and breathtaking events spoken of in Revelation chapter twenty-two fit in God's prophetic timetable we will firstly take a brief look at the events that have transpired prior to these prophetic and eternal events unfolding.

**Revelation Seventeen:** tells us Jesus will return as Lord of lords and King of kings and conquer a woman full of abominations and adorned with gold, jewels and pearls (symbolic of global false religion) sitting on a scarlet beast full of blasphemous names (symbolic of the global secular world system) because both the woman and the beast are of one mind to make war on Christ.

**Revelation Eighteen:** records the fall of Babylon the Great who the kings and the merchants of the earth grew rich from the power of her global banking and financial system of credit, interest, greed and excessive profits and thereby corrupted the earth with self-indulgent luxurious living and immorality.

**Revelation Nineteen:** records Jesus descending on a white horse as King of kings and Lord of lords with great power and God by His mighty power destroying the armies of the nations who attempted to destroy Jesus and those gathered to him and the birds of the air feasting on the dead bodies.

**Revelation Twenty:** records the dragon, the serpent, the devil and satan being bound during Christ's millennial reign and those who died in faith coming to life in the first resurrection. We are told that the second death will have no power over this blessed group and that they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him.

At the end of Christ's glorious reign the nations attempt to attack Jerusalem, but fire comes down from heaven and consumes them. The sea, death and hades give up the dead and they stand before the Throne of God and are judged, according to what they had done those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire (a symbol of eternal death) (i.e., total extinction)

**Revelation Twenty-One:** in this chapter John is not only given a vision of a new heaven and a new earth and the end of death, suffering and sorrow and the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down to earth out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband, but also see God Himself dwelling with all those whose names are written in the Book of Life.

Here we see that the New Jerusalem has no need of the sun or the moon to shine on it because the glory of the LORD God the Almighty and the Lord Jesus Christ are its temple and give the city its light and it is by this light that the kings of the earth govern.

**NOTE:** Jesus sent one of the seven angels, who had one of the vials of the seven last plagues, to give John the vision of this book (Rev. 21:9) (Rev. 22:16). The following is what John's sees in this vision after the great White Throne Judgment and after the old heavens and earth have passed away and God has made all things new.

### **A River of Life flowing from God's Throne and the Tree of Life.**

Revelation 22:1-5 ----- <sup>1</sup>Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves <sup>3</sup>of the tree were for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup>They will see his face and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

John sees a river of water that brings life flowing from God and from the Lord Jesus Christ. The river of life flows through the middle of the city, there is a street on either side of the river and on either side is a tree of life. Even though the tree of life grows on both sides of the river it can be spoken of as a single tree because its branches form an arch over the river and no-doubt intertwine with each other. It has twelve kinds of fruit that yield each month and the leaves of the tree have power to heal the nations

**Figuratively:** the tree of life on either side of the river with its branches entwined with each other could be viewed as symbolising redeemed Jews and Gentiles while the river of the water of life could be viewed as the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ uniting Jews and Gentiles in the glorious and eternal Holy city New Jerusalem (no-doubt many more symbolisms could be drawn from these verses).

**They will see his face and his name will be on their foreheads:** the words, "They will see his face" means they will dwell with Christ in an intimate relationship it carries the idea of being a deeply loved and trusted friend. Now here is the glory of the words, "They will see his face" this is a two way friendship it is not only the redeemed being in a deep friendship with Christ, but also Christ being in a deep friendship with them. Jesus said; "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friends" (John 15:13) this is the depth of the friendship between the Lord and those who will see him face to face, both are prepared to lay down their life for each other (Jesus already has).

The words, "His name will be on their foreheads" means Christ will be the highest thought of their mind and the sole love of their heart. It means their whole passion in life is to be with Christ and to serve him. In the Holy city New Jerusalem there will be two thrones, the Throne of God and the Throne of Christ there will be no night and no need for a light or the sun because God will be the light of it neither will there be anything that can cause harm and those in the city will reign with Christ forever and ever.

### **Behold I am Coming Soon.**

Revelation 22:6-7 ----- <sup>6</sup>And he said unto me (John) "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place." <sup>7</sup>"And behold, I am coming soon (quickly in KJV). Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Here we are told God is the God of the spirit of the prophets. This is why the Bible is called the inspired word of God the messages the prophets spoke are inspired by God Himself.

**NOTICE:** we are told, God sent His angel to show John these things and then the angel immediately says, "Behold, I am coming soon." Then in (v13) the angel states that he is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the beginning and the end" and in the previous chapter we are told that the one who spoke with John (Rev. 21:15) was one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls of the seven last plagues (Rev. 21:9) which means that it is this same angel that is talking to John in this chapter.

Added to this in chapter one we are told God gave this revelation to Jesus to show his servants things to come and Jesus made them known to John by sending his angel (Rev. 1:1). This means that the words, "Behold I am coming soon" could refer to: -

- The Angel of the LORD.
- The Alpha and the Omega.
- The angel with one of the seven last plagues.
- The Angel of Christ.
- The Lord Jesus Christ himself.

It would be foolish to argue or debate over who the words, "Behold I am coming soon" refer to because when Christ returns the angel with one of the last plagues will have already been and the angel of God and the angel of Christ will also be involved in the glorious return of Christ so the best solution is to apply the words, "Behold I am coming soon" to all of them since all of them will be with the Lord when he returns.

**Behold I am coming soon:** (quickly in the KJV) these words carry the following two ideas: -

1. Jesus Angel may have said, "Jesus is coming soon" so that each generation would live in the expectation of Christ's imminent return, and encourage and comfort one another with these words. In a certain sense the words are true because the furthest Christ is away from any believer is their life span. When a believer's life is taken, though they may sleep in Christ for many years until the resurrection there is no consciousness of time, therefore the moment they die is the instant they are with Christ, because in death there is no consciousness of time. For further information see the title: "Death (what happens when we die)" in, Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).
2. Jesus is coming soon may simply mean, when he begins to come it will be very quick, this idea can be supported by the following verses: -
  - Repent and do the first works; or else I will come to you quickly (Rev. 2:5).
  - Repent; or else I will come to you quickly (Rev. 2:16).
  - I come quickly: hold fast what you have, that no man takes your crown (Rev. 3:11).
  - I come quickly: blessed is he that keeps the prophecy of this book (Rev. 22:7).
  - I come quickly to reward every man according his work (Rev. 22:12).
  - Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus (Rev. 22:20).

The Bible personifies the earth as a pregnant woman giving birth to the sons and daughters of God and like any pregnant woman who is about to give birth pictures the earth in labour pains that increase in strength and rapidness until the baby is born, so it is most likely that Jesus was saying when he does come it will be very quick. The apostle Paul wrote, "In a moment in the twinkling of an eye the last trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable and we shall be changed (1 Cor. 15:52).

## John Falls Down to Worship the Angel.

Revelation 22:8-11 ----- <sup>8</sup>I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, <sup>9</sup>but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." <sup>10</sup>And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. <sup>11</sup>Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy."

This gives us stunning insight into the character of angels, John is so overawed by the glory and power of this angel who had one of the seven vials of the seven last plagues (Rev. 21:9) that he falls down to worship the angel, but this most powerful and glorious angel rather than accept John's worship humbles himself and tells John that he is not to be exalted in such a manner because he like John is a fellow servant of all the faithful who keep the words of God. The following are two great practical lessons we can all learn from the angel's response to John's worship: -

1. No-matter how gifted or talented a brother or sister in Christ might be or whether they have a global ministry that reaches thousands worldwide they should always see themselves as fellow servants with all who belong to the family of God as this most powerful and glorious angel did.
2. The worship of angels is forbidden not only by God, but by the angels themselves, those who worship angels today are not delighting the hearts of the angels, but instead offending them. This is because all worship should be directed toward God and His beloved Son the Lord Jesus Christ the Saviour, Redeemer and majestic royal King.

## Do not Seal up the Words of the Prophecy of this Book.

**Seal up:** means to confirm and verify or to close up for security and to hide or keep secret it carries the idea of concealing a thing and storing it away for future use. In contrast to John being told not to seal the book of Revelation the great prophets Isaiah and Daniel were commanded to seal up their prophecies.

- The vision of the evenings and the mornings that has been told is true, but seal up the vision, for it refers to many days from now (Dan. 8:26).
- Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end (Dan. 12:4).
- Go your way, Daniel, for the words are sealed until the time of the end (Dan. 12:9).

Isaiah and Daniel were commanded to seal up their prophecies because they related to far-distant times (i.e., the time of the end). The idea in sealing them was, that they should make the record sure and unchangeable; that they should finish it, and lay it up for future ages; so that in far-distant times the events might be compared with the prophecy and it might be seen that there was an exact correspondence between the prophecy and the fulfilment.

In contrast to the prophecies of Isaiah and Daniel which pertained to future ages and therefore would not be immediately demanded for their use the events which John had been shown in his heavenly visions were about to begin to be fulfilled, and were to be of immediate use in comforting persecuted and suffering brothers and sisters in Christ.

This is the reason John was told not to seal up the vision and the book, but to lay them open so that those who were suffering trials and hardships would have the assurance that Christ would finally triumph. Though the visions of John do extend to the end of the age and even into ETERNITY he was not to lay them up for future generations because they concerned the present times. The angel told John: -

- These words are trustworthy and true, the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place (Rev. 22:6).
- Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near (Rev. 22:6).

The fulfilment of Isaiah and Daniel's prophecy was distant, that of John's prophecy was near and it was for this reason John was to write down and make public what he had seen and heard and send his letters in an open book unsealed to the churches so they would be able to read of all these heavenly visions and be comforted in their afflictions and persecutions. The New Testament is the time of the end of this age and the fulfilment of Isaiah and Daniel's prophecies.

**The time is at hand:** these words do not mean that these events would soon be completed. The idea is that they would soon begin and continue until they climax in the final triumph of Christ and the Christian faith. In the very beginning of the book of Revelation we are told that it is: -

- The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that, must soon take place (Rev. 1:1).

The time is at hand means the things in this book shall soon begin to be fulfilled in John's generation.

**Let the evildoer still do evil, and the righteous still do right:** the words, "Let things continue as they are," means let the corrupt and the righteous continue. The angel is saying to John, "Don't get involved with the world, let it carry on and do its own thing." The only thing the Bible calls Christians to get involved with is witnessing the Gospel, helping the poor and needy and doing-good. This is because as long as sin (self, ego, pride, greed and such like things) are in the world, corruption in governments and in high places of authority and amongst the people of this world will continue until Christ returns.

#### **The Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last.**

Revelation 22:12-15 -- <sup>12</sup>Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral (whoremongers in KJV) and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

Here the angel states that he is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the beginning and the end" which means that this angel can not only be seen as the Angel of God and the Angel of Christ, but also as the voice of God and the voice of Christ. Throughout history certain religious teachers have used the words of the angel, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end" to support the mistaken theory that Jesus is God. But the angel is not saying that Jesus (God's most beloved Son) is actually God the Father Himself, but that Jesus is the beginning of the new creation and God's plan of salvation. The word alpha is of Hebrew origin (the first letter of the alphabet) when it is used figuratively as a number it carries the idea of the first. Jesus is the first in the following sense:-

- From the foundation of the world God in His eternal mind not only planned and purposed that Jesus would be the central focus of His eternal plan of salvation for mankind and that entry into eternal life would be through Jesus, but also that Jesus would be the head of God's eternal Kingdom. Jesus is the beginning of the new covenant and the new creation, the body of Christ, the church and the eternal Kingdom of God, without Jesus none of these things would exist. There would be no salvation, no way to God and no hope of eternal life.

The word omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet and when it is used figuratively as a number it carries the idea of the last (i.e., finality). Jesus is the last in the following sense:-

- God has no other plan or process of salvation, there is no other prophets or Messiahs to come Jesus is the final King and Saviour salvation to eternal life is complete in Jesus.

It is in this way that Jesus is the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End the Alpha and the Omega.

**The tree of life and the New Jerusalem:** those who gain entry to the Holy city Jerusalem and have the right to the tree of life are those who have washed their robes, meaning they have repented before God and by faith have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their King and Saviour.

**The Corrupt will not enter the New Jerusalem.**

**Dogs:** in this context does not refer to a dog as we think of them (i.e., a pet animal), but to wild dogs and scavengers that tear apart their prey for their own survival, figuratively it carries the idea of people who use and oppress others in any way for their own gain or their own self-gratification.

**Sorcerers:** the word, sorcery comes from the Greek (pharmakeia). Literally; it means a drug as a medication and can refer to a pharmacy, pharmacist or druggist and poisoner who gives a spell-giving potion. It can apply to the global medical drug companies and certainly to the black market drug trade worth hundreds of billions of dollars and destroys hundreds of thousands lives worldwide every day. By extension the word sorcery carries the idea of magic or witchcraft because of its deceptive nature and ability to distort a person's sense of reality and truth. Figuratively; it carries the idea of those seeking God being deceived by false religious teaching.

**Sexually immoral:** (whoremongers in KJV) embraces the following: -

**Adultery:** voluntary sexual relations between a married person and somebody other than his or her spouse, one of the reasons for this is because adultery destroys families and brings deep emotional pain to children and to other family members and friends connected to the couple involved.

**Incest:** (sex between close relatives) sexual activity between two people who are considered, for moral or genetic reasons, too closely related to have such a relationship, it is regarded as a serious taboo in almost every society, because incest is likely to result in physically or mentally disabled offspring.

**Prostitution:** a male or female who willing sets aside principles or personal integrity and sells their body for sex in order to obtain something, usually for selfish motives, it is using other people's weakness for one's own gain. Figuratively it applies to the worship of other gods and idols. Sexual immorality especially applies to any sexual activity that harms others, such as human trafficking. Today, next to weapons of war and drugs kidnapping and using young teenage girls for sex slaves is the next biggest black market trade in the world.

**Murderers:** refers to those who deliberately take an innocent persons life.

**Idolaters:** refers to those who worship other gods.

**Falsehood:** refers to everyone who lies and deceives others, especially for their own selfish gain.

**NOTICE:** the spirit in all of these sins is self-gratification.

- Adultery and immorality is to gratify self at the expense of others.
- Incest is satisfying self without regard to the offspring.
- Prostitution is using others to get what self wants.
- Murder is for selfish revenge or to gain some form of emotional, financial or physical benefit.
- Idolatry allows people to have a god that suits themselves.
- People lie and deceive others to gain some advantage or keep some kind of benefit for themselves.

What makes all these things sin is the fact they ultimately bring harm to others and are all motivated by self and do not show compassion.

The Spirit behind the Ten Commandments is love because each one of them protects an innocent human from harm if all Ten Commandments were followed there would be no human harming another person. God loves humans, so much that He gave His only Son for their redemption, to Gods mind anything that harms another human is sin.

**For further information see the titles: -**

- Sin and Self-gratification.
- The motivation of Sin.
- Both titles are in, Sin (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**The Spirit, the Bride and the One who Hears say, “Come.”**

Revelation 22:16-17 -- <sup>16</sup>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." <sup>17</sup>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.

The call of God's voice is: -

- Come.

The cry of the Spirit and the cry of the bride is: -

- Let the one who hears come.
- Let the one who is thirsty come.
- Let the one who desires take the water of life without price come.

In other words the cry of God's Spirit is that all would come to eternal life

- Peter wrote; “The Lord is not slow to fulfil his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

The call of God and the call of the Spirit and the call of the Bride is, “come.” This shows that the Gospel of God's love and grace in the Lord Jesus Christ is to be presented as an invitation not a demand. Witnessing is about inviting people to the most glorious wedding feast this world will ever see and to an eternal royal and majestic Kingdom.

**Adding and Taking Away from the Words of this Book.**

Revelation 22:18-21 ---<sup>18</sup>I (Jesus) (v16) 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, <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! <sup>21</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

If anyone adds to what John has written God will add to them the plagues written in this prophecy. This does not mean that modern translations do not contain the inspired word of God (as some foolishly believe), if that was the case Christians in non-English speaking nations, Mexico, China and the multitudes of Asian brothers and sisters in Christ would never be able to read the inspired word of God. It is not the individual words themselves that are inspired, but the messages that the words proclaim, it is these messages that are the inspired word of God. The meaning of Jesus statement, “If anyone adds to the book or takes away from it” is the same as saying, if anyone changes its message.

**NOTE:** we must always keep in mind when we are speaking of Christ's return, the millennial age and the thing concerning ETERNITY that it is with a fallen and finite mind that is limited to time (as we understand it) that we are attempting to understand things not yet happened and that are radically different to anything any generation of every age of history has experienced on earth and because of this we should never be dogmatic and absolute in our understandings and explanations concerning Christ's return, the millennial age and the things concerning ETERNITY, but always allow for certain amount of mystery.

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End.