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Come Quickly!

Series: Between a Rock and a Hard Place

October 24, 2021

Revelation 22.6-21

I. **Context**

A. Prologue

1. **Revelation 1:7-8** (NASB95) — 7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. 8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

B. **Theme**

1. **Jesus Christ is coming**
 - a. Tribes of earth will mourn over Him
 - b. Eschatological triumph of Christ over the anti-Christian forces of evil in the world and in the heavenly realms
2. **Purpose – encourage the churches under great pressure**
 - a. Series: Between Rock and a Hard Place

C. How is this purpose accomplished?

1. **Four visions**
 - a. **“In the Spirit”**
2. **Revelation 1:9-10**
 - a. **First vision**
 - (1) The glorified Christ
 - (2) The messages to the seven churches
3. **Revelation 4:1-2**
 - a. **Second vision**
 - (1) The heavenly vision
 - (2) The tribulation
4. **Revelation 17:1-3**
 - a. **Third vision**
 - (1) The mystery of Babylon
 - (2) Judgment of Babylon
 - (3) Coming of Christ
 - (4) Millennium
 - (5) Final triumph and consummation
5. **Revelation 21:9-10**
 - a. **Fourth vision**
 - (1) The New Jerusalem

D. Last Vision – expanded view of New Jerusalem

1. **The Bride, the Wife of the Lamb – Revelation 21:9-14**

- a. The Church
- b. The Glory of God
- c. Gates – tribes of Israel
- d. Foundations – apostles
- 2. **The Measurement of the City – Revelation 21:15–17**
 - a. Cubic construction
 - b. Extraordinary dimensions
- 3. **The Material of the City – Revelation 21:18–21**
 - a. Jasper walls
 - b. Gold city, streets
 - c. Gates of pearl
 - d. Foundations with precious stones
- 4. **Its Moral Quality – Revelation 21:22–27**
 - a. No temple
 - b. Glory shines through Lamb
 - c. Nations and the light of the glory
 - d. Gates never shut
 - e. Nothing impure
- 5. **The River of Life – Revelation 22.1-5**
 - a. Symbol of eternal life
 - b.
- E. **The River of the Water of Life**
 - 1. **From throne**
 - 2. **Tree of life**
 - 3. **No more curse**
 - 4. **Bondservants** will serve Him; see His face; name on foreheads
 - 5. **No longer any night**
 - 6. **Reign**
- II. **The Prophecy Confirmed**
 - A. **Revelation 22:6–11 (NASB95) —**
 - 1. 6 And he said to me, “These words are faithful and true”; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.
 - 2. 7 “And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”
 - 3. 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things.
 - 4. 9 But he said to me, “Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.”
 - 5. 10 And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.
 - 6. 11 “Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness;

and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy.”

- B. **Angel confirms words as faithful**
 - 1. Sent from God
 - 2. Show servants what must soon take place
 - a. Reiterates earlier statement
 - b. **Revelation 1:1** (NASB95) — 1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John...
- C. **Jesus Himself confirms prophecy**
 - 1. Look for imminence of return of Christ
 - 2. Promises blessing for those who keep its words
 - a. **Revelation 1:3** (NASB95) — 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.
- D. **John’s erroneous worship**
 - 1. Magnificence of visions incline him
 - 2. Angel redirects worship to God
 - a. Angel is servant just like...
 - (1) John
 - (2) Prophets
 - (3) All who keep the words of the book
- E. **John’s Responsibility: Do not seal up**
 - 1. Often prophets were to seal prophecies for another time and generation
 - 2. No more need to seal it up
 - a. Message for John’s present church
 - b. Message for church of all ages
 - c. Message for eschatological church
 - d. Message is complete
- F. **Time is Up**
 - 1. Let him who does wrong... does right
 - 2. There will come a time when opportunity for repentance will end, and the hardening will be unalterably complete
 - 3. Live in age with capacity for change
 - a. This age will end
 - b. All will be established in their moral condition

III. **History Confirmed**

- A. **Revelation 22:12–16** (NASB95) —
 - 1. 12 “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.
 - 2. 13 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”
 - 3. 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.
 - 4. 15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the

- murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.
5. 16 “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

B. **Imminent return established**

1. Coming quickly
 - a. Indicating soon?
 - b. More like, when He comes it will be sudden

C. **Nature and basis of judgment** reviewed

1. “My reward it with Me”
 - a. The church
 - b. Coming to reign with Christ
2. All held accountable in terms of what one has done
 - a. Judgment for those not under the blood of the Lamb
 - b. Will see a movie recounting all the deeds which have besmirched the Altogether Lovely and perfectly holy Almighty God
3. Authority of the Judge
 - a. Jesus – Alpha and Omega – what applies to the Father applies to the Son
 - b. **Revelation 1:8** (NASB95) — 8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

D. **Blessing affirmed for redeemed**

1. Robes washed
 - a. In the blood of the Lamb!
 - b. Dressed in the righteousness of Christ
2. Right to the tree of life
 - a. Recall – tree of life makes permanent and eternal the moral state of those who partake
 - b. Once redeemed, sin eradicated – the permanent state of the redeemed
3. Enter gates of city
 - a. Recall – only the pure and righteous may enter the holy city

E. **Cursing established for unredeemed**

1. Outside the city
2. All the impure and sinful may not come in
 - a. Fluidity of images in Revelation
 - b. Gates never close in eternal state
 - c. Simply another way of stipulating the purity and holiness of the city in contrast to the sinfulness of the world

F. **Affirms the message of the angel**

1. Jesus Himself has sent the angel
 - a. Comes with the authority of Jesus
2. Authority over the churches

G. **Root and descendant (offspring) of David**

1. First two of Jesus' final self-disclosures
2. Conundrum – apparent contradiction
3. Root = source, origin
4. Offspring, descendant = product, result, consequence
5. How can Jesus be both the root of David and the offspring of David?
 - a. Origin and consequence at the same time
6. Solution – recognition of who Jesus is in His natures
 - a. NT – Jesus is the God-man
 - (1) Both divine and human natures
 - b. Theology – hypostatic union
 - (1) Both the divine and human natures are united in one person
 - (2) Natures are distinguishable, but indivisible
 - (a) Can recognize elements of humanity – weariness, need for food, physical presence
 - (b) Can also see when deity expresses itself – miracles
7. Root of David – origin, source of David
 - a. Divine nature
 - b. David (and every human being) is derived from God alone, and Christ who is the instrument of creation
8. Offspring of David – product, progeny of David
 - a. Human nature
 - b. NT makes much of the human ancestry of Jesus; establishes His humanity clearly
 - c. And of the significance of His messianic position – kingly line of David

H. **Bright, morning star**

1. Not the only time star-like qualities are indicated for Messiah
 - a. **Numbers 24:17** (NKJV) — 17 “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; **A Star shall come out of Jacob**; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel...
 - b. **Isaiah 9:2** (NKJV) — 2 The people who walked in darkness Have seen **a great light**; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.
 - c. **Isaiah 42:6** (NKJV) — 6 “I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, **As a light to the Gentiles...**
 - d. **John 1:4–5** (NKJV) — 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.
 - (1) **Jn 8.9,12** – Jesus is the **light of the world**
 - e. **2 Peter 1:19** (NKJV) — 19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as **a light that shines in a dark place**, until the day dawns and **the morning star** rises in your hearts;
 - f. Here Rev 22.16 – **bright Morning star**

2. **Stars are without darkness**
 - a. **1 John 1:5** (NKJV) — 5 ... God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
 - b. Sinlessness is evident from the very beginning in regard to the contrast with the sinful world
 - c. **John 1:4–5** (NKJV) — 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.
 - (1) Contrast – Jesus v. sinfulness of the world (darkness)
 - d. **John 1:9–11** (NKJV) — 9 That was the **true Light which gives light to every man** coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and **the world did not know Him**. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
 - e. It is in the darkness that stars shine the most!
 - (1) Love Canaan Valley for many reasons
 - (a) One of them – it’s so dark!
 - (b) Clear night, astronomical display is breathtaking
 - (c) Katie came out from DC a few years ago to be with us
 - (d) DC is never dark enough to see many stars
 - (e) She was overwhelmed
 - f. It is often in the darkness of our own human experience that the light of Christ shines most
 - (1) Grief
 - (2) Depression
 - (3) Physical illness
 - (4) Struggles with sin
 - (5) Broken relationships
 - g. Christ shines most clearly during those times of darkness
 - h. Valley of Vision (Puritan prayer)
 - (1) Lord, in the daytime stars can be seen from the deepest wells, and the deeper the wells the brighter thy stars shine;
 - (2) Let me find thy light in my darkness, thy life in my death, thy joy in my sorrow, thy grace in my sin, thy riches in my poverty, thy glory in my valley.
3. **“Stars sparkle and cast forth their beams”** (Greenhill)
 - a. In doing so, they penetrate and dispel the darkness
 - b. **Jesus’ sparkled in the truth of the gospel**
 - (1) **2 Corinthians 4:6** (NKJV) — 6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
 - (2) **1 John 2:8** (NKJV) — 8 Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because

the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.

- c. Gospel of Christ dispels darkness
 - (1) **Matthew 4:16** (NKJV) — 16 The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.”
- d. **Jesus sparkled in His miracles**
 - (1) Miracles – the means by which God the Father attested to the person and work of His Son
 - (2) The Father’s stamp
 - (3) The Son’s credentials
 - (4) John calls these miracles “signs”
 - (a) They signify something
 - (5) John’s signs often involved additional meanings associated with the nature of the miracles He did
 - (a) Healed the man born blind – Jesus is the light of the world
 - (b) Fed the 5,000 – Jesus is the bread of life
 - (c) Raised Lazarus from the dead – Jesus is the resurrection and the life
 - (6) But the primary sign, the primary meaning, was that Jesus is who He said He is
 - (a) He is God incarnate
 - (b) No mere mortal can do true miracles – only God
 - (7) John’s recorded miracles had a purpose – so that we would recognize Messiah and trust Him
 - (8) **John 20:30–31** (NKJV) — 30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.
- e. Another way to see Jesus’ star qualities shining is to see how **His humanity and deity were displayed** in the context of miracles
 - (1) Jesus was the God-man
 - (2) But His deity was largely cloaked within His humanity
 - (a) Is 53 – He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
 - (3) But in His miracles His deity would break through the cloak of humanity
 - (a) Much like the stars would break through the clouds as a nighttime storm passes away
 - (4) Theologians – **finitum non capax infinitum**
 - (a) The finite cannot contain the infinite
 - (5) Jesus’ star would shine from time to time when His infinite

- deity would break through the cloud of His finite humanity
- f. **Jesus' star sparkled in His conduct**
- (1) While in His miracles we saw the power of God, and in those miracles the compassion of God, in Jesus' conduct we saw the character of God
 - (2) He sparkled in His humility
 - (a) **John 13** – washed the disciples' feet, a demeaning task if there ever was one, especially for One who is God incarnate
 - (b) As an example for us to follow with that kind of servanthood
 - (3) He sparkled in His meekness and patience
 - (a) **Isaiah 53:7** (NKJV) — 7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.
 - (b) **Matthew 11:29** (NKJV) — 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
 - (4) Nothing more impressive in our day than a person who is truly meek and humble
 - (5) He sparkled in His self-denial and obedience to the Father
 - (a) **Philippians 2:8** (NKJV) — 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
 - (6) He sparkled in His love for humanity
 - (a) Revelation 1:5 (NKJV) — 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood...
 - (b) Greenhill: Did ever any mother love the child so as to wash it in her own blood? Did ever any prince so love his own people as to wash them in his own blood? But Christ has so loved us as to shed His blood and to wash us in His own blood. He has so loved us as to lay down His life for us, and He thought nothing too dear to part with, nothing too hard to suffer on our account
 - (7) Love was expressed, not just in His death as overwhelming as that is to contemplate, but also in His deep, heart-felt pity and compassion for lost people and needy people
 - (a) **Luke 19** – Jesus wept over Jerusalem
 - (b) **John 11** – Jesus wept at the distress of Mary and

Martha at the death of Lazarus

- (8) Regarding His compassion for lost people
 - (a) Greenhill: Christ wept over sinners who would not weep for themselves.
 - (b) He is still weeping for such people
- (9) Do we have that kind of compassion for lost people who don't know enough to weep for themselves?

4. **The morning star is the most eminent of stars**

- a. Greenhill: ... Christ is the chief Star, the Star of the first magnitude. There is not a more glorious star in the heavens than the morning star, and none more glorious than Christ.... Christ is a Star who is most eminent; there is no star among the sons of men, no man, no angel who is equal to Christ. He is above them. He is of a higher magnitude.... He has more beauty, more glory, more majesty, and more greatness than any of the children of men.... He goes beyond all the stars and all the lights in the world, and all the lights in heaven.

5. Finally, the morning star characterizes Jesus because **the morning star brings news of good tidings**

- a. When the morning star is up, the day is quickly approaching
- b. The coming of Christ was a day of glad tidings
 - (1) The day was at hand, and the night was coming to an end
- c. **Luke 2:10–11** (NKJV) — 10 Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
- d. Zacharias’ prophecy: **Luke 1:76–79** (NKJV) — 76 “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, 77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins, 78 Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; 79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.”
- e. Jesus’ birth, marked by the star followed by the Magi, was a new day of God’s grace

IV. **The Invitation**

- A. **Revelation 22:17** (NASB95) —
 - 1. 17 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 wishes take the water of life without cost.
- B. The invitation comes from both **Spirit and bride**
 - 1. Church participates in the invitation
- C. The invitation is **to those thirsty**
- D. Invitation is to those who want **the water of life**

V. **The Warning**

- A. **Revelation 22:18–19** (NASB95) —
 - 1. 18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book;
 - 2. 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.
- B. **No mishandling of scripture**
 - 1. No additions
 - a. No new revelations
 - b. The end of scripture
 - 2. No subtractions
 - a. Like theological liberals
 - b. No Thomas Jefferson with his scissors
- C. **Addressed to hearers**
 - 1. You're heard it – you're now accountable!
- D. **Punishment fits the crime**
 - 1. Lose the promises of the Revelation!
- VI. **The Closing**
 - A. **Revelation 22:20–21** (NASB95) —
 - 1. 20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
 - 2. 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.
 - B. Recapitulation of **imminent coming**
 - 1. Message of Revelation
 - a. Encouraging the churches between rock and hard place
 - b. Always being ready for the coming of Christ
 - C. **Standard closing of grace**
 - 1. Benediction
 - a. Arguably the greatest benediction – it ends scripture
 - b. The greatest because grace is our greatest need
 - 2. Revelation – book about grace in the face of wicked attacks on the people of God and of Christ