**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: The Early Church wanted to know “What must I do to be Saved?” Today’s Church is asking “What can I do and still be Saved?”**

**COME, LORD JESUS**

**Inside the New Jerusalem.**

[**Revelation 22:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/22/1/s_1189001)(NKJV) **And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.**

1. **A pure river of water of life**: Through the Old Testament, prophets used the picture of a river as a powerful expression of richness, provision, and peace ([**Isaiah 48:18**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isa/48/18/s_727018)**,** [**Zechariah 14:8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/zec/14/8/s_925008)**,** [**Ezekiel 47:1-9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/eze/47/1-9/s_849001)).
   1. Or, as expressed by the **Psalmist** in [**Psalm 46:4-5**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/psa/46/4-5/s_524004): ***There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn*.**
   2. (Seiss) “One of the gladdest things on earth is water. There is nothing in all the world so precious to the eye and the imagination of the inhabitant of the dry, burning and thirsty East, as a plentiful supply of bright, pure, and living water.”
   3. Poole wrote that this idea of this river was “To let us know, that in heaven there shall be no want of anything that can make the saints happy.”
2. **Clear as crystal**: God’s provision in the New Jerusalem is described with pure, absolutely unpolluted waters.
   1. (Seiss) “Its waters are literal waters, of a nature and quality answering to that of the golden city to which they belong. Man on earth never knew such waters, as men on earth never knew such a city; but the city is a sublime reality.”
3. **From the throne of God and of the Lamb**: This river of provision comes right from God’s throne. Because it comes from God, it cannot be anything other than pure and abundant.
4. Ezekiel saw a glorious river ([**Ezekiel 47**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/eze/47/1-23/s_849001)) flow down from the temple in Jerusalem and into the sea, but that river belongs to the millennial earth. It is perhaps the final preview of this heavenly river. This is a better river with better trees.

**The tree of life.**

[**Revelation 22:2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/22/2/s_1189002) **In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, *was* the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.**

1. **The tree of life**: The Bible begins with the tree of life ([**Genesis 3:22-24**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/gen/3/22-24/s_3022)) which man was not allowed to eat from after they sinned. Now we see **the tree of life** again.
2. **In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river**: It’s a little hard to picture this heavenly landscaping. John may be describing a large street with a river flowing down the middle, and a large tree that grows with roots on either side of the river.
   1. This is how John Walvoord sees it: “The visual picture presented is that the river of life flows down through the middle of the city, and the tree is large enough to span the river, so that the river is in the midst of the street, and the tree is on both sides of the river.”
   2. Others see that the word **tree** as a collective reference, speaks of rows of trees that stand on either side of the river.
   3. (Spurgeon) “The picture presented to the mind’s eye would appear to be that of a wide street, with a river flowing down the center, like some of the broader canals of Holland, with trees growing on either side, all of them of the same kind, all called the tree of life. I do not know how we can make the figure out in any other way.”
   4. Seeing the **tree of life** again points to a restoration of all things. (Preston/Hanson) “Now at last, almost at the end of the great drama of the Bible, man may return and legitimately enjoy the blessing which he was banished for illegitimately desiring.”
   5. **Each tree yielding its fruit every month**: From all indications, this describes the world of the new heaven and the new earth, yet we are given a *time indicator*. Apparently, heaven will still mark time, but not be subject to it in the same way we are on this side of eternity.
   6. Some people wonder if we will eat in heaven. The best answer is that we can eat, but will not have to, and hopefully not affect our body image.
      1. In His resurrection body, Jesus enjoyed food ([**Luke 24:41-43**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/luk/24/41-43/s_997041)**,** [**John 21:12-14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jhn/21/12-14/s_1018012)). Angels ate with Abraham ([**Genesis 18:6-8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/gen/18/6-8/s_18006)). The great heavenly reunion between Jesus and His people is described as a marriage supper ([**Revelation 19:9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/19/9/s_1186009)).
      2. Even though man fell by what he ate, God will still allow us to eat in heaven.
   7. (Seiss) “Like the golden table of showbread which ever stood in the ancient Tabernacle and Temple for the priests to eat, so the Tree of Life stands in all the golden streets of the New Jerusalem, with its monthly fruit for the immortal king-priests of heaven.”
3. **The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations**: Why do the **nations** need **healing**? In the ancient Greek language, the word for **healing** can also mean “*health-giving*,” and this may be the sense here.
   1. (Walvoord) “The word for ‘healing’ is (*therapeian)*, from which the English word *therapeutic* is derived, almost directly transliterated from the Greek. Rather than meaning ‘healing,’ it should be understood as ‘*health-giving*,’ as the word in its root meaning has the idea of serving or ministering.”
4. **Street… river… tree… fruit… leaves**: Are these pictures of heaven literal or symbolic? It may be that you can’t describe another dimension like heaven without using symbols, but they are symbols *connected* to their reality. What John saw may or may not be exactly like a river on earth, but when we see it we will also say, “That looks like a river.”

**What it will be like and what the saints will do.**

[**Revelation 22:3-5**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/22/3-5/s_1189003) **And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.**

1. **There shall be no more curse**: In heaven, the curse is gone. Since the fall, man and creation have lived with the effect of the curse described in [**Genesis 3:16-19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/gen/3/16-19/s_3016) (NKJV) **To the woman He said: “I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.” Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.”**
2. These aspects of the **curse** will even be present during the Millennium, though they will be greatly mitigated by the perfect rule of Jesus. [**Isaiah 65:20**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isa/65/20/s_744020) shows us that it is still possible for a sinner to be accursed in the millennial earth. **But** in the new heaven and new earth they are done away with forever. Instead of the **curse**, **the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it**. That’s quite an exchange.

1. **The throne of God and of the Lamb**: (Spurgeon) “Henceforth, eternal praises to his name, the throne of God is the throne of the Lamb. It is a throne of righteousness, but no less a throne of grace. There, on the throne of the Almighty, mercy reigns. According to the merit of the sacrifice and the virtue of the atonement all the statutes and decrees of the kingdom of heaven are issued. The altar and the throne have become identical.”
2. **His servants shall serve Him**: Heaven will be a place of work and service for God’s people. However, this is a picture of the pure blessedness of service rather than hard, curse-stained work.
   1. (L. Morris) “Heaven is not a place of lazy leisure, but a place where service is done, centering on God.”
3. **They shall see His face**: New Jerusalem will be a place where God’s people **see His face**, a place of intimate, face to face fellowship with God. Moses was denied the privilege of seeing God face to face ([**Exodus 33:20-23**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/exo/33/20-23/s_83020)), but everyone in the New Jerusalem ***shall see His face***.
4. **They shall see His face**: (Spurgeon) “By which I understand two things: **first**, that they shall literally and physically, with their risen bodies, actually look into the face of Jesus; and **secondly**, that spiritually their mental faculties shall be enlarged, so that they shall be enabled to look into the very heart, and soul, and character of Christ, so as to understand him, his work, his love, his all in all, as they never understood him before.”
5. Because of Jesus, we can know something of the face of God right now: [**2 Corinthians 4:6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2co/4/6/s_1082006)(NKJV)*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.*
6. Yet, Paul also anticipated a greater fulfillment of our seeing the face of God: [**1 Corinthians 13:12**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1co/13/12/s_1075012) ***For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I am also known***. In that day there will be *nothing* that obscures *our* vision of Jesus:
   1. We will see Jesus clearly because sin is done away with.
   2. We will see Jesus clearly because care and worry are gone.
   3. We will see Jesus clearly because idols are done away with.
7. This will be the greatest glory of heaven: to know God, to know Jesus, more intimately and wonderfully than we ever could on earth. (Spurgeon) “It is the chief blessing of heaven, the cream of heaven, the heaven of heaven, that the saints shall there see Jesus.”
8. (Spurgeon) “To look into the face of Christ signifies to be well acquainted with his person, his office, his character, his work. So the saints in heaven shall have more knowledge of Christ than the most advanced below. As one has said, the babe in Christ admitted to heaven discovers more of Christ in a single hour than is known by all the divines of the assemblies of the church on earth.”
9. **His name shall be on their foreheads**: New Jerusalem will be a place where God’s people will forever be identified with their God, and there will never be any doubt that they belong to Him.
10. **There shall be no more night there**: New Jerusalem will be a place where the darkness of this age will be forever gone. The light is not artificial, even from the sun — *God Himself is the light*.
11. **They shall reign forever and ever**: New Jerusalem will be a place where God’s people enjoy an eternal reign, in contrast to the limited duration of the Millennium. It will never end.
    1. (Erdman) “As the Bible opens with the story of ‘Paradise Lost,’ so it here closes with the story of ‘**Paradise Regained**.’” We see the return of Paradise in the ideas of a river, a tree of life, revocation of the curse, intimacy restored, and reigning resumed. It is a perfect consummation:
       1. **No more curse** Perfect *Restoration*
       2. **Throne in their midst** Perfect *Administration*
       3. **Servants shall serve** Perfect *Subordination*
       4. **Shall see His face** Perfect *Transformation*
       5. **Name on foreheads** Perfect *Identification*
       6. **God is the light** Perfect *Illumination*
       7. **Reigning forever** Perfect *Exultation*

**Parting words - The angel and Jesus add words of verification**

[**Revelation 22:6-7**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/22/6-7/s_1189006) **Then he said to me, “These words *are fait*hful and true.” And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. “Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”**

1. **Then he said to me**: In these last few verses of the Book of Revelation, we hear parting words from a variety of persons. It isn’t always easy to know who is speaking, but the themes make sense no matter who speaks: verification, invitation, and warning.
2. **These words are faithful and true**: The angel that showed John all this reminds John that it isn’t too good to be true. John is assured that it is in fact **faithful and true**.
3. **The things which must shortly take place… I am coming quickly!** As John reminds us of the suddenness of these events, Jesus Himself breaks in with a reminder to all that He is **coming quickly**. Why does it seem that it has been so long? Was Jesus wrong here?
4. The word **quickly** in the ancient Greek isn’t exactly the same as our word for “quickly.” “The word ‘quickly’ should be rendered ‘**suddenly**.’”
5. Still, the early church expected Jesus’ return *soon* — were they just wrong, or did Jesus mislead them? **Not at all**; they were not wrong and they were not misled by Jesus. *God wants to keep all generations expectant, watching, and ready for His return*.
6. **Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book**: This blessing reminds us that prophecy gives us a word to keep, not merely material for interesting discussions and debates. The main intent of prophecy is to lead us to trust and obey God, and apply His truth to the way we *live*.

**John is corrected for worshipping an angel a second time.**

[**Revelation 22:8-9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/22/8-9/s_1189008) **Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, “*See that you do not do that. For* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”**

1. **I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel**: As before in [**Revelation 19:10**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/19/10/s_1186010), John was overwhelmed and bowed before an angel in worship. In the same way, the angel reminded John that only God is to be worshipped, and that they were both players on the same team — along with all who **keep the words of this book**.
   1. No created being should **ever** be worshipped. This is in contrast with Jesus, who receives the worship of angels ([**Hebrews 1:6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/heb/1/6/s_1134006)) and of men ([**Matthew 8:2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/8/2/s_937002)**,** [**14:33**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/14/33/s_943033)**,** [**John 9:38**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jhn/9/38/s_1006038)).
   2. (Seiss) “If it was wrong to worship this glorious heavenly messenger, in and through whom came forth the very voice of Jesus, how can it be right to worship and pray to the Virgin Mary, to whom is assigned no such dignity or office? The impulse and intention may be devout and good; but it is a great mistake.”
2. **See that you do not do that**: It is striking that even someone who had received all these visions may go astray.

**A warning is given, either by the same angel or by Jesus.**

[**Revelation 22:10-11**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/22/10-11/s_1189010) **And he said to me, “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”**

1. **Do not seal the words of this prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand**: Because the **time is at hand**, and history now runs parallel to the brink of the consummation of all things, this book *isn’t* sealed.
   1. This is in contrast to Old Testament prophecy ([**Daniel 8:26**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/dan/8/26/s_858026)); men seal the Book of Revelation in defiance of God’s command.
2. **He who is unjust, let him be unjust still… he who is righteous, let him be righteous still**: The thought here is probably “since Jesus is coming so suddenly, there won’t be time for change.” There will be no time for last minute repentance, but there is time now. *If what you have read in Revelation hasn’t changed you, there isn’t much hope!*
   1. (Robertson) “It is the hopelessness of the final state of the wicked which is here pictured. The states of both the evil and the good are now fixed forever. There is no word here about a ‘second chance’ hereafter.”
   2. (Walvoord) “If the warnings of this book are not sufficient, there is no more that God has to say.”

**Jesus declares: I am coming quickly.**

[**Revelation 22:12-13**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/22/12-13/s_1189012) **“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is with* Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Begi*nning and *the End,* the First and the Last.”**

1. **And behold, I am coming quickly**: We can never miss the note of urgency and warning in all what Jesus tells us about His coming. His message is always *be ready*! [**Matthew 24:44**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/24/44/s_953044) (KJV) **Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.**
2. **My reward is with Me**: If Jesus will **give to everyone according to his work**, does that mean we are saved by our works? **No**, but it does show that living faith will have works with it ([**James 2:20**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jas/2/20/s_1148020)**,** [**Titus 3:8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/tit/3/8/s_1132008)).
   1. (Mounce) “It is the quality of a man’s life which provides the ultimate indication of what he really believes.”
3. **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last**: As an added incentive for us to do and be what is right, being ready for Jesus’ return, He reminds us just who He is. If we really know and understood who Jesus is, we will not have any trouble being ready for His return.
   1. The term **Alpha and Omega** is Applied to God in **Revelation 1:8; 21:6**
   2. The title **the First and the Last** is also irrefutable proof that Jesus is Yahweh, the LORD: [**Isaiah 41:4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isa/41/4/s_720004)**b** “*I, the LORD, am the first; and with the last I am He”.*
   3. These terms together mean that Jesus is the beginning, middle, and end for the Christian.
   4. (Spurgeon) “Preach orthodoxy, or any form of doxy; if you have left out Christ, there is no manna from heaven, no water from the rock, no refuge from the storm, no healing for the sick, no life for the dead. If you leave out Christ, you have left the sun out of the day, and the moon out of the night, you have left the waters out of the sea, and the foods out of the river, you have left the harvest out of the year, the soul out of the body, you have left joy out of heaven, yea, you have robbed all of its all. There is no gospel worth thinking of, much less worth proclaiming in Jehovah’s name, if Jesus be forgotten.”

[**Revelation 22:14-15**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/22/14-15/s_1189014) **Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.**

1. **Blessed are those who do His commandments**: Doing His commandments does not earn us eternal life, but it is evidence that we have been granted eternal life. Besides, there is an *inherent* blessing in doing His commandments, because they are good and right for us.
   1. Regarding the phrase **those who do His commandments** some translations have *those who have washed their robes* instead. The difference is between two ancient Greek words:
      1. HOIPLUNONTESTASSTOLAS (*washed their robes*) or
      2. HOIPOIOUNTESTASENTOLAS (**do His commandments**)
   2. **But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers**: What about those **outside**? We shouldn’t think that outside the walls of the New Jerusalem multitudes will throng, longing to get in.
      1. (Mounce) “The verse does not intend to teach that in the eternal state all manner of wicked men will be living just outside the heavenly city. It simply describes the future with the imagery of the present.”
      2. No, what is meant here is “Not literal dogs, but the morally impure… ([**Matthew 7:6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/7/6/s_936006)**;** [**Philippians 3:2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/phl/3/2/s_1106002)**).”**

**Jesus brings a word of verification.**

[**Revelation 22:16**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/22/16/s_1189016) **“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”**

1. **I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you**: With these solemn words, Jesus authenticates the entire book. Much of the Book of Revelation is either fantastic or seems too good to be true, ***but it is all true***.
2. **To testify to you these things in the churches**: The Book of Revelation is written to **the churches**. This book is not a private affair, to be known only by an elite group — it is for *all* believers. It’s also worth noting that this is the first reference to the *church* since the letters to the seven churches in [**Revelation 2-3**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/2/1-29/s_1169001)**.**
3. **The Root and offspring of David**: This is a precious Messianic title ([**Isaiah 11:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isa/11/1/s_690001)). It shows that Jesus is both the *Creator* of King David and His *descendent*. Jesus spoke to this same idea in [**Matthew 22:41-46**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/22/41-46/s_951041).
4. **Bright and Morning Star**: This is another Messianic title from the Old Testament ([**Numbers 24:17**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/num/24/17/s_141017)) and the New Testament ([**Revelation 2:28**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/2/28/s_1169028)). Just as the **Morning Star** (generally held to be the planet Venus) shines and welcomes the new day, so does Jesus.

**The Spirit and the Bride say to all: Come!**

[**Revelation 22:17**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/22/17/s_1189017) **And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.**

1. **The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!”** Is this an invitation to Jesus, asking Him to return? Or is it an invitation to those with a spiritual thirst to come to Jesus? Either sense is certainly true.
   1. **Come!** Who can **come**? **Him who hears** can come to Jesus, but they can’t come unless they hear. **Him who thirsts** can come to Jesus, but they can’t come unless they feel their thirst. **Whoever desires** can come, but they can’t come unless God works in their heart to desire Him.
   2. So how do you know if God has worked in your heart? Go through a little checklist. 1st Have you heard? 2nd Are you thirsty for God and eternal life? 3rd Do you want Him? ***Then come!***
2. **Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely**: This is an open invitation to receive salvation from Jesus. He will not exclude anyone who comes to Him. The invitation is both an opportunity *and* a responsibility. If we decline the invitation, *we only have ourselves to blame*.
   1. (Walvoord) “A similar invitation is extended in [**Isaiah 55:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isa/55/1/s_734001). The invitation to come is an urgent command, for the day will arrive when it is too late to come. Now is the day of grace. The hour of judgment is impending.”
3. **Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely**: This is an invitation so great that we can glory in it. *Anyone* who **desires** salvation in Jesus Christ can **come** to Him and **take the water of life freely**.
4. One might say, “I don’t understand all this Christian doctrine and theology” — ***come anyway***, because it doesn’t say *whoever understands*. (How many of us truly understand how many things work)
5. One might say, “I can’t repent the way I should. My heart is hard and I can’t even weep over my sins or feel bad over them as I should” — **come anyway**, because it doesn’t say ***whoever feels***.
6. One might say, “I don’t know if I can live the Christian life the way that I should” — **come anyway**, because it doesn’t say ***whoever can***.
7. One might say, “I don’t know if I am worthy to live the Christian life” — **come anyway**, because it doesn’t say ***whoever is worthy***.
8. (Spurgeon) “But mark thee, sinner, it says, ‘whosoever.’ What a big word that is! Whosoever! There is no standard height here. It is of any height and any size. Little sinners, big sinners, fair sinners, sinners double dyed, old sinners, aggravated sinners, sinners who have committed every crime in the whole catalogue, — ***whosoever***.”
9. **Let him take the water of life freely**: When you **desire**, when you **come**, then you must **take**. All of this world’s religion can be summed up in the idea that you must *bring* something to *give* unto the gods. The essence of Christianity is summed up in the idea that God invites us to **take the water of life freely**. You can’t *bring* anything to save or justify or commend yourself before God, but you can **take** the salvation He offers.
10. It is fitting that this great invitation closes the Book of Revelation and the Bible. (Spurgeon) “All the prophets of the Bible, all the apostles of the Bible, all the threatening’s of the Bible, all the promises of the Bible, gather themselves up, and focus themselves into this one burning ray, ‘Come to Jesus. Come, and take the water of life freely.’”

[**Revelation 22:18-19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/22/18-19/s_1189018) **For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.**

1. **If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book**: This is another section at the end of the Book of Revelation where it is difficult to tell exactly who spoke. In most red-letter editions, these words are in black, indicating that the translators believe that these were not the words of Jesus. But there may be good reason to believe Jesus gave this warning.
   1. This means that there is a high price to pay for tampering with the Book of Revelation specifically, and the Scriptures in general.
   2. (Walvoord) “What a solemn warning this is to critics who have tampered with this book and other portions of Scripture in arrogant self-confidence that they are equipped intellectually and spiritually to determine what is true and what is not true in the Word of God.”

**Last words**

[**Revelation 22:20-21**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/22/20-21/s_1189020) **He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.**

1. **Surely I am coming quickly**: To the very end, the Book of Revelation emphasizes readiness and watchfulness. If we miss this practical lesson from the Book of Revelation — the lesson of readiness — then we miss the essential message of the book.
   1. If the statement “**I am coming quickly**” were not enough, Jesus puts emphasis on both sides — **surely** before and **amen** after.
2. **Even so, come, Lord Jesus!** With this phrase, John used an idea related to an Aramaic expression that was well known in the ancient church: *Maranatha!*
3. The Book of Revelation concerns many prophetic events, but the book closes with John’s longing for the return of Jesus for His people — he wants the rapture of the church.
   1. (Mounce) “At the very close of the book is the confession that the answers to the problems of life do not lie in man’s ability to create a better world but in the return of the One whose sovereign power controls the course of human affairs.”
4. **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen**: The Bible ends with a word of **grace**, and **grace** for **all**. Paul also used this phrase as a final word in some of his letters ([**1 Corinthians 16:23**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1co/16/23/s_1078023)**,** [**2 Corinthians 13:14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2co/13/14/s_1091014)**,** [**1 Thessalonians 5:28**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1th/5/28/s_1116028)**,** [**2 Thessalonians 3:18**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2th/3/18/s_1119018)).

The last verse of the Old Testament contains a **curse**: *Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse* ([**Malachi 4:6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mal/4/6/s_929006)).

Fittingly, the last words of the New Testament speak of **grace**, because **grace** describes God’s dealing with man on the basis of the New Covenant.