

# Introduction to Revelation Chapter 22

Revelation chapter 22 brings the Bible to its majestic and meaningful conclusion. In this final chapter, the apostle John continues his vision of the eternal state, giving further detail about the New Jerusalem and the everlasting life that awaits those who belong to God. It is a chapter filled with hope, promise, warning, and invitation, bringing together the central themes of Scripture from beginning to end.

John first describes the river of the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. On either side of the river stands the tree of life, bearing fruit each month and providing healing for the nations. This imagery echoes the Garden of Eden, showing that what was lost through sin has now been fully restored. In this new creation, there is no longer any curse, and God's servants will live in His presence, worship Him, and reign with Him forever.

One of the most profound promises in this chapter is that believers will see God's face. This signifies complete and unhindered fellowship with Him—something humanity has longed for since the beginning. There will be no more darkness, and no need for the sun or lamp, because God Himself will be the light of His people.

The chapter also emphasizes the certainty and nearness of Christ's return. Jesus declares multiple times, "I am coming soon," reminding readers to live in readiness and obedience. This urgency calls believers to remain faithful, keeping the words of this prophecy and holding firmly to the hope of His return.

Revelation 22 also contains both a warning and an invitation. There is a solemn warning not to add to or take away from the words of this prophecy, underscoring the authority and completeness of God's Word. At the same time, there is a gracious invitation extended to all: "Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life." This final call reflects God's desire for all people to receive salvation through Jesus Christ.

The Bible concludes with a prayerful declaration: "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." This closing expresses the longing of believers for Christ's return and the fulfillment of all God's promises.

Revelation 22 ties together the entire story of Scripture—from creation, to fall, to redemption, to eternal restoration. It leaves readers with a clear message: God's plan is complete, His promises are sure, and eternal life is available to all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

Heavenly Father,

As we come to the final chapter of Your Word in Revelation chapter 22, we thank You for the hope, promise, and truth You have revealed from beginning to end. Thank You for showing us the river of life, the tree of life, and the eternal future You have prepared for those who love You.

Lord, open our hearts and minds as we study this chapter. Help us to understand the depth of Your promises and to live with a sense of urgency as we await the return of Jesus Christ. Teach us to remain faithful, obedient, and ready, holding firmly to the truth of Your Word.

Fill us with a longing for Your presence and a desire to walk closely with You each day. May we receive the invitation You have given—to come and take the water of life freely—and may we share that invitation with others.

Prepare our hearts to say with confidence and hope, “Come, Lord Jesus.”

In Jesus’ name we pray,  
Amen.

## Revelation 22:1–2

“(1) Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb (2) down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”

### The Context:

We have seen the outside of the City; now we see its "heart." This is the ultimate "Full Circle" moment of the Bible. The story that began in a Garden (Eden) with a river and a tree ends in a City that has become a Garden. The curse of the past is being washed away by the water of the future.

### The Meaning of the River and the Tree:

In simple American English, we might say, "The angel showed me a river of pure life, sparkling like crystal, coming straight from God’s throne. It flowed right down the main street. On both banks was the Tree of Life, growing fresh fruit every single month. Even its leaves were powerful—they were meant to heal and bring peace to all the nations." John highlights:

- **"Flowing from the throne":** This signifies **The Source of Life**. Life doesn't come from nature, technology, or human effort; it flows directly from the authority and presence of God. If you are connected to the Throne, you are connected to the Source.
- **"The tree of life":** This signifies **Restoration**. In Genesis, humans were barred from the Tree of Life after they chose their own way. Here, the "No Trespassing" sign is gone. God has restored our access to eternal vitality.
- **"Fruit every month":** This signifies **Constant Abundance**. In our world, we have seasons of "famine" or "dryness." In God’s Kingdom, there is never a shortage of what we need. His grace is always "in season."
- **"Healing of the nations":** This signifies **The End of Conflict**. The "leaves" represent the medicine for the world’s oldest wounds—racism, war, bitterness, and division. God’s presence heals the relationships between different groups of people.

### The Commentary: What This Means for Us Today

1. **You Don't Have to Thirst:** Jesus told the woman at the well that He could give her "living water." That water is the same river John sees here. You don't have to wait for "heaven" to start drinking from the peace, joy, and life that God offers. You can turn to the "Throne" today.

2. **Healing is Possible:** Many of us carry "national" or "family" wounds that feel permanent. This verse promises that God's plan includes the total healing of our history. He is interested in fixing what is broken between us.
3. **The "Rhythm" of Grace:** The tree yielding fruit "every month" reminds us that God provides for us in a steady, rhythmic way. We don't have to "hoard" His blessings; we can trust that there will be "fresh fruit" tomorrow.

### The "Glory" Reflection:

- **The "River" Check:** Am I trying to find "life" in dry places (money, status, distraction), or am I drinking from the "River" of God's Word and Spirit?
- **The "Healing" Check:** Is there a relationship or a "division" in my life that needs the "healing leaves" of God's grace today?
- **The "Access" Check:** Do I realize that through Jesus, the "Tree of Life" is no longer off-limits to me?

## Revelation 22:3–5

“(3) No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. (4) They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. (5) There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.”

### The Context:

We have reached the "Happy Ending" of the human story. Everything that went wrong in the first few pages of the Bible (Genesis) is officially deleted here. The "Curse"—the barrier of sin, death, and toil that made life hard—is gone. The highlight of this passage is the most incredible promise in all of history: we won't just know *about* God; we will look directly at Him.

### The Meaning of the Face and the Name:

In simple American English, we might say, "The 'bad spell' that hung over the world is broken forever. God and Jesus will sit on the throne right there in the city, and we will get to be with them. We will finally see God's face, and everyone will know we belong to Him because His name will be on us. There's no darkness anymore because God's own light fills everything. And we will be part of His royal family, ruling with Him forever." John highlights:

- **"No longer any curse":** This signifies **Total Liberation**. The "curse" brought weeds, sweat, pain, and death. In the New City, work is a joy, bodies don't break, and the heart is never heavy.

- **"They will see his face":** This signifies **Ultimate Intimacy**. In the past, no one could see God's face and live because of His intense holiness. Now, because we are made "new," the "veil" is gone. We get to enjoy a face-to-face relationship with the Creator.
- **"His name on their foreheads":** This signifies **Identity and Ownership**. Just as the world tried to put the "mark of the beast" on people, God puts His own name on His children. It means you are His "brand," His pride, and His treasure.
- **"They will reign for ever and ever":** This signifies **Eternal Purpose**. You aren't just a "servant" in the sense of a slave; you are a "king" or "queen" in training. You have a job to do in the new universe, and that job involves ruling and creating alongside God.

### **The Commentary: What This Means for Us Today**

1. **The End of Shame:** Seeing God's face means there is nothing to hide. Today, we often feel "unworthy" to pray or talk to God because of our mistakes. This verse tells us that God's ultimate goal is to have us so close that we can look Him in the eye without fear.
2. **A New Name:** If you feel like your "identity" is defined by your failures, your job, or what others say about you, remember that God is preparing to put *His* name on you. Your true identity is "Child of the King."
3. **The Night is Temporary:** When you are going through a "dark night of the soul," remember verse 5. The darkness has an end date. The "Light of the Lord" is the final word on your life.

### **The "Glory" Reflection:**

- **The "Face" Check:** Do I talk to God like someone who is "hiding," or do I realize He wants me to seek His face with confidence?
- **The "Curse" Check:** Am I letting the "curse" (the stresses and pains of this world) define my mood, or am I living in the hope that the curse is already being broken in my life?
- **The "Reign" Check:** If I am going to "reign" in the future, how can I practice "reigning" over my own choices, my temper, and my habits today?

**The Curse is gone, the King is visible, and the light is eternal.** We are now at the very end of the vision.

## **Revelation 22:6–7**

“(6) The angel said to me, ‘These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.’ (7) ‘Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.’”

## The Context:

The grand, cinematic visions of the New Jerusalem and the River of Life have concluded. Now, the tone shifts from "showing" to "confirming." The angel stops to look John in the eye and remind him that this isn't just a beautiful dream or a piece of poetry—it is a guaranteed reality. Then, Jesus Himself interrupts the angel to give a direct promise and a blessing.

## The Meaning of the Confirmation and the Promise:

In simple American English, we might say, "The angel told me, 'You can bet your life on these words. The same God who spoke through the prophets of old is the one showing you the future.' Then Jesus spoke up and said, 'I'm coming back sooner than you think! Anyone who pays attention to these words and lives by them will be truly blessed.'" John highlights:

- **"Trustworthy and true"**: This signifies **Certainty**. In a world of "fake news," broken promises, and changing opinions, God's Word stands as the only solid ground. If He said it, it's as good as done.
- **"Must soon take place"**: This signifies **Urgency**. In God's timeline, the distance between His promise and His arrival is short. It reminds us that we are living in the "final act" of history.
- **"Look, I am coming soon!"**: This signifies **Expectation**. This is the "motto" of the Book of Revelation. Jesus isn't just a figure of the past; He is the coming King of the future.
- **"Keeps the words"**: This signifies **Action**. "Keeping" the words doesn't mean just memorizing them; it means letting them change the way you treat people, how you spend your money, and where you put your hope.

## The Commentary: What This Means for Us Today

1. **Hope is Not a Wish**: For a believer, "hope" isn't a "maybe." Because these words are "trustworthy and true," our hope is a confident expectation. When you feel discouraged, you can lean on the fact that the ending of the story has already been written.
2. **The "Soon" Mentality**: Living like Jesus is coming "soon" changes your priorities. It helps you let go of petty grudges and focus on what really matters—loving God and loving others. It turns our "waiting" into "working."
3. **The Blessing of Obedience**: The "blessing" isn't for those who just *know* the prophecy, but for those who *keep* it. There is a special kind of peace and joy that comes only when our lives line up with God's truth.

## The "Glory" Reflection:

- **The "Trust" Check**: Do I really believe these words are "trustworthy," or am I still living as if the "old world" is the only reality that matters?

- **The "Soon" Check:** If I knew Jesus was coming back tomorrow, what is the one thing I would change about my life today?
- **The "Keep" Check:** What is one specific "word" from this book (like "God will wipe away every tear" or "Love one another") that I need to "keep" in my heart this week?

## Revelation 22:8–9

“(8) I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. (9) But he said to me, ‘Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!’”

### The Context:

John is completely overwhelmed. After seeing the New Jerusalem, the River of Life, and the face of God, his natural human reaction is to fall down in awe. He directs this worship toward the messenger—the angel—who has been his tour guide through the heavens. But the angel immediately stops him, offering a powerful correction that re-centers the entire book.

### The Meaning of the Correction:

In simple American English, we might say, "John admitted, 'I'm the one who saw all this, and I was so blown away that I accidentally started worshiping the angel.' But the angel stopped him fast. 'Don't do that!' he said. 'I'm just a worker like you, your friends the prophets, and everyone who follows this book. Put your worship where it belongs—on God alone!'" John highlights:

- **"I, John... heard and saw":** This signifies **Eyewitness Testimony**. John isn't passing on a rumor; he is putting his personal signature on the experience. He wants us to know this is a real account from a real person.
- **"I fell down to worship":** This signifies **Human Frailty**. Even a great apostle can get distracted by the "messenger" and forget the "Sender." It shows how easy it is to turn good things (like angels or spiritual experiences) into idols.
- **"I am a fellow servant":** This signifies **Heavenly Equality**. The angel doesn't see himself as a god or a superior being to be prayed to. He identifies as a "coworker" with anyone who obeys God's word. We are all on the same team.
- **"Worship God!":** This signifies **The Main Point**. This is the two-word summary of the entire Bible. Everything in Revelation—the judgments, the battles, the new city—is designed to lead us to this one act.

## The Commentary: What This Means for Us Today

1. **Don't Worship the "Tools":** We often "worship" the things God uses to help us—a talented preacher, a beautiful church building, a moving song, or even a lucky break. The angel reminds us: *Don't get stuck on the messenger.* Always look past the gift to the Giver.
2. **The Dignity of the Servant:** The angel calls himself a "fellow servant" with *you*. This is incredibly humbling and encouraging. It means that when you "keep the words" of God, you are doing the same work as the highest angels in heaven. Your obedience gives you a seat at the table with the heavenly host.
3. **The Simplicity of Faith:** In a book filled with complex symbols (beasts, bowls, and dragons), the final command is simple: **Worship God.** If you get confused by the details of prophecy, just come back to this. If you are worshiping God, you are on the right track.

## The "Glory" Reflection:

- **The "Messenger" Check:** Is there someone or something in my life that I am admiring so much that it's taking the place of God? Am I giving "worship" (time, obsession, ultimate worth) to a "fellow servant"?
- **The "Team" Check:** Do I realize that I am a "fellow servant" with the angels? Does that change how much "weight" or importance I give to my daily prayers and actions?
- **The "Worship" Check:** If the angel's only command was "Worship God," how can I intentionally do that today? Not just in a song, but in my heart and my choices?

## Revelation 22:10–11

“(10) Then he told me, ‘Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. (11) Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.’”

### The Context:

In the Old Testament, the prophet Daniel was told to "seal up" his visions because the end was far off. But here, the angel tells John the exact opposite: **Keep the book open.** The vision is now public property because the "countdown" has already begun. Verse 11 is one of the most sobering in the Bible—it describes a "crystallization" of the human heart as the end approaches.

### The Meaning of the Open Scroll and the Fixed Heart:

In simple American English, we might say, "The angel said, 'Don't hide these words away or keep them a secret. People need to hear this now because the time is almost here.' Then he gave a strange warning:

'At a certain point, people become set in their ways. Those who want to do evil will keep doing it, but those who want to follow God will keep growing in holiness.'" John highlights:

- **"Do not seal up"**: This signifies **Accessibility**. God wants His plan to be known. He isn't trying to trick us or keep us in the dark. The "revelation" is meant to be read, studied, and shared by everyone.
- **"The time is near"**: This signifies **Imminence**. This isn't just about a date on a calendar; it's about a state of readiness. We are living in the "last hour," where the next major event on God's timeline is the return of the King.
- **"Let the one who does wrong continue"**: This signifies **The Power of Habit and Choice**. This isn't God *wanting* people to do evil; it's a warning that the longer we choose a certain path, the harder it is to turn back. Our choices eventually "harden" into our character.
- **"Let the holy person continue to be holy"**: This signifies **Perseverance**. Just as evil can become a habit, so can righteousness. As the end nears, those who love God will find themselves more and more committed to Him.

## The Commentary: What This Means for Us Today

1. **The Window of Opportunity**: The fact that the book is "unsealed" means the invitation is still open. But verse 11 reminds us that we shouldn't procrastinate. Our hearts are constantly "leaning" in one direction or another. Today is the day to lean toward God.
2. **Character is Destiny**: We often think of "judgment" as a surprise, but this passage suggests that judgment is simply the "final version" of the choices we make every day. If you practice being kind, honest, and faithful today, you are "continuing to be holy" for the future.
3. **No More Secrets**: Everything you need to know about the future and your relationship with God has been revealed. We don't need "new" revelations or secret codes; we just need to live out the "open book" we already have.

## The "Glory" Reflection:

- **The "Direction" Check**: If I continued exactly as I am right now for the next ten years, where would I end up? Am I "continuing" toward holiness or toward something else?
- **The "Open Book" Check**: Do I treat the Bible like a "sealed" book that I never look at, or an "unsealed" map that guides my daily life?
- **The "Urgency" Check**: Since "the time is near," is there a conversation I need to have or a step of faith I've been putting off?

## Revelation 22:12–13

“(12) ‘Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. (13) I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.’”

### **The Context:**

Jesus breaks into the dialogue again with a final, booming announcement. This is the third time in this chapter He says, "I am coming soon." He isn't just coming back to "end" the world; He is coming to **complete** it and to settle the accounts. He wraps His identity in the entire alphabet of history, reminding us that there is no part of time or space that He doesn't own.

### **The Meaning of the Reward and the Alphabet:**

In simple American English, we might say, "Jesus said, 'I'm on My way! And I'm bringing the rewards with Me to give to everyone based on how they lived. I am the A to Z—the one who started everything and the one who will finish it. I was there at the very first moment, and I will be there at the very last.'" John highlights:

- **"My reward is with me":** This signifies **Justice and Grace**. Jesus doesn't have to go "check the records" when He arrives; He already knows. He brings the reward with Him. This is a comfort to those who have suffered for doing right and a warning to those who think they can hide their actions.
- **"According to what they have done":** This signifies **Accountability**. Our faith is proven by our actions. While we are saved by grace, our "reward" (our role and joy in the New Kingdom) is connected to how we used the life God gave us here.
- **"Alpha and the Omega... Beginning and the End":** This signifies **Absolute Authority**. If Jesus is the Beginning, He knows where you came from. If He is the End, He knows where you are going. He is the "bookends" of your life and of the universe.

### **The Commentary: What This Means for Us Today**

1. **Work with the End in Mind:** When you are tired of doing the right thing—being honest when it's hard, or being kind when others are mean—remember that Jesus is "bringing the reward." Your effort is being noticed by the only One whose opinion truly matters.
2. **The "A to Z" of Peace:** If Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, it means nothing can happen "outside" of His control. Your "middle" (your current life) is held securely between His "Beginning" and His "End." You can rest because the Author is in charge of the whole story.
3. **The Immediacy of the King:** By saying "I am coming soon," Jesus keeps us on our toes. He wants us to live with the excitement of a child waiting for a loved one to come home. It keeps our faith fresh and our hearts expectant.

## The "Glory" Reflection:

- **The "Reward" Check:** If Jesus walked through the door right now with your reward, would you be excited to receive it, or would you wish you had done a few things differently?
- **The "Alphabet" Check:** Is Jesus the "Alpha" (the first priority) of my day? Is He the "Omega" (the last thought) of my night?
- **The "Action" Check:** What is one "good thing" I can do today that I want to be part of the "record" Jesus sees?

## Revelation 22:14–15

“(14) Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. (15) Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”

### The Context:

We are looking at the final "Beatitude" (the "Blessed is...") of the Bible. It is a final contrast between those who have accepted God's grace and those who have doubled down on their own way. This passage isn't just about a "list of sins"; it's about the **condition of the heart** as we approach the gates of eternity.

### The Meaning of the Robes and the Gates:

In simple American English, we might say, "Happy are the people who have cleaned up their lives through Jesus—they are the ones allowed to eat from the Tree of Life and walk through the city gates. But those who chose to stay 'dirty'—who loved lies, hurt others, and worshipped themselves—are left on the outside. They don't belong in a place built on truth and love." John highlights:

- **"Wash their robes":** This signifies **Grace and Action**. We don't make our own robes; Jesus provides them. But "washing" them means we actively choose to turn away from our old mistakes and live in the forgiveness He offers. It's a daily decision to stay "clean" in His sight.
- **"The right to the tree of life":** This signifies **Restoration of Privilege**. In the beginning, we lost the right to eternal life. Through the "washing," that right is legally and spiritually restored. You aren't a guest; you are a citizen with rights.
- **"Outside are...":** This signifies **The Necessity of Holiness**. Heaven is a place of total light. If someone "loves and practices falsehood," they literally cannot exist in a place that is "transparent as glass." It's not that God is "locking them out" as much as it is that they have chosen a character that is incompatible with the City.

- **"Everyone who loves and practices falsehood":** This is a powerful phrase. It's not just about telling a lie; it's about **loving the lie**. It's about preferring our own version of reality over God's truth.

## **The Commentary: What This Means for Us Today**

1. **The "Laundry" of the Soul:** We all get "dirty" in this world—we get cynical, we get selfish, we make mistakes. The good news is that there is a place to wash. We don't have to carry the stains of our past into our future.
2. **The Consistency of Character:** Verse 15 reminds us that our "hobbies" and "habits" today are shaping who we will be forever. If we "practice" falsehood now, we are training ourselves to be outsiders. If we "practice" holiness, we are getting used to the atmosphere of the City.
3. **The Open Gate:** Even though there is an "outside," the previous verses remind us that the gates are never shut. The invitation to "wash" is still active right now.

## **The "Glory" Reflection:**

- **The "Robe" Check:** Is there something in my life right now that feels "stained"? Do I need to bring it to Jesus today to be "washed" and forgiven?
- **The "Truth" Check:** Am I "practicing falsehood" in any area—maybe by pretending to be someone I'm not, or by holding onto a secret sin? How can I step into the "light" of honesty today?
- **The "Right" Check:** Do I live with the confidence of someone who has a "right" to the Tree of Life, or am I still living like a stranger to God's promises?

## **Revelation 22:16–17**

“(16) ‘I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.’ (17) The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come!’ Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.”

## **The Context:**

After chapters of intense visions and angelic messengers, Jesus speaks directly. He puts His personal signature on the entire book of Revelation. He then joins with the Holy Spirit and the Church (the Bride) to issue one final, echoing invitation to the reader. It is the last "altar call" of the Bible.

## The Meaning of the Signature and the Invitation:

In simple American English, we might say, "Jesus said, 'I'm the one who sent this message to the churches. I am the King from David's family line, and I am the Morning Star that signals a new day is starting.' Then, the Holy Spirit and the whole Church shouted, 'Come!' Everyone who hears this should join in and say, 'Come!' If you are thirsty for something real, come and take the water of life. It's a free gift." John highlights:

- **"Root and the Offspring of David":** This signifies **Perfect Authority**. Jesus is both the *source* of David (his Creator) and the *descendant* of David (the promised King). He fulfills every promise made to Israel.
- **"The bright Morning Star":** This signifies **The End of Darkness**. The morning star appears right before the sun rises, at the darkest part of the night. Jesus is telling us that even when the world feels darkest, His appearance means the "New Day" of eternity is about to break.
- **"The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!'":** This signifies **Divine Harmony**. The Holy Spirit and the followers of Jesus are in total agreement. Their deepest desire is for the King to return and for the thirsty to find home.
- **"Let the one who wishes take...":** This signifies **Human Choice**. God provides the water, but we must provide the "wish." The only requirement for salvation is wanting it.

## The Commentary: What This Means for Us Today

1. **A Personal Message:** Jesus doesn't say "The Divine Being sent this"; He says **"I, Jesus."** He wants you to know that this book isn't just a manual of theology; it's a personal letter from Him to you. He is invested in your understanding and your hope.
2. **The "Free" Factor:** In a world where everything has a price tag or a "catch," the water of life is a **free gift**. You don't have to earn it, fix yourself first, or pay for it. You just have to be thirsty enough to reach out and take it.
3. **The Power of the Morning Star:** When you are going through a personal "night"—grief, doubt, or struggle—look for the Morning Star. Jesus' presence is the guarantee that your "morning" is coming.

## The "Glory" Reflection:

- **The "Thirst" Check:** What am I thirsty for right now? Am I trying to quench that thirst with things that don't last, or am I coming to the "Water of Life"?
- **The "Come" Check:** Is my heart saying "Come, Lord Jesus"? Am I excited for His return, or am I too attached to the things of this world?
- **The "Gift" Check:** Do I struggle to accept "free" things? How can I practice simply receiving God's love today without trying to "repay" Him for it?

# Revelation 22:18–21

“(18) I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. (19) And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll. (20) He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (21) The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.”

## The Context:

We have reached the very last lines of the Bible. After the sweeping visions of heaven, the terrifying judgments, and the beautiful New Jerusalem, the book ends with a "Seal of Protection" and a personal prayer. It is a moment of extreme sobriety and extreme hope.

## The Meaning of the Warning and the Last Prayer:

In simple American English, we might say, "Don't mess with this book. Don't add your own ideas to it, and don't ignore the parts you don't like. If you do, you'll lose your place in the beautiful future God has planned. Jesus, the one who told us all this, says one last time: 'Yes, I'm coming soon.' And John answers for all of us: 'Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!' May His grace be with all of you. The End." John highlights:

- **"Do not add... do not take away":** This signifies **The Integrity of Truth**. This isn't just a "legal" warning; it's a spiritual one. If we change the message to fit our own desires, we lose the map to the destination. We must accept God's Word exactly as it is.
- **"Yes, I am coming soon":** This signifies **The Final Promise**. These are the very last words spoken by Jesus in the Bible. He wants His "Coming" to be the last thing ringing in our ears.
- **"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus":** This signifies **The Heart of the Believer**. "Amen" means "Let it be so." It is the signature of our faith. We aren't just *waiting* for Jesus; we are *inviting* Him.
- **"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people":** This signifies **The Final Blessing**. The Bible begins with "In the beginning, God created," but it ends with "Grace." This shows that grace is the final word on human history.

## The Commentary: What This Means for Us Today

1. **Respect the Story:** We are often tempted to "edit" God's Word—to skip the parts about judgment or to ignore the calls to holiness. The warning at the end of Revelation reminds us that the "whole counsel of God" is what leads us to the Tree of Life.
2. **A Posture of "Maranatha":** The phrase "Come, Lord Jesus" (in Aramaic, *Maranatha*) was the greeting of the early church. It reminds us that our true home isn't here. When we feel overwhelmed by the news or by personal trials, this should be our go-to prayer.

3. **Ending in Grace:** No matter how scary some parts of Revelation seemed—the dragons, the bowls, the battles—the very last word is **Grace**. It reminds us that God's favor is what carries us from the first page of our lives to the very last.

### **The "Glory" Reflection:**

- **The "Truth" Check:** Am I letting the *whole* Bible shape my life, or am I "taking away" the parts that make me uncomfortable?
- **The "Prayer" Check:** Can I honestly say, "Come, Lord Jesus" today? Is there anything holding me back from wanting His return right now?
- **The "Grace" Check:** Do I realize that God's "Grace" is the final answer to all my mistakes and all the world's problems?

**We have finished the journey!** From the letters to the churches to the streets of transparent gold, you have walked through the final revelation of Jesus Christ.

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the truth and hope revealed in Revelation chapter 22. As we come to the close of Your Word, we are reminded that Your promises are faithful and true, and that You are coming soon.

Lord, help us to live in readiness, keeping our hearts pure and our lives devoted to Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith so that we will remain steadfast, holding firmly to Your truth and walking in obedience each day.

Fill us with a deep longing for Your presence and a desire to share the invitation of eternal life with others. May we never take for granted the gift of salvation, but instead live with gratitude, hope, and purpose.

As we wait for the return of our Lord, may our hearts echo the final prayer of Scripture: "Come, Lord Jesus."

In Jesus' name,  
Amen.