

**The Conclusion of Revelation, Revelation 22**  
Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis • Season After Pentecost, *All Saints Day*  
Blessed Hope Missionary Fellowship • November 2, 2008

*Teachings are proactive for the next Sunday in advance. Unless otherwise noted,  
all Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV).*



**Don't Misplace Your Hope**

Malcolm Muggeridge was a very famous and highly respected British journalist who for many years was an ardent atheist. His opinions and thoughts were coveted by American publishers and he occasionally wrote the editorial page for *Time Magazine*. Toward the end of his illustrious career as the Dean of British broadcasters, he became a Christian.

Several years ago he was a guest at a breakfast in Washington, D.C. where he shared his life story. When he had finished his testimony, he made a number of comments about world affairs, all of which were very pessimistic. One of the those present asked, "Dr. Muggeridge, you have been very pessimistic. Don't you have any reason for optimism?" He replied, "I could not be more optimistic than I am, because my hope is in Jesus Christ alone."

He allowed that remark to settle in for a few seconds, and then he added, "Just think if the apostolic church had pinned its hopes on the Roman Empire!" – Richard Halverson, *The Living Body*



*Our study draws much from the outline and content of George Ladd's study,  
A Commentary on the Revelation of John. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1972.(ESV).*

**THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISION OF JOHN**

*Behold, I Am Coming Soon!*

**I. The River of Life, Rev. 22.1-2**

Rev. 22:1-2 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb [2] through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

**A. The River of the Water of Life, Rev. 22.1**

1. The symbolism of "river:" imagery of abundance, blessing, and goodness, Psalm 46:4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
  - a. Isaiah 66:12 For thus says the Lord: "Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees.
  - b. John 7:38-39 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" [39] Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
2. The aridness of the sin-cursed world will be transformed under the blessing of God, Isaiah 41:18 I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.
3. The river that flows down from the temple, Ezekiel 47:1-12, cf. 47.1 Then he brought me back to the door of the temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. Cf. 47.9, And wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes.
4. Unbroken, unending streams of blessing and abundance, Zech. 14:8 On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter.

**B. The Tree of Life, Rev. 22.2**

1. Full rescinding of the Curse's effect: the reopening of the Tree of Life to humankind, Genesis 3:22-24

Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" [23] therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. [24] He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

2. A feast to come, Rev. 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.
3. The blessedness of those who have a right to the Tree of Life, Rev. 22:14 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.

## II. The Throne of God and Reign of the Saints, Rev. 22.3-5

Rev. 22:3-5 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. [4] They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. [5] And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

### A. The Throne of God, Rev. 22. 3-4

1. The effects of the curse are over
  - a. The end of mourning, crying, and pain, Rev. 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."
  - b. The end of the Fall's dread Curse, Deut. 27:26 " 'Cursed be anyone who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'
  - c. No longer a decree of utter destruction, Zech. 14:11 And it shall be inhabited, for there shall never again be a decree of utter destruction. Jerusalem shall dwell in security.
2. The presence of God in the midst of his people, Isaiah 12:6 Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."
3. Come, stand before the throne of God, Rev. 7:15-17 "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. [16] They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. [17] For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."
4. We shall see the face of God
  - a. All the poor in heart, Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
  - b. Christ's prayer will be answered on our behalf, John 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
  - c. Knowing fully as we are known, 1 Cor. 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

### B. The Reign of the Saints, Rev. 22.5

1. The end of night, Rev. 21:22-25 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. [23] And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. [24] By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, [25] and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.
2. The saints will reign
  - a. The saints of the Most High shall receive the Kingdom, and reign forever, Daniel 7:18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.'
  - b. The kingdom will be given to the people of God, Daniel 7:27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them.'
  - c. If we endure, we shall surely reign, 2 Tim. 2:12 if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;
  - d. The hope of the one who conquers, Rev. 3:21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me

on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

### III. The Certainty of Christ's Return, Rev. 22.6-7

Rev. 22:6-7 And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place." [7] "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

#### A. Words that are Trustworthy and True, Rev. 22.6

1. John's visions are the true words of God, Rev. 19:9 And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."
2. Re-affirmation of the vision's veracity, Rev. 21:5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."
3. Since John, the prophetic focus is dramatically laser-guided to the Lord Jesus, Luke 16:16 "The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it."
4. All the prophetic visions concerning Christ has been fulfilled, Acts 3:18 But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.
5. The Holy Spirit is the author of the visions, 2 Peter 1:21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

#### B. The Coming King Testifies: I am coming soon, Rev. 22.7

1. Make sure no one seizes your crown, Rev. 3:11 I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.
2. He comes with his recompense, Rev. 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done."
3. A final word of affirmation, Rev. 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

### IV. An Apostle's Spontaneous Response—Again!, Rev. 22.8-9

Rev. 22:8-9 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, [9] 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."

#### A. An overwhelming impulse to worship, Rev. 22.8

1. A spontaneous repeat of a former impulse, Rev. 19:10 Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.
2. Completely overwhelming situation: the four great hallelujahs, the marriage of the Lamb, the prospect of coming to the wedding feast, and here the vision of the river, the tree of life, and the throne of God
3. John is completely undone: he falls down to worship the angel, 19.10a
4. The rebuke of the angel: [notice the similarity between 19.10] "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." v. 10b
5. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy
  - a. The essence of prophetic proclamation is to testify of Jesus Christ
  - b. The OT was written with Jesus of Nazareth in mind: John 5.39-40
6. The ministry of the Holy Spirit: to enable us to understand "what is yet to come" (John 16:13)

#### B. Worship God alone, Rev. 22.9 (cf. 19.10)

1. Worship God in spirit and truth, John 4:24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."
2. Worship God through the mediation of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, Phil. 3.3
3. Worship God in brokenness and fear, Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

## V. The Nearness of Christ's Coming, Rev. 22.10-15

Rev. 22:10-15 And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. [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." [12] "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. [13] I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." [14] 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. [15] Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

- A. Unsealed words of prophecy, Rev. 22.10
  - 1. The time of the end is near, so do not seal up the words of this book, cf. Daniel 12:9 He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.
  - 2. Make known the truth of Christ to all!, Matthew 10:27 What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.
- B. Stay in the state you've chosen to be in!, Rev. 22.11
  - 1. God is giving people over to their own choices, Psalm 81:12 So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.
  - 2. All will eat the fruit of their own way, Proverbs 1:29-31 Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, [30] would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, [31] therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices.
  - 3. Whatever we decide will decide our fate, Proverbs 14:32 The wicked is overthrown through his evildoing, but the righteous finds refuge in his death.
  - 4. Where we fall, there we will lie, Eccles. 11:3 If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth, and if a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.
  - 5. It is up to us where we will be forever, Matthew 15:14 Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit."
- C. The Lord assures us of his soon coming, Rev. 22.12-13
  - 1. The Alpha and Omega: the only God, the first and the last
    - a. Isaiah 44:6 Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.
    - b. Rev. 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."
    - c. Rev. 21:6 And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.
  - 2. A ruling arm, and a sure recompense, Isaiah 40:10 Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
  - 3. A reward with him, and a recompense before him, Isaiah 62:11 Behold, the Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him."
  - 4. The Christian's hope: reward for a stewardship, 1 Cor. 9:17-18 For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. [18] What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.
- D. The blessedness of the city's inhabitants and those on the "outside," Rev. 22.14-15
  - 1. The blessedness of the righteous
    - a. Psalm 106:3 Blessed are they who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times!
    - b. Psalm 119:1 Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!
    - c. Isaiah 56:1-2 Thus says the Lord: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. [2] Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who holds it fast, who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil."
    - d. Luke 12:37-38 Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. [38] If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those

servants!

- e. Rev. 22:7 " And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."
2. The fate of those on the outside, Eph. 5:3-6 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. [4] Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. [5] For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous ( that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. [6] Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

## VI. Jesus' Purpose for Revelation, and the Invitation to Come, Rev. 22.16-21

Rev. 22:16-21 "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." [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 desires take the water of life without price. [18] 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, [19] 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. [20] He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! [21] The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

- A. Jesus testifies of Revelation's purpose, Rev. 22.16
  1. Let the one who has ears to hear, let them hear, Rev. 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'
  2. The one who testifies speaks out, Rev. 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
  3. The descendant of David is the one who speaks, Rev. 5:5 And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."
- B. The invitation to come, Rev. 22.17
  1. The Spirit is inviting today, John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.
  2. The Bride is inviting today, cf. Matt. 28:18-20 with Eph. 5:31-32 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." [32] This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.
  3. The price is free, Isaiah 55:1 "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Cf. John 7:37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.
- C. Warnings concerning the prophecy of this book, Rev. 22.18-19
  1. Don't *add anything* to the prophecy, Rev. 22:18 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
  2. *Taking away anything* has its consequences, too, Rev. 22:19 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.
- D. Jesus' final assurance of his soon coming, Maranatha, and ending, Rev. 22.20-21
  1. The final declaration of his soon coming: *take note of the Lord's repetitions!*
    - a. Rev. 22:7 " And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."
    - b. Rev. 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done.
  2. Let us long for and love his appearing!
    - a. 2 Tim. 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the

- righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.
- b. Hebrews 9:28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.
3. The last word, Rev. 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.



*Get your message straight and clear: behold, he is coming soon!*



HE SEEMED TO HAVE FAILED TO RETAIN THEIR FULL ATTENTION, BUT AT LEAST HIS SERMON WOULD BE AVAILABLE LATER ON THEIR YOUTUBE, FLICKR, TWITTER, AND FACEBOOK ACCOUNTS

The theme of the book of Revelation is the soon coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. As is reflected in a number of translation, the Greek term for "soon" may be translated either as "soon" or "quickly," and without question both are true. Although Jesus' return is always seen from a future vantage point, there is no question that it will in fact come upon us suddenly or quickly. Let us, at the end of this Season after Pentecost, believe and hold to the prophecy of this book, neither neglecting it as has been the history of the Church, or using it as grist for extremism to grind, as many expositors have done historically. Jesus is coming. Let us all prepare, and make him room!

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The Season After Pentecost: All Saints Day (Year A, 2008)

The Conclusion of Revelation, Revelation 22.  
November 2, 2008.

Rev. 22.12-13 "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. [13] I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

The amazing apocalyptic vision of John concludes with a chorus of warnings, invitations, and assurances all designed to both challenge and encourage the readers to make the fateful decision to come to Christ now. The urgency of the decision is not, of course, rooted in the precise timing of his return. It has been 20 centuries since John saw the images and visions of the Apocalypse; who knows when our God will begin the consummation. Still, every true believer must hold on to the promise of Christ's return, doing all s/he can to ready themselves and others for that great time.

*Morning Collect:* Eternal God our Father, we await the coming of Your Son, and are assured that he will soon return to make an end of sin and evil, to consummate Your salvation, and to establish Your reign in the earth. Thank You for this living hope You have given to us in Your Son, the risen Jesus of Nazareth. Amen.

*Evening Collect:* Risen Lord Jesus Christ, we affirm Your words of Your soon coming, and we ask for grace and wisdom to prepare ourselves and others for the great and awe-ful Day of Your return. Even so, come Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Memory Verse:* MTB, *New Beginnings in Christ: Series 1. Topic 2, Repentance and Faith, Hear of God's Love in Christ.* John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.