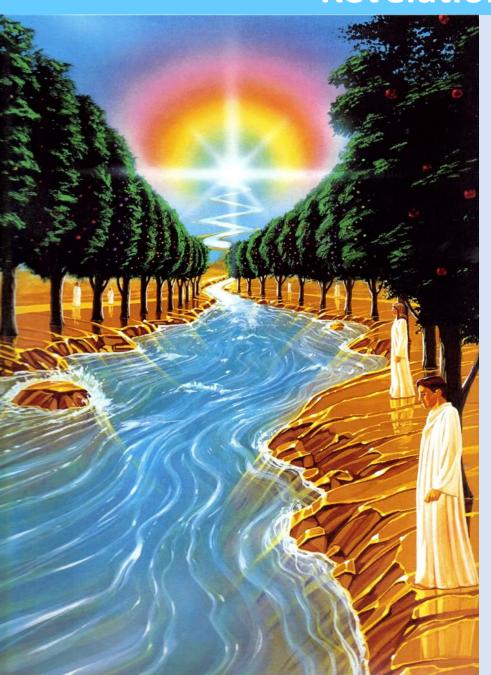
# "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

**Revelation 22:20** 

Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad Baruch Shem k'vod malchutto, I'olam va'ed

Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God.
The LORD is One.
Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever.

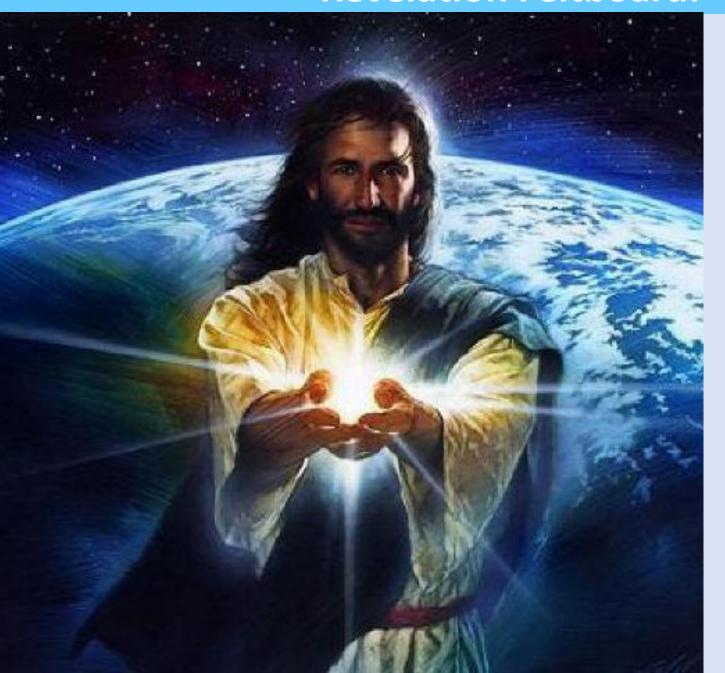




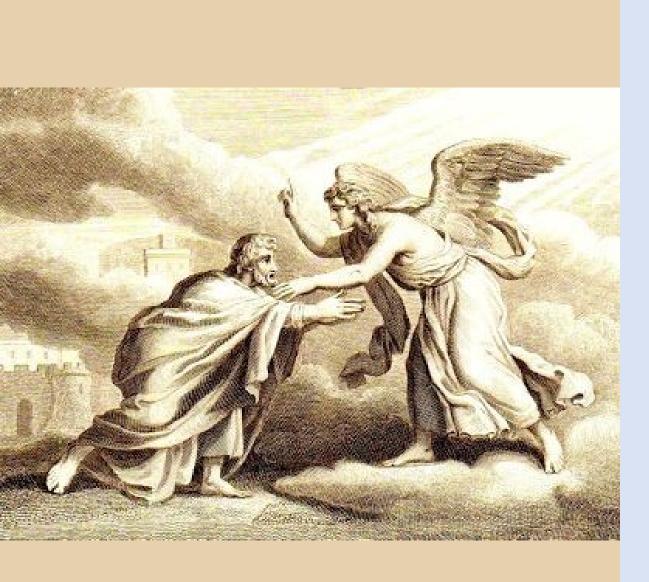
<sup>1</sup> And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. <sup>2</sup> In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup> 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.



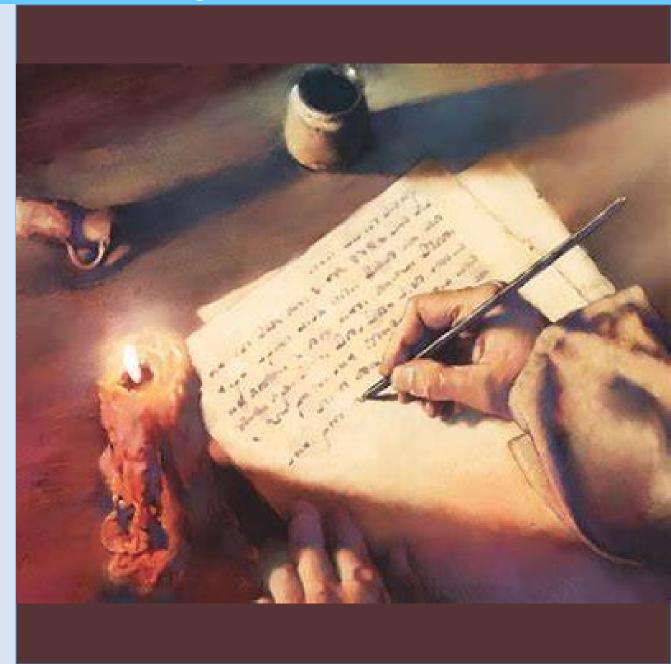


<sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place. 7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."



<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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."

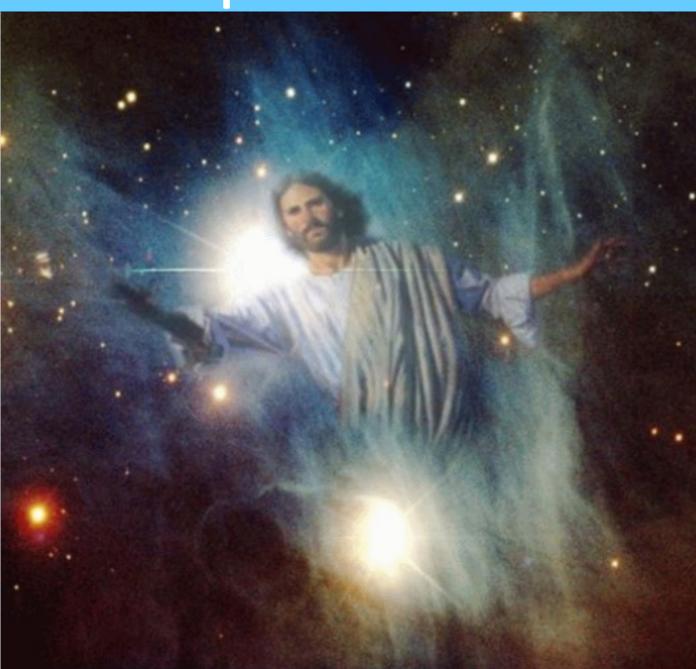
<sup>10</sup> And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. 11 He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

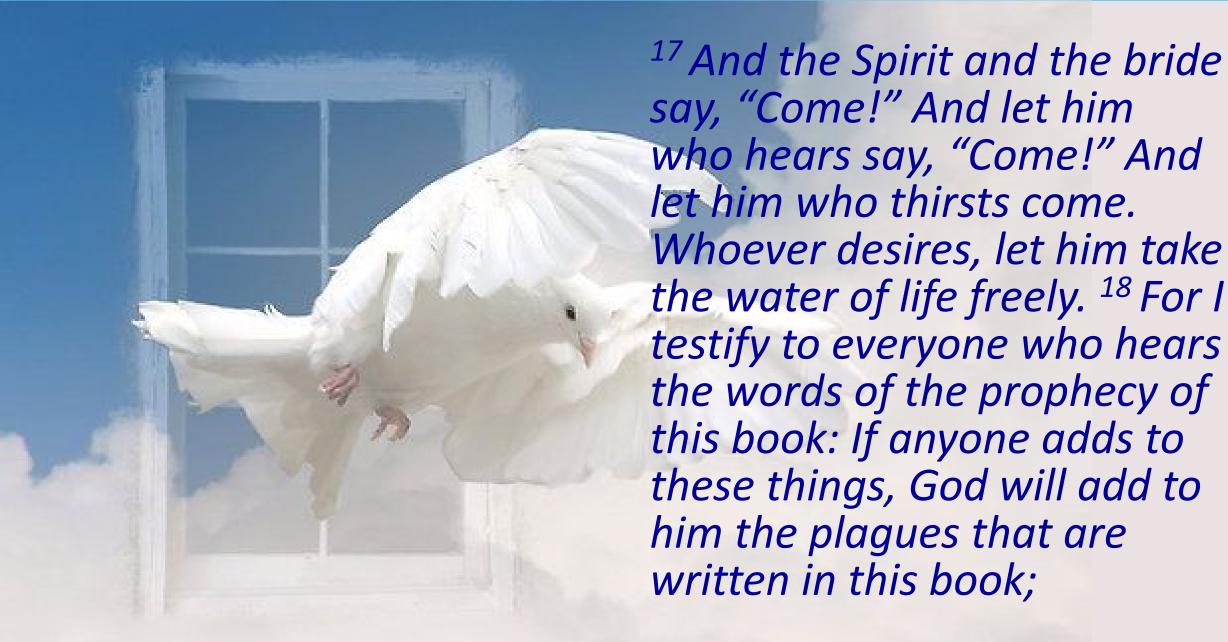


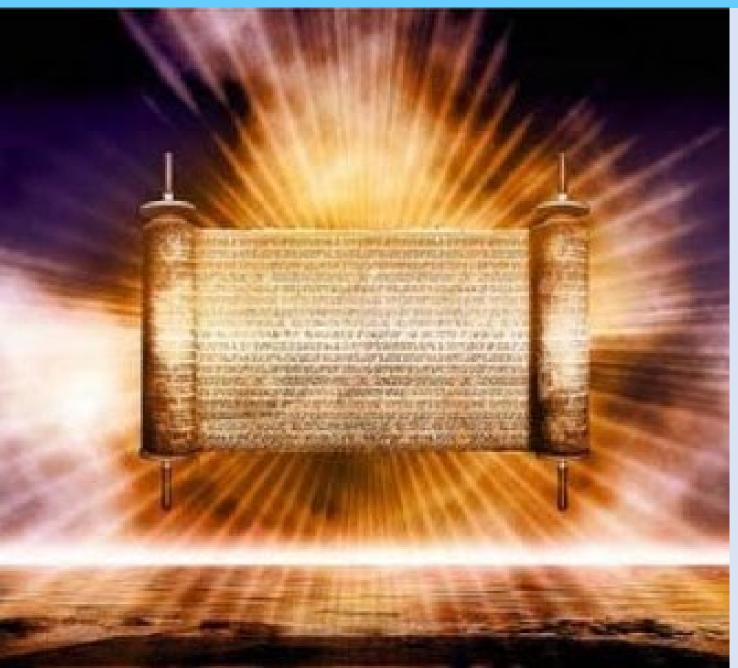


12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." 14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

<sup>15</sup> But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. 16 "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."** 







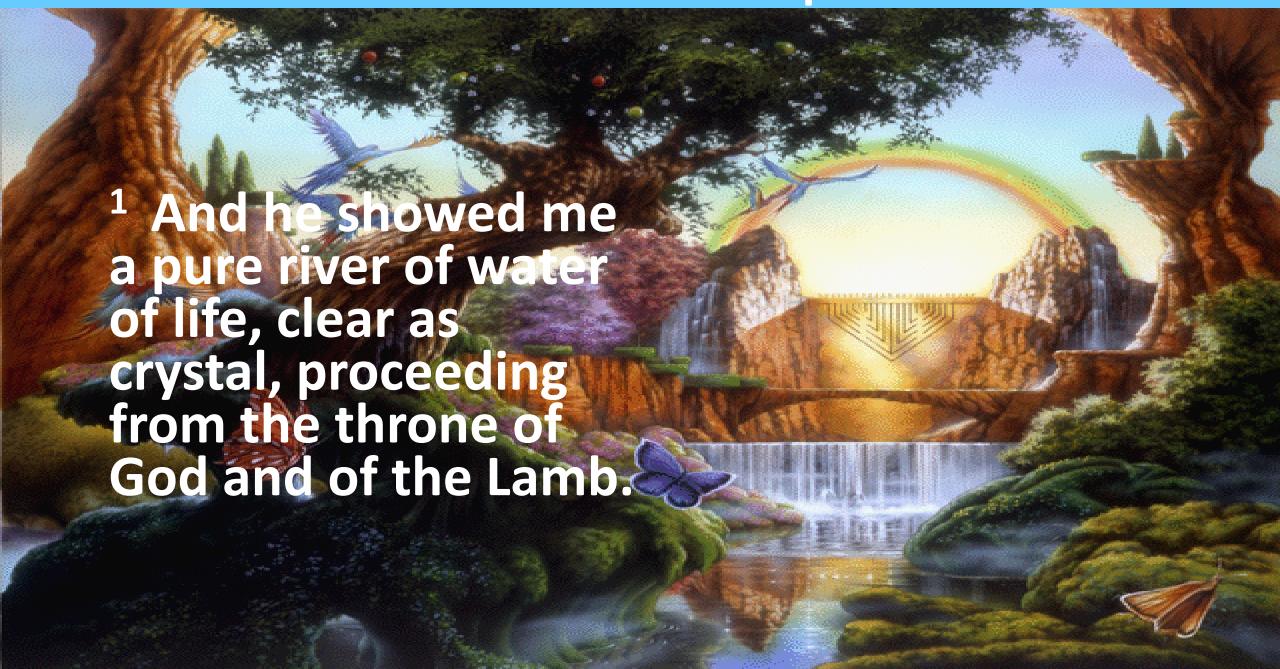
<sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

<sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! <sup>21</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

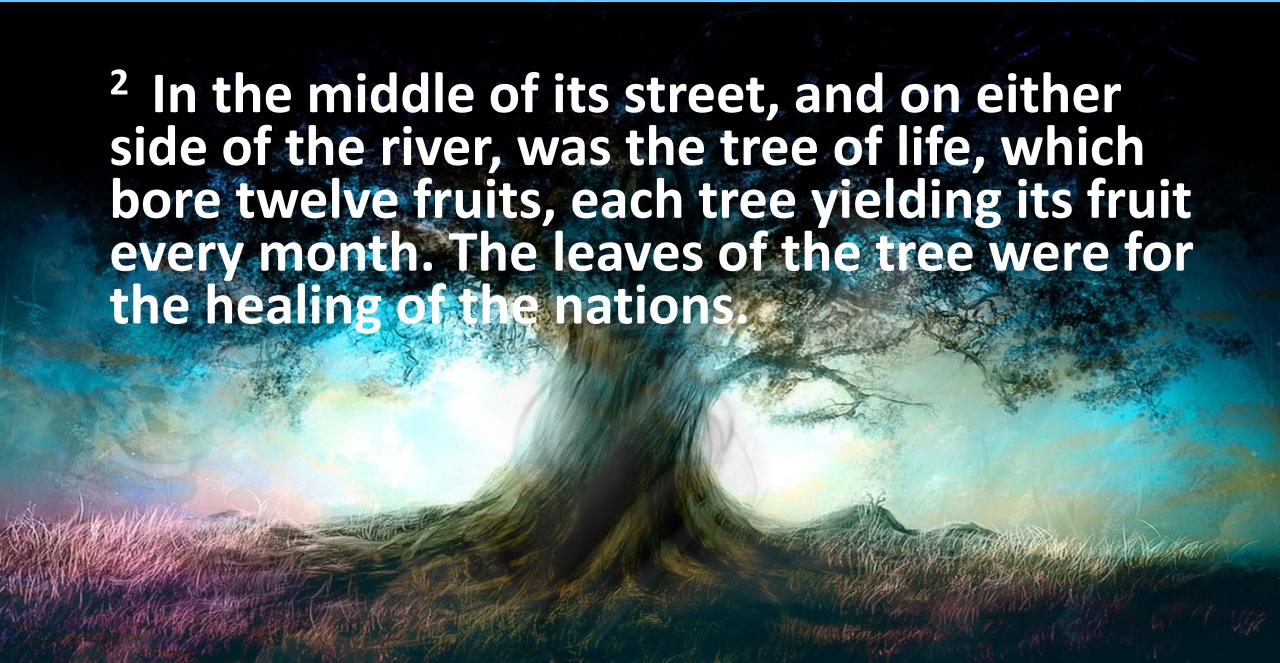


"All the glorious purposes of God, ordained from the foundation of the world, have now been attained. The rebellion of angels and mankind is all and finally subdued, as the King of Kings assumes his rightful sovereignty. Absolute and unchangeable holiness characterizes all within the universal Kingdom of God. The redeemed, made so by the blood of the Lamb, are in resurrection and eternal glory. Life is everywhere - and death will never intrude again. The earth and the heavens both are renewed. Light, beauty, holiness, joy, the presence of God, the worship of God, service to Christ, likeness to Christ - all are now abiding realities. The vocabulary of man, made for life here, is incapable of truly and adequately depicting what God has prepared for those that love him." (COMMENTARY, Wilbur M. Smith)

- Last description in scripture of what is being <u>prepared for</u> us for eternity.
- Chapter 21 full of amazing pictures of light, jewels. These could be seen as "cold" beauty. Now this chapter adds "warmth" to heavenly environment.
- Given enough to be in awe and have great hope, but not so much to be overwhelming. Again, we do not have the capacity to picture or understand what will be there.
- And once again, we will have some "timing" issues...



- Again "pure river of water of life" presented last chapter. Now more detail. Essentially continuation of previous chapter.
- In Middle East water IS life. Reference Ezekiel 47. Also reminded of Psalm 46:4 "There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High." (ESV)



- Tree of Life back! Once forbidden, will freely eat of it.
- Description difficult to understand, picture. Tree seems to be on <u>both sides of river</u>, OR are several trees. *Can* only speculate here.
- Now back in Eden, <u>Paradise of God</u>, all things restored.
   Truly amazing thought and future hope!
- "Healing of the nations" speaks of continual health.

**COMMENTARY:** "As John contemplated the heavenly city, he saw the tree of life, bearing 12 crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. Interpreters have puzzled over this expression that the tree of life is on each side of the river. Some take this is as a group of trees. Others say that the river of life is narrow and that it flows on both sides of the tree. The tree of life was referred to in the Garden of Eden, where it was represented as perpetuating physical life forever. (Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat of the fruit of this tree.) Earlier in Revelation (2:7) the saints were promised the "right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God." ...

While the literal and the symbolic seem to be combined in this tree, there is no reason why it could not be an actual tree with literal fruit. The practical effect would be to continue physical life forever. While the verse does not state that the fruit can be eaten, this is presumably the implication. The tree's leaves... are for the healing of the nations. Based on this statement some have referred this situation back to the millennial times when there will be sickness and healing.

However, another meaning seems to be indicated. The word "healing" (therapeian) can be understood as "health-giving." The English "therapeutic" is derived from this Greek word. Even though there is no sickness in the eternal state, the tree's fruit and leaves seem to contribute to the physical well-being of those in the eternal state."

(Walvoord and Zuck)

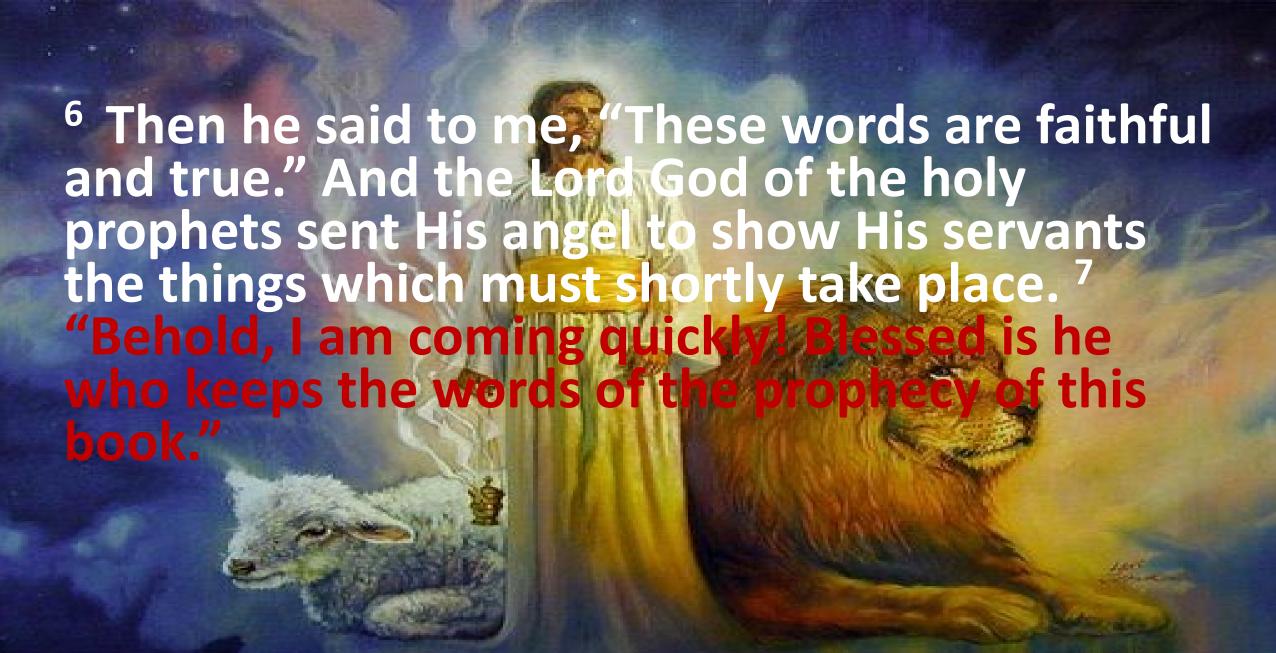
<sup>3</sup> And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it. and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

- Here, "...no more curse...", and throne of God and the Lamb here. Sin in garden brought on curse, caused separation between God and His people. Earth groaned under curse, as did all creation.
- Heaven and earth recreated and restored. Curse is gone.
- No separation from God, and no corruption in creation, including us!
- We, His servants, "...shall serve Him." Don't know yet how or what, but will be wonderful.

- Told we will "...see His face..."! Can you imagine? No one now can see God and live. Can't do that in corrupt state. But one day...! Was Moses' greatest wish.
- Whose face will this be? Only member of "Godhead" to appear in flesh. Will be face of our Messiah, Yeshua!
- "...His name shall be on their foreheads." Implies ownership. We belong to Him completely. He paid the price. In contrast to mark of beast in chapter 13.



- "No night" = no darkness whatsoever. Won't need any other lights.
- We will "reign" with Him don't know over what/who or how yet.
- May imply our position as "kingdom of priests," or that we will "live like kings" but either way we will be raised higher than angels. (Reigning implies position and action.)



- John told all he has heard and things he has seen are "faithful and true..." Assurance of "bankability" of this book. Count on it!
- "Shortly" here does <u>not mean soon</u>. Usually = suddenly, or "in haste." When it begins, will be sudden, will transpire quickly until completed.
- "I am coming quickly" has same meaning. Not soon as we define it, but <u>suddenly</u>, without delay.

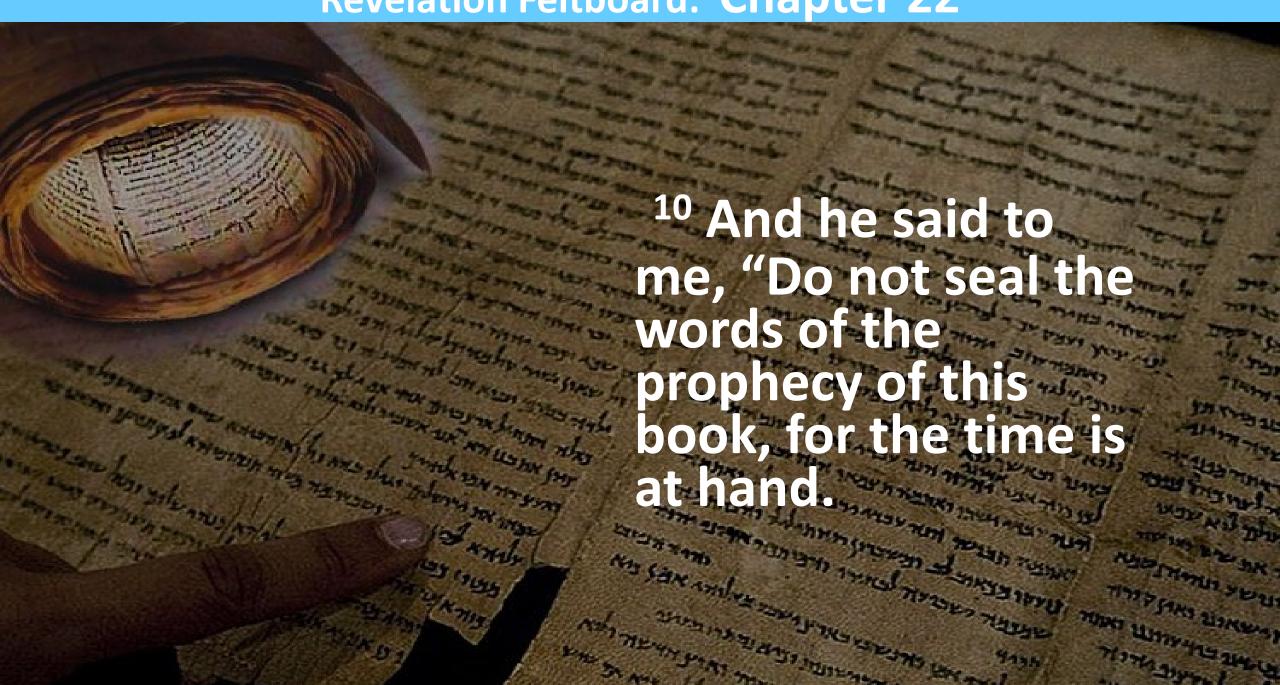
- Verse 7 = words of Jesus. One of 7 blessings in Revelation: "Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."
- How do we "keep" words of this amazing book? *Keep* generally means "to guard as a treasure." <u>Something</u> we live by, with singular focus.
- Revelation = guarantee of our future. Should govern
  who we are, and all we do. We should live our lives by
  these words.

<sup>8</sup> 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. 9 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."

- After Jesus speaks, <u>John overwhelmed again</u>. Forgets himself, falls to worship at feet of angel speaking to him.
- Angel immediately forbids him, "scolded" him with words "worship God!"
- 2nd time John does this. (19:10) Reminder we do NOT worship angels or anything/anyone other than God.
- Timely today, people have become more and *more* fascinated with "angels" and some even worship them.



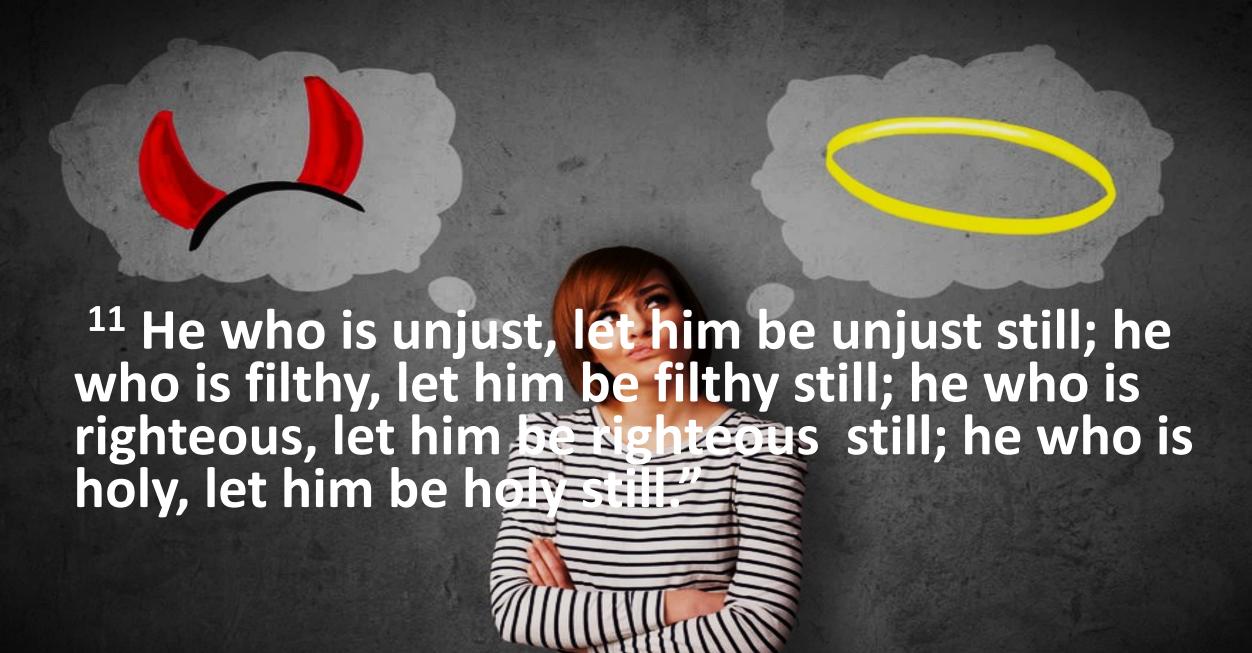
- Angel says he is a "fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book."
- Can either mean angels keep God's
  Word and in same company as
  prophets, or word "angel" here = literal
  meaning "messenger" (not a winged
  creature as we are used to thinking)
- Could even be an elder, if we interpret that way.



- John told NOT to seal up book. Interesting, Daniel WAS told to "shut up" much of his vision, also pertained to end of time.
- May be because Daniel's vision <u>occurred prior to</u> <u>Messiah's first coming</u>, John's after. God opening Daniel's vision for us to understand <u>now</u>.
- "For the time is at hand..." Since Yeshua's sacrifice and resurrection, the time has been at hand for His coming again, this side of the cross.

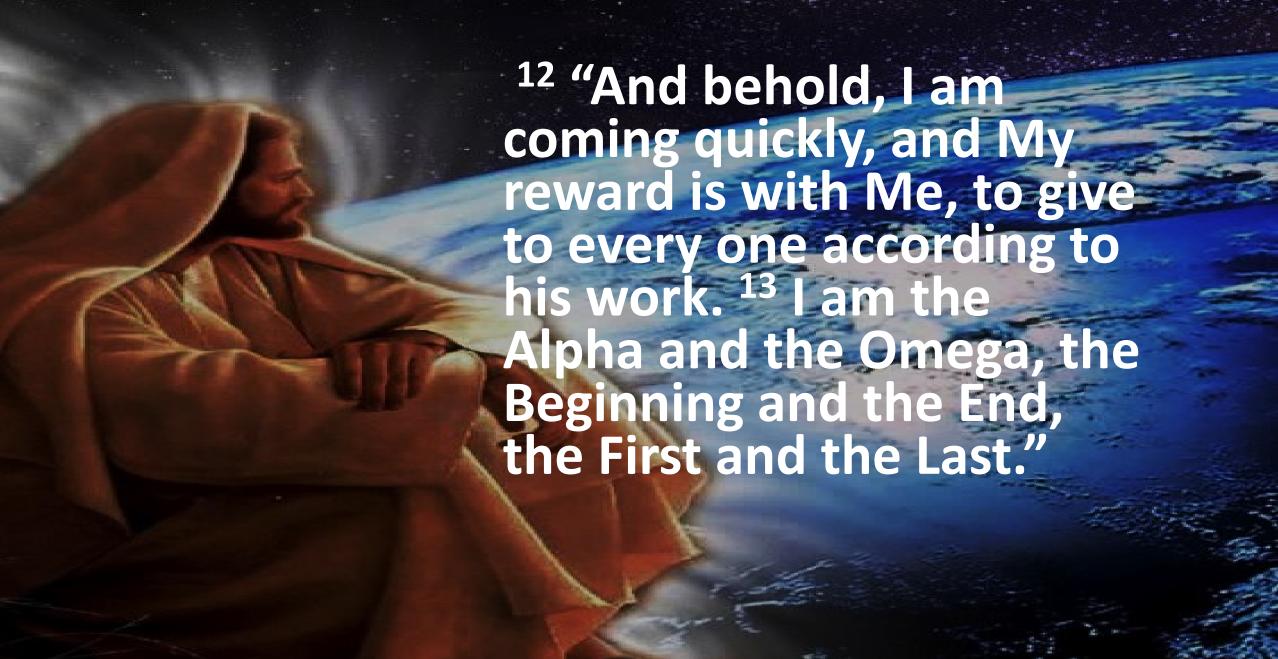
• Only thing "sealed," not revealed in Revelation are words spoken by voice of seven thunders in chapter 10.

God has given us what we need to know. Everything else would only be confusing and incomprehensible at this time.



- Verse seems strange. However, literally = unrighteous will become increasing more unrighteous, and those who pursue God should continue to do so until end.
- Also implies if book rejected, no other option, just go ahead as you are at this point. It won't matter. It will be too late.
- Intention to relate <u>suddenness of this event</u>, not to get caught on outside of God.
- Correlates to Ezekiel 3:27 "But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD.' He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse; for they are a rebellious house."

World divided into only 2 groups of peop 1) The righteous – those who hear and obey, made righteous by the blood of Jesus; and 2) The unrighteous (unjust, unjustified) those who hear and disregard, do not obey, and are thus not covered by the blood, and not saved.



- "I am coming quickly" repeated 3X this chapter. Do we get the point? Don't dally, don't procrastinate...get right with God today!
- "Behold" used 30 X this chapter. Used throughout scripture to capture attention.
- Pay attention, something important is coming, you need to know this! Indeed, we need to know what is contained in this book, and we need to know to be ready.

- Yeshua says His <u>reward</u> is with Him, "...to give to everyone according to his work."
- Not told much about this, but most likely refers to BEMA or "judgment seat" of Messiah. (2 Corinthians 5:10)
- Will have to give account to Jesus for what we did with what was given to us.
- Not judgment for salvation, but judgment for rewards.

- Restates His position and authority 3X in "...Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End, First and Last."
- He is the Alef Tav seen throughout scripture, the key to understanding God's plan.
- He is EVERYTHING, and EVERYTHING is in Him. It all began with Him, it is sustained by Him, it will continue in Him.
- Titles also verification of extreme importance and authentic authorship of this book.

14 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. 15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie

- Another blessing for all obedient to Him.
- Difference in translation here. Some versions say "those who wash their robes" while KJV says "those who do his commandments..."
- One of few places with disagreement on original Greek word structure.
- Either way means same thing.

  Those who obey have washed their robes and have right to tree of life.

- Again told what will NOT be inside gates of holy city.
- May not mean will literally be "just" outside city.
   Implies unrepentant will NOT gain entrance to presence of God or His saints.
- Speaks to "heart" condition of people. Love God or don't love Him. Obey Him or don't obey Him. Be with Him, or outside of Him forever.
- Remember chart from last chapter of what will be and what will NOT be in this place. Can add unrepentant ones to who will NOT be there.

 OK, I know you are wondering about the word "dogs." Does this mean no dogs in heaven? Of course not!!!! Greek word is kuon, which is either literal or *figurative* for hound, or dog.



This commentary might help...

COMMENTARY: "Dogs" come off rather badly in Scripture. This perhaps does not mean that there will be no dogs in heaven, but because dogs were scavengers in the ancient world they were considered unclean and impure. Also, "dogs" was the designation for Gentiles (Matthew 15) and Paul's label for Judaizers ("Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers,..." [Philippians 3:2]). (McGee)

(Neither of these references means literal "dog" [hound] but a scavenger, and/or evil person....)

Actually some dogs I like better than people!

16 "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." 17 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."

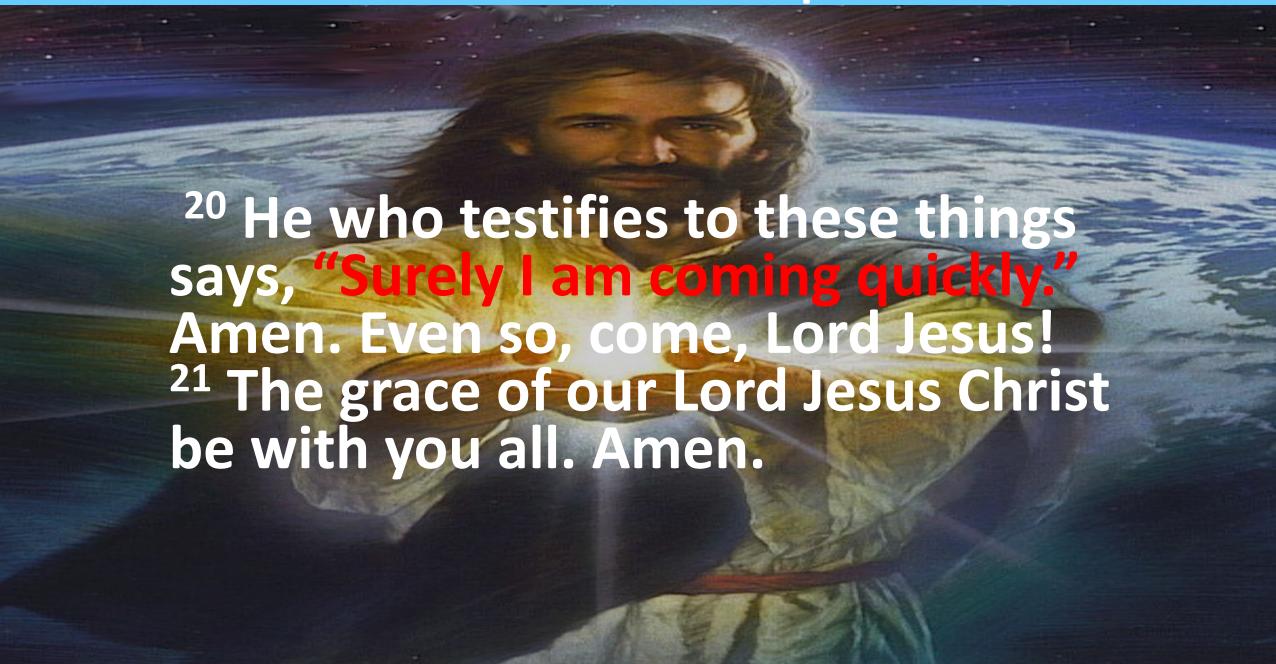
- Jesus <u>verifies His authorship</u> of these words and this plan, tells John to testify to churches.
- First time "churches" mentioned again since chapters 2 and 3, another possible indicator church not present during Tribulation.
- Also provides two more titles for Himself: Root and the offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star. He is promised Anointed One, Son of David.
- Morning star signals approaching dawn. OT titles claimed by Messiah, by Yeshua. <u>Jews would have</u> recognized them as such.

- Urgency for all to hear. Pray and long for His coming.
- Two groups say "Come!": Spirit and Bride (Church), and anyone who hears.
- Also appeals to those who "thirst" (seeking God) to drink water of life. <u>A choice</u>. ("whoever desires") A gift, offered to us <u>freely</u>. Only thing we can add is belief.
- Underscores <u>urgency of understanding consequences of unbelief</u>, and beautiful free gift offered....now.
- Paul said, "today is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2)

18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone ade the threse talks, God will add to him to him the second and the sec שמו היה לפור של היה של Word Single Control of the Control o Shall take and the state of the Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

- Yeshua slaps a big warning label on this book!
   Indicates extreme importance God places on message here.
- Cannot dismiss by saying it is all symbolic. God's Word will be perfectly and literally fulfilled.
- Warns anyone who tampers with it, and that includes false interpretation. Unbelief causes distortion of God's Word. A solemn warning of sacred nature of book.

All of Revelation, and entire Bible from Genesis - Revelation, is His invitation to salvation, and His consequences for living a life that opposes Him. The book, and the warning, must be taken seriously.



- Jesus concludes this book (entire Bible!) by repeating He is coming <u>suddenly</u>; John aptly answers, "Amen" (so be it!). Even so, come Lord Jesus!"
- Should be heart cry of every believer.

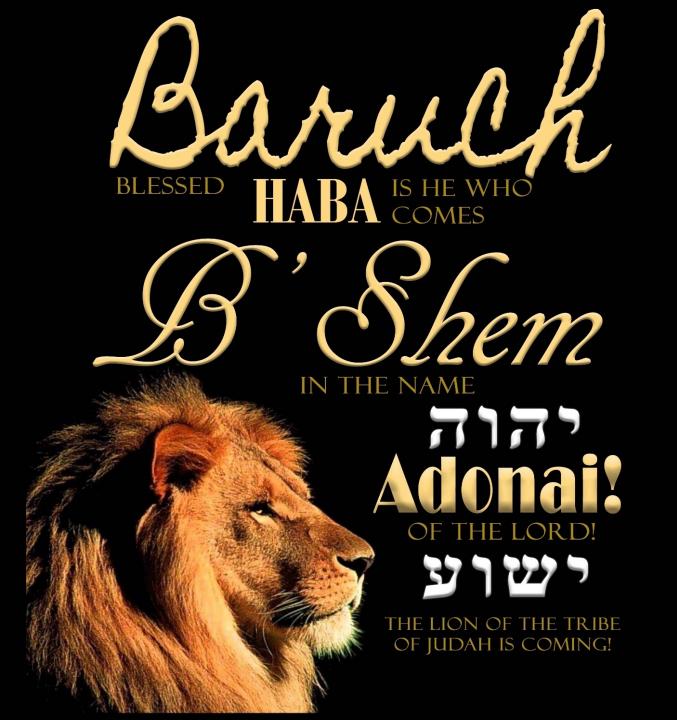
Why we say...

# "Baruch haba B'Shem Adonai! Bo, Adonai Yeshua!"

# (An excerpt of a commentary by Joseph Seiss in his book "The Apocalypse" [circa 1900])

If we are interested in the story of the manger and the cross; if we can draw strength for our prayers and hopes by invoking Christ by the mystery of his incarnation, fasting, temptation, agony, and bloody sweat; if we find it such a precious treasure to our souls to come into undoubting sympathy with the scenes of his humiliation and grief; ...

...what should be our appreciation of this book, which treats of the fruits of those sufferings, and tells only of that wronged Saviour's glory and triumphs, and shows us our Lord enthroned in majesty, riding prosperously, and scattering to his ransomed ones the crowns and regencies of empire which shall never perish, and celestial blessednesses without number and above all thought!



# Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha May the LORD bless you and keep you

# Ya'er Adonai panav elekha viḥunneka

May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

# Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem lekha shalom.

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.