

"Yes, I am coming soon."

Revelation 22:18-21

Sooke Baptist Church

Sunday, July 17, 2022, 10am

also on Facebook Live Stream and YouTube

Coffee/Question:

What are you  
waiting for?

03:00



Revelation 22:18-21



This is now the third time in chapter 22 that Jesus has spoken these words. Jesus did so because he knows that his people need to repeatedly hear... this assurance from him...for his soon return shapes how they live in this world. His soon return is the lens...



... by which we see our circumstances and make decisions... big and small.

This statement made by Jesus – I am coming soon - is also a promise. It is his guarantee that his ascension into heaven was not the final act in God's great salvation story.

The story of salvation is not that Jesus was here and now he isn't. The story of Jesus is by no means over... there is more, so much more to unfold. He is coming soon. The story is not over, in fact it never will be... it is ongoing.

The statement, "I am coming soon," not only points the people of God to the future, it also points us back to eternity past.



Before the Father, Son and Spirit created all that is, they determined, that when humanity turned from them, and they knew we would... they would rescue us. It was God the Son who was chosen to come into the earth, and to take on human flesh, in order to be our Rescuer.

On the very day that Adam and Eve turned away from God and embraced sin, in their presence, God spoke to Satan who had deceived them, and said...

**“An offspring of the woman  
will crush your head.”**

Genesis 3

Nothing more was said by God... of when and how this would take place, just that it would happen.

Over the long centuries that followed humanity’s exile from the garden...



...slowly but progressively, God added detail after detail after detail... like pieces of a mosaic... revealing who the Rescuer would be and how he would rescue.

- He would be from the family of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham.  
**Numbers 24:17**
- He would be a Ruler, from the tribe of Judah.  
**Genesis 49:10**
- He would reign on King David's throne.  
**Isaiah 9:7**

- His conception would be miraculous – he would be born of a virgin.  
**Isaiah 7:14**
- He would be sinless.  
**Isaiah 53:9**
- He would be born in Bethlehem.  
**Micah 5:2**

- The Spirit of God would rest upon him.  
**Isaiah 11:2**
- He would grow up in the Galilee.  
**Isaiah 9:2**
- He would know suffering.  
**Isaiah 53:3**
- He would be hated without cause.  
**Psalms 69:4**

- He would ride into Jerusalem on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

**Zechariah 9:9**

- He would be betrayed by a close friend for thirty pieces of silver.

**Psalm 41:9, Zechariah 11:12**

- False witnesses would accuse him and he would not answer them.

**Psalm 27:12, Isaiah 53:7**

- He would be put to death with criminals.

**Isaiah 53:12**

- His hands and feet would be pierced, along with his side.

**Psalm 22:16, Zechariah 12:10**

- His executioners would cast lots for his clothing.

- **Psalm 22:18**

- **His death would benefit all of humanity.**
- He would be pierced for our transgressions, and crushed for our sins; the punishment that brought us peace would be upon him, and by his wounds we would be healed.
- The Lord would lay on him the iniquity of us all.
- It would be the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer as a guilt offering.

**Isaiah 53:5-6, 10**



- He would be buried in the tomb of a rich person.  
**Isaiah 53:9**
- He would rise from the dead.  
**Psalms 16:10**
- He would ascend to heaven, where he would rule in the midst of his enemies.  
**Psalms 68:18, 110:2**

The detail of these prophetic promises regarding who the Rescuer would be, and what would happen to him and what he would do... are incredible. And as it had been foretold, so it happened... every last detail was fulfilled.

The prophetic promises made in the OT regarding God's Savior... actually spoke of two comings of the Rescuer.



Jesus also spoke of his two comings with his disciples. This is why they asked as they did, the last week of his life, "What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" Matthew 24:3

Jesus explained that before he returned, there would be much deception; wars and rumors of wars, famines and earthquakes, persecutions, the abandoning of the faith by many and an increase in wickedness.

But he assured them... in spite of all these things, God's good news would be preached in the whole world.

As to a specific date of when he would return, Jesus said, only the Father knew the day and the hour.

But... Jesus emphasized that his return would be similar to the days of Noah. His return would be sudden and unexpected. In light of this... Jesus told his followers...

**Therefore, keep watch  
because you do not know  
on what day your Lord will come...**

**You must be ready,  
because the Son of Man will come  
at an hour when you do not expect him.**

**Matthew 24.**

Jesus did not intend that the unexpectedness of his return would leave his people in the grip of anxiety.

He told us these things so that our present lives might be emboldened by anticipation – it could be today!

The night before he died Jesus assured the disciples that his leaving of them was not an abandonment, but also was part of the plan formulated by the triune God in eternity past. He said, John 14:16-18 –

John 14:16-18  
**I will ask the Father  
and he will give you another Counselor  
to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth...**

**You know him, for he lives with you  
and will be in you.**

**I will not leave you as orphans,  
I will come to you...**

Jesus explained what he meant by this... I will come to you.

Through the giving of the Spirit, he and the Father would come and make their home within the lives of those who follow him.  
You could say this coming... was an interim coming... that absolutely guarantees that Jesus will return bodily to the earth.

Jesus added that his coming to them by the Spirit would be for their good in this present age... John 16:7... because it would be the Spirit who would guide them into all truth. John 16:12

It would be the Spirit who would mediate to them the grace of God needed to pursue a long obedience in the same direction.

It would be the Spirit who would empower them as Jesus sent them into the world to preach his gospel... for Jesus' work was not finished when he returned to the Father, but is carried on by his followers.

But this coming of Jesus by the Spirit was not the coming which Jesus spoke of to the apostle John when he said... "Yes, I am coming soon."

Though I mentioned this the week before, we need to speak of this again... to understand what Jesus meant by soon, especially in light of the fact that 1900 years have gone by since he spoke this promise.

Peter in his second letter, voiced a question raised by "scoffers" of his day.



**"Where is this 'coming' he promised?"**

**2 Peter 3:4**

To scoff is to show contempt by sarcastically mocking someone or something. In Peter's day, people mockingly asked why Jesus hadn't returned.... "It's been 30 years since he left."

This same question has been asked in every generation.



Peter explained to those who scoffed... that the Lord is not slow in keeping his promise.

What Peter meant... is that Jesus is not a procrastinator.

Then why the delay?

Why have 1900+ years gone by since Jesus said, "I am coming soon?"



Patience is the reason why Jesus has not yet returned.

The Father and Jesus patiently wait for this singular purpose - that humanity might have the opportunity to repent of their sin and trust in Jesus and his salvation.

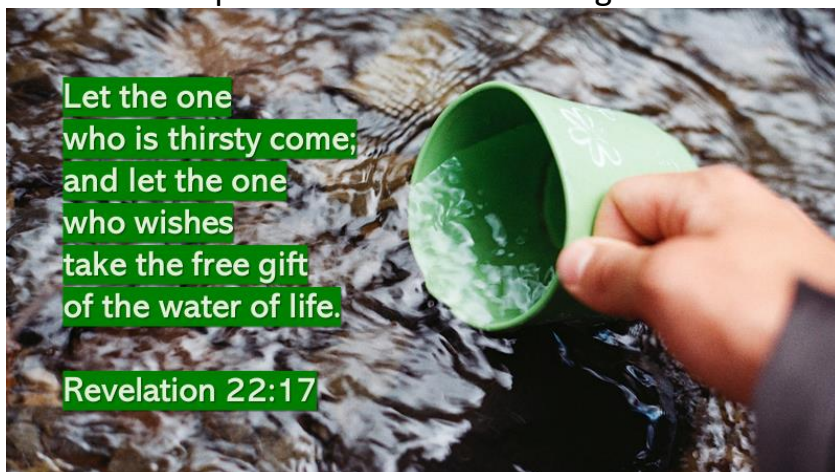
God waits to give people time.

Time to turn from their sin.

Time to believe in and to receive Jesus.

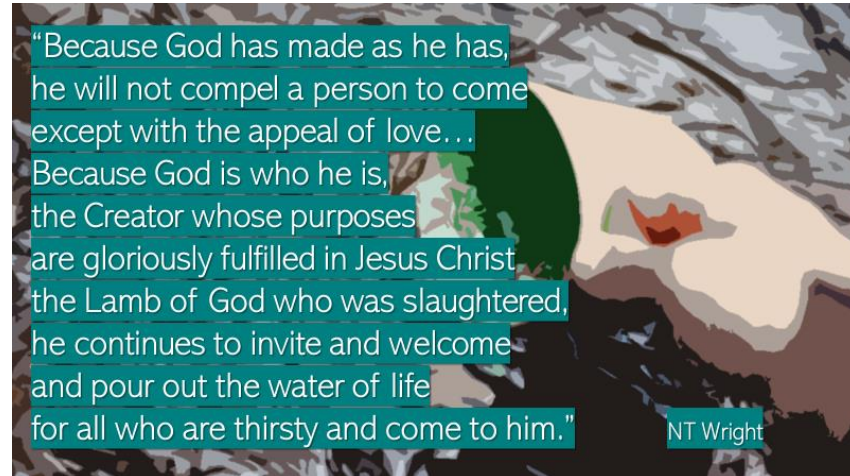
Time to change their destiny.

This is the emphasis made in the closing verses of the Revelation.



Jesus came into the world to put the human project back on track... to put your life and my life...and the lives of all who would come to him... back on track.

NT Wright says...



p.206

Jesus is coming soon.

This is why God's gracious invitation – "come" - continues to be spoken through the Holy Spirit and the people of God.

In response to Jesus, and his assurance that he is coming soon... God's people say...



This is a prayer of anticipation, hope and joy.

John was living on a penal island - his life had not ended as he might have hoped. But having seen the vision that had been shown to him, these four words, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus," was and is the response of every person who has trusted in Jesus.

“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus,” is the cry breathed out by all who are looking forward to a new creation.

- For those who suffer and know heartache... we pray...come Lord Jesus... and dry our tears.
- For those whose bodies are ill... we pray...come Lord Jesus... and make us whole.
- For those who live in conflict... we pray... come Lord Jesus... and bring your peace.
- For those who are shaken by natural disasters... we pray...come Lord Jesus... and be our refuge.
- For those who are grieved by the sin within in... we pray...come Lord Jesus... and make us holy... as you are holy.

With Jesus’ coming... all things will be made new.

There will no longer be anything to fear; to mourn; to endure; to confess.

But look carefully.

This four-word prayer... is not a prayer for new creation.

This is a prayer... for Jesus – Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The great treasure which Jesus had spoken of in his parables... was not the new city which John had been shown in chapters 21 and 22.

The great treasure ....is the triune God himself.

This longing for Jesus is what motivates this closing prayer – Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Randy Alcorn writes,

**Nothing is more often misdiagnosed  
than our homesickness for God.**

Randy Alcorn, Heaven, p.166

**We think that we want  
is sex, drugs, alcohol, a new job, a raise,  
a doctorate, a spouse, a large-screen television,  
a new car, a cabin in the woods,  
a condo in Hawaii.**

Randy Alcorn, Heaven, p.166

**What we really want and long for  
is the person we were made for  
- the triune God.**

**Nothing less can satisfy us.**

Randy Alcorn, Heaven, p.166

This prayer – Amen. Come, Lord Jesus... is also a prayer that complements and completes the prayer every believer first prayed when we asked Jesus to come into our lives.

When we turned to God, and away from sin, and believed in Jesus and received him, we prayed – “Come, Lord Jesus,” come into my life... and he came, and he turned our life right side up and began in us a work of transformation that was astounding!

This prayer at the end of Revelation is a prayer of confidence in who Jesus is and his ability and power.

There is nothing he cannot do.

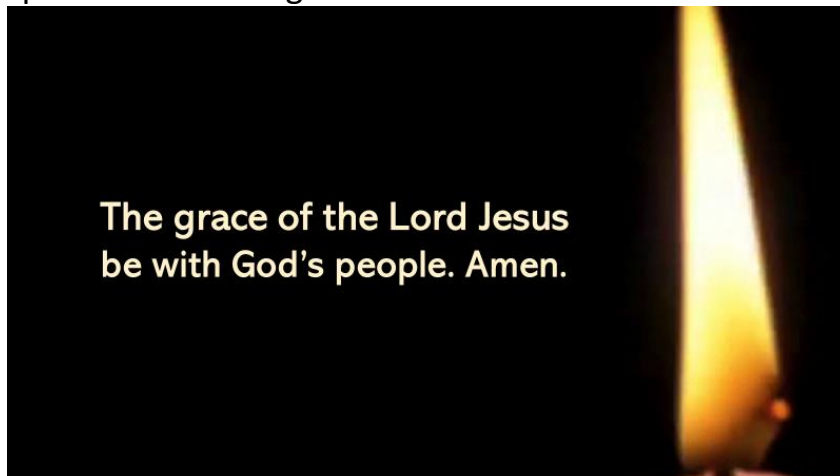
All things are possible with him.

This prayer – Amen. Come, Lord Jesus - asks Jesus to come into the world, like he came into our lives, and to turn the world right.

It's a companion prayer to the one Jesus taught his disciples – “may your kingdom come; may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

This prayer – Amen. Come, Lord Jesus - is a prayer of faith; a prayer of confidence in the power of the gospel of Jesus... to save to the uttermost.

As God's people live expectantly, waiting for the return of Jesus... the Revelation speaks this blessing –



It is the grace of God that saves us

It is the grace of God that causes us to be born of the Spirit.

It is the grace of God that sustains throughout our lives.

It is the grace of God that brings us to the Father's home.

And it is the grace of God that upon the return of Jesus will make all things new.

Jesus says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

We his people answer in response – “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.”





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Gospel-Centered Life; Marriages in crisis







THE PRAYERS OF  
GOD'S PEOPLE

“Yet not my will,  
but yours be done.”



THE PRAYERS OF  
GOD'S PEOPLE

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
**Let my eyes be your eyes,  
sharing compassion, warmth and love.**  
Make me an instrument of your peace.”



THE PRAYERS OF  
GOD'S PEOPLE

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
**Let my hands be your hands,  
bringing healing with their touch.**  
Make me an instrument of your peace.”



“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
**Let my ears be your ears,  
listening where there is need.**  
Make me an instrument of your peace.”



“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
**Let my words be your words,  
bringing comfort, joy and peace.**  
Make me an instrument of your peace.”



“Where there is hatred, let me sow love,  
where there is injury, pardon,  
where there is doubt, let me sow faith  
where there is despair, hope.”

**The word of the Lord says, Psalm 147:11: The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.**



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