REVELATION 22

Paradise Restored: Surely, I Come Quickly

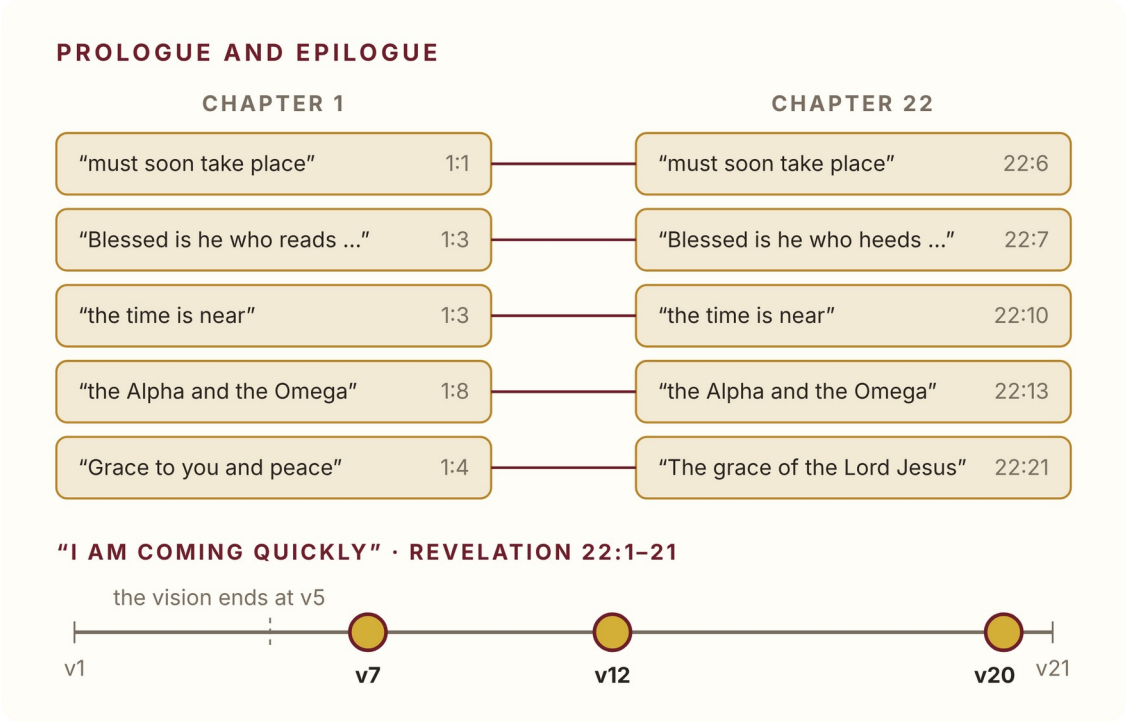
“He who testifies to these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming quickly.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”
REVELATION 22:20

A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · WITH TSARFATI · MACARTHUR · GUZIK · HITCHCOCK · JEREMIAH

Where John has brought us

1. Chapter 21 showed John the new heaven, the new earth and the holy city coming down from God.

2. The epilogue deliberately echoes the prologue.



The River, the Tree, and His Face

Eden restored and surpassed: no curse, the throne in the city, His name on their foreheads

REVELATION 22:1

Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik calls it Paradise Lost to Paradise Regained.

JOHN MACARTHUR

MacArthur is candid about the river: it is ‘not H2O’ but a symbol of eternal life flowing from the throne, and what it actually is, he admits, he does not know.

DAVID JEREMIAH

Jeremiah walks the river out of the throne with the tree of life on each side, bearing fruit every month, and the redeemed eat from it without prohibition.

ξύλον ζωῆς

XYLON ZŌĒS · “TREE OF LIFE”

Xylon (G3586) is wood or tree, the Greek Old Testament word for the tree of life in Genesis 2:9 and 3:22–24, promised to the overcomer in 2:7.

Paradise lost, Paradise restored

GENESIS 2–3 · PARADISE LOST	REVELATION 22 · RESTORED
a river flowed out of Eden Genesis 2:10	a river from the throne of God 22:1
the way to the tree of life guarded Genesis 3:24	"the tree of life" on either side of the river 22:2
"Cursed is the ground" Genesis 3:17	"There will no longer be any curse" 22:3
the man hid from God's presence Genesis 3:8	"they will see His face" 22:4
driven out of the garden Genesis 3:24	"enter by the gates into the city" 22:14
the Old Testament ends with "a curse" Malachi 4:6	the New Testament ends with "grace" 22:21

What Adam lost, the Last Adam restores, and more.

The Bible opens in a garden and closes in a garden city: everything lost in Genesis 3 is given back in Revelation 22, and more.

Faithful and True

The witness to the book, and John on his face before the wrong one, twice

REVELATION 22:7

"And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."

AMIR TSARFATI

The book closes the way it opened, with the Lord vouching for His own words: faithful and true, the same title Jesus wears on the white horse (19:11). For Tsarfati this is the ground of the whole hope.

JOHN MACARTHUR

MacArthur hears verse 6 as a heavenly attestation to everything John has seen: the visions are real, and they will happen just the way Revelation says.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik notes that the angel refuses the worship immediately and puts himself on the same level as John, the prophets and every believer who keeps this book: a fellow servant.

ἐν τάχει · ταχύ
EN TACHEI · TACHY

En tachei (from tachos, G5034), soon, in verse 6 repeats 1:1 exactly; tachy (G5035), quickly, is Jesus' own word in 22:7, 12 and 20. The words can mean soon, nearness in time, or quickly and suddenly, swiftness of manner.

Do Not Seal the Book

The clock is running, the reward is with Him, and the gates are open to the washed

REVELATION 22:13

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik sets verse 10 against Daniel: because this book is not sealed, it can and must be understood. It was written to be read, not hidden.

MARK HITCHCOCK

For Hitchcock, My reward is with Me points to the judgment seat of Christ, the next event for believers after the rapture. It decides not whether a believer gets into heaven but how he will spend eternity.

JOHN MACARTHUR

For MacArthur verse 11 is not out of place.

οἱ πλύνοντες τὰς στολὰς αὐτῶν
HOI PLYNONTES TAS STOLAS AUTŌN · "WASH THEIR ROBES"

Plynō (G4150) is to wash, especially clothing; plynontes is a present participle, those who keep on washing. Stolē (G4749) is the long outer robe.

The Bright Morning Star

Jesus signs His name, and the whole church answers with one word: Come

REVELATION 22:17

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.

AMIR TSARFATI

When Jesus signs His name at the end of the Bible, He signs it as a Jew: the root and the descendant of David.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik finds the morning star fitting: just as it welcomes the dawn, Jesus Himself is the sign that the long night of this present age is about to break into day, and 'I, Jesus' authenticates the whole book…

DAVID JEREMIAH

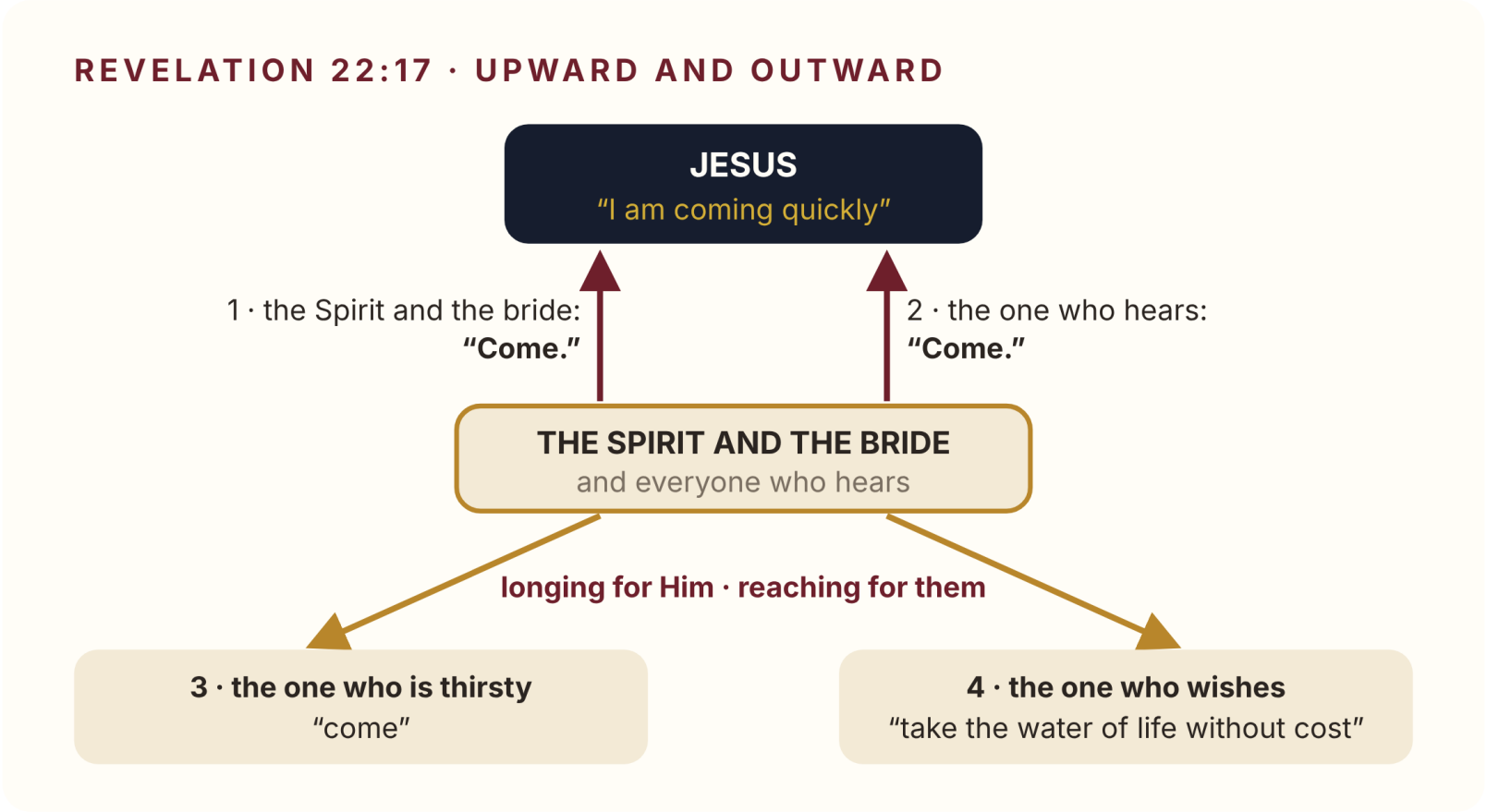
Jeremiah calls Jesus the believer's North Star, the fixed point to steer by, and notes that our North Star called Himself the bright and morning star: when everything else shifts, He can guide us safely to our…

Ἔρχου · δωρεάν

ERCHOU · DŌREAN

Erchou is the present imperative of erchomai (G2064), the same verb as Jesus' "I am coming." He says erchomai; the church answers erchou: come, and keep coming.

The four calls of verse 17



The Spirit and the bride call Jesus to come; then the same verse turns outward and calls the thirsty to come and take the water of life without cost.

Come, Lord Jesus

The seal on the canon, the last promise, the last prayer, the last word: grace

REVELATION 22:20

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

JOHN MACARTHUR

MacArthur hears the warning of verses 18 and 19 from the Lord Jesus Himself, and by implication it extends to all of Scripture, as Deuteronomy 4:2 and Proverbs 30 already guarded God's word.

MARK HITCHCOCK

Hitchcock's pretribulational case rests on imminence: Jesus could come at any moment to take His people to be with Him, with no prophesied sign standing in the way.

DAVID JEREMIAH

Jeremiah points out that in Bibles which print Christ's words in red, the final red-letter words are these: Yes, I am coming quickly. The believer's heart answers with John: Amen.

ἔρχου, κύριε Ἰησοῦ · Μαράνα θά
ERCHOU KYRIE IĒSOU · MARANA THA

The last prayer in the Bible is the Greek of the oldest Christian prayer we have. Paul left it untranslated in Aramaic at the end of 1 Corinthians: Marana tha (G3134), Our Lord, come (16:22).

What to carry from this chapter

1

The tree and the cross are one word.

Xylon is the tree of life (Genesis 2:9; Revelation 22:2) and the cross (Acts 5:30; 1 Peter 2:24): the tree lost at one tree is regained at another.

2

A perfect consummation.

No curse, the throne in their midst, servants who serve, His face seen: heaven is not idle leisure but joyful service centered on God.

3

Three times on one page.

“I am coming quickly” stands in verses 7, 12 and 20; the last promise Jesus speaks in the Bible is the one He repeats most on its last page.

4

John fell twice before the wrong one.

The same rebuke in 19:10 and 22:9: “Worship God.”

More to carry

5

Character is being fixed now.

Verse 11 is a verdict, not permission: at death or at His return character is forever fixed, so the truth must be told while there is time.

6

Wash, not earn.

The earliest manuscripts read “wash their robes,” a present participle; access to the tree of life is by washing in the Lamb's blood.

7

He signs His name as a Jew.

The root and the descendant of David: Jesus' last self-description is the Messiah of Israel, source and son of David at once.

8

The last word is grace.

The Old Testament ends with a curse; the last words of the New Testament speak of grace, how God deals with His people to the very end.

Talk it through

1. Jesus says three times in sixteen verses, “I am coming quickly.” If you truly believed He could come today, what is one thing you would do differently this week?

2. John fell down to worship an angel, twice. What good thing in your spiritual life is most at risk of getting worship that belongs to God?

3. Verse 11 says a time comes when the wrongdoer stays wrong and the holy stays holy. What habits are hardening your character right now, for better or worse?

4. The Spirit and the bride say “Come” to Jesus, then to the thirsty. Who is one thirsty person you could invite this month?

5. Can you honestly pray “Come, Lord Jesus” today? If not, what would have to change for you to want Him to come?

CLOSING

The book that began with the things which must soon take place ends with a promise, an invitation and a prayer. He says, “Yes, I am coming quickly,” and the bride answers the only way a bride can: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. And the last word is grace.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

O·I·A study, slides, reflection journal and film: see the Revelation study page.