

December 31

Scriptures: Read Revelation 22

Key Verse: “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with Me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.” (Revelation 22:12)

Overview

Bernard of Clairvaux wrote,

“Jesus the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills my breast,
But sweeter far Thy face to see,
And in Thy presence rest!”

“Jesus our only joy be Thou As
Thou our prize wilt be: Jesus, be
Thou our glory now,
And through eternity.”

This concluding chapter of Revelation is one of invitation. After giving a few more details about the new Jerusalem (vv.1-5), the vision crystallizes into the expectation of Christ’s return (vv.7,12, 20) and the awesome offer to “whoever wishes” to “take the free gift of water of life” (v.17). It is a great invitation, and it is still possible to say “Yes” to God. “The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’” is the climactic statement of all scripture. God has invited you! God has invited me! We can come to the wedding banquet. We can come to the new Jerusalem.

We can come because the Lord Jesus is coming...soon! The whole impetus of Revelation, and of history, is focused on that coming. His re-entry into space and time is the absolute pinnacle of the Church’s great hope.

As I wrote in my book, *Theology for Non-Theologians*,

“Suddenly the most sublime words of all come rolling out of the heavenlies. A divine invitation just for you...the whole point of the Bible suddenly becomes clear. A cry from deep within the heart explodes out of us, Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!” Indeed, “Thou our prize will be...”

Prayer

Your Spirits say, “Come”, and we as believers who are Your Bride say, “Come”, also. Grant, Lord Jesus, that we will so share the joy of Your Person that many more will come to know You as Lord and Saviour.