

Even So, Come, Lord Jesus

Text: Revelation 22.10–21

Theme: The blessing of Revelation comes to us fully when Jesus returns.

Introduction — “And they all lived happily ever after.”

- it’s the usual ending we expect from a fairy tale, a children’s book, or perhaps a love story
- most of us know, however, it doesn’t always turn out that way in real life
- there are heartaches, diseases, pains, losses, death and so many other issues

And yet, the Bible ends that way

- in Revelation 21 & 22, we see how God is finally bringing all things in this world to a close
- He has had to righteously and justly pour out His wrath upon sinful man
- this world’s systems and cultures needed to be purged, washed away
- the devil, his beast and false prophet thrown into the lake of fire
- all those were signs that something was wrong in this world
- that wasn’t how it was supposed to be, right?
- but once that is all finished, we see the blessings that come to us through Jesus Christ
- we’ve looked at these, have we not?
- the marriage we were meant to share
- there is the inheritance we are meant to receive
- and don’t forget the community we’ll be part of
- once there, we see the glory which we’ll partake of
- that gets lived out in the garden we were meant to live in
- and overlapping where we’ll finish this morning are the words we are meant to keep

Let’s see this morning how this all comes to a grand conclusion as we see that we are...

I. BLESSED IN THE KEEPING

- from the very opening of Revelation, we have been promised blessings
- if we keep and obey the words of this book, we’ll be blessed
- and we’ve seen it here in the end again as well
- **“And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”**

(Revelation 22:7 ESV)

- I pray this long walk through Revelation has proven to be that for each one of you
- I am trusting the Lord to bless us as a church for having considered all that is in it
- and may your heart be moved powerfully to worship

1. Worship rightly

- **“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, 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.””**

(Revelation 22:8–9 ESV)

- John’s instinct was to fall down in worship at all that he has received
- but he is mistaken in this: he falls at the feet of a creature, created like himself
- his heart needs to worship only God alone
- does what we’ve learned in this series make you want to worship God all the more?
- is your heart more open to Christ’s love and grace than before?
- do you find your mind renewed thru this Word and the Holy Spirit?

- again, I have prayed that it would be so: may your heart's worship tank be overflowing

2. The time is at hand

- in v. 10, John heard these words: **“And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.”**
- John knew that Daniel, over 700 years previously, had been told this:
- **“But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”**
(Daniel 12:4 ESV)
- now John is told to NOT shut them up
- why? Because the time is at hand; this word needs to be heard and heeded

3. Prophecy fulfilled right before our eyes

- again, from Daniel
- **“Many shall purify themselves and make themselves white and be refined, but the wicked shall act wickedly. And none of the wicked shall understand, but those who are wise shall understand.”**
(Daniel 12:10 ESV)
- that prophecy is now fulfilled in Rev. 22.11
- **“Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.”**
(Revelation 22:11 ESV)
- don't let your heart be troubled or thrown off course by the evil still in this world
- they will continue until God judges them
- you, on the other hand, as one of Christ's followers, live a righteous life

4. How the Word works

- some hearts are melted by God's Word
- the Holy Spirit goes before it's preaching, proclamation and does a work in our hearts
- it softens it, it warms it, it prepares it for what it will hear in this book
- you are moved to repentance from sin, to renewal in your mind to obey Christ's word
- but sadly, some hearts are just made all the harder by God's Word
- they resist it's life-giving message
- they reject the Savior come to save them
- there is a tremendous blessing that comes from this book
- but there is also a cursing and judgment to those who refuse to take it in

As we move forward, closer and closer to the ending, we hear from Jesus how we are...

II. BLESSED IN THE REWARDS OF GRACE

- Jesus sets into motion all these events of the great ending
- **“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”**
(Revelation 22:12–13 ESV)

1. Recompense and repayment

- these thoughts have run nearly through the entire work
- and maybe you're tired of hearing about recompense, justice and judgment, and God's wrath
- but John's early readers didn't grow weary of it

- they needed this assurance that Jesus would come and set things right
- it served to strengthen their perseverance knowing that Jesus would repay the evildoer
- as they suffered for the name, their comfort and hope was anchored in this truth

2. But grace comes also

- Jesus words should shake the world of those who do not trust Him now
- but when He comes bringing recompense, He also brings reward
- this is one of the purposes of Revelation: to know we're strengthened to persevere
- the new life we are given in Christ is to be lived out, boldly, without fear, and with assurance
- Jesus' parable about the master who left his servants to care for matters comes to mind
- as he left, each of his servants were left with the expectation of their master's return
- and so they, well, almost all worked toward that end
- and what did they hear when their master returned?
- words of comfort, hope, confidence, and reward
- **“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”**
(Matthew 25:21 ESV)

3. Rewards by works, not salvation by works

- it is important that we never confuse these two matters
- to try to earn your favor with God for salvation will only doom you for eternity
- but, if you have lived for Christ, no matter how much, you will be rewarded
- this is what Jesus means by what He says next
- **“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. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”**
(Revelation 22:14–15 ESV)
- the future awaits, it moves always ever closer to us
- which future are you prepared for?
- the one in which you will suffer horribly for time without end because you rejected Jesus?
- because you thought certain actions of your or rituals performed upon you saved you?
- or will you know the fulfillment of the grace that began a good work in you?
- will you experience the all-encompassing blessing of an all-satisfying life in Christ?
- look to Jesus and be saved, even this very day, before it is too late

Keep bearing the voice of Jesus as He tells how we are...

III. BLESSED IN THE PROMISES ANTICIPATED

- John has used nearly 500 references from the Old Testament in his writings
- he hears the fulfillment of two more OT prophecies again in v. 16
- **“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.”**
(Revelation 22:16 ESV)

1. Tied with His first advent

- **“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.”**
(Isaiah 11:1 ESV)
- we think of this shoot that grows at this time of year, Christmas

- we know, from the pages of holy writ, that Jesus is that shoot that grows
- it looked like David's line might be cut off, the promised Messiah might never come
- but how wrong that thinking is, for Jesus was born of the virgin, of the lineage of David
- even though the stump looked dried up and dead, Jesus springs forth in great life
- of this one flowing from Jesse' line, and David's heritage we see these things
- **“And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”**
(Isaiah 11:2 ESV)
- **“...with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.”**
(Isaiah 11:4 ESV)
- **“The wolf shall dwell with the Lamb...”**
(Isaiah 11:6 ESV)
- and oh the glory of this great truth
- **“...for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.”**
(Isaiah 11:9 ESV)
- here in Revelation 22.16, being identified as the root and descendant of David...
- Jesus is declared the king, bringing everything Isaiah foretold to pass

2. A bright morning star

- God uses amazing means to bring about His will and plan of redemption
- generations before this, He used a pagan prophet named Balaam to say this
- **“...a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel...”**
(Numbers 24:17 ESV)
- Jesus brings in the dawning of a new day
- He will shine like this wonderful star over a new creation
- this is where God's eternal day will never end
- it is the day we long for, that we live for even now, in getting ready for that day
- don't ever stop, no matter what comes your way

We've heard from an angel, from John, and from Jesus Himself; now we hear the Spirit & bride say we are...

IV. BLESSED IN THE INVITATION OF REVELATION

- these words now come from the Holy Spirit of God
- He speaks through the lips of those who are in love with Jesus
- **“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.”**
(Revelation 22:17 ESV)

1. This is to be our message to the world

- all of us are engaged to be married to Jesus Christ forever and ever
- so, we cry out to the world: “Come!”
- like that untrained servant in an English church a century and a half ago
- speaking to a snow-bound group of only about a dozen people, he opened God's Word
- there was a young 17-year old, who, forced by the snow, entered this church
- and he heard these words, not from an eloquently addressed message by a preacher
- but from one of God's loved ones: “Look to Him and be saved!”
- Charles Spurgeon came to Jesus that day and God used him powerfully
- who knows but that there might be a Spurgeon among us this morning

- you're here, you're wrestling with God, trying to make sense of sin and how to be forgiven
- well, here are the words of God's very own Spirit
- they are spoken by each of us who love Him now: "Come! Come to Jesus and be saved!"
- we say, with boldness in Christ: "Stop trying to find water for your thirst in this world"
- "Cease thinking foolishly that you can fill yourself up with stuff of world and be happy"
- do you desire something more? That desire is what you need
- this life and relationship are given freely to anyone and everyone who will bring nothing but their need to Jesus
- Come! Come today. Stop delaying, Come!

2. One last warning

- sometimes we get tired of waiting, finding it difficult to be patient
- but we are to be a waiting people
- God's people have always had to wait for His will and plan to come about
- the temptation to either give up or to try to change things to make it easier is always there
- **"I 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, 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."**

(Revelation 22:18–19 ESV)

- some want to figure out exactly when He'll return in hopes it will make life easier
- others want to fudge on holy living because it's just too hard to live that way until He comes
- so many, far too many, simply try to change God's Word to make it say what they want
- I'm sure you've heard by now how the head of the largest church in the world has done this
- the pope's declaration this past week shows, sadly, his true heart
- the plagues of this prophecy will be added to him unless God grant true repentance
- it is possible, that even one who's foolishness and hardness to the Word, can be saved yet
- may it be true of none of you who hear my voice this day.

3. A final word

- you may recall words of radio or TV announcers saying, "Now a word from our sponsor"
- well, we have a final word from our Savior
- **"He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"**

(Revelation 22:20 ESV)

- people's final words are important
- I have a little book that contains the final words of many famous people in history
- here we have Jesus' final words: "Surely—with absolute certainty—I am coming soon"
- Jesus invites us to hold on to Him and His Word with all we have

Conclusion – Here we are on Christmas Eve Day

- and, in celebrating the first coming of Jesus Christ, we find ourselves coming full circle
- as we close this book about His second coming, we also rejoice
- **"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen."

(Revelation 22:20–21 ESV)

- John has taken it all in and written down
- God has breathed it out and preserved it all for us today
- we know that we'll still need to wait for it all to be worked out

- but it will be worked out, indeed, exactly as God has planned it
- may we hear the blessing which John's first readers heard and needed to sustain them
- **"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen."**

May our Christmas this year be filled with not only the look back in time

- may it be blessed as we look ahead and wait for His coming
- may you be blessed with the strength you need to keep what is written in this book
- may you be blessed with the grace of having your robe washed in Christ's blood so you can live in the confidence that you will be welcomed into His presence
- may you be blessed with the joy of calling thirsty people—maybe even family members over these next days—to come and drink from the water of life that can be found only in Christ Jesus
- and may you be blessed with a longing for your King to come and for the dawning of the eternal day