

Introduction:

- Having a vision of Jesus and knowing who He is will empower the church to overcome sin, compromise, persecution, and geo political pressures at the end of the age.
- God in His wisdom, gives us sight and insight to who the Lamb of God is and allows us to see Him before the judgements of the Book of Revelation are released. You can overcome if you can keep your eyes on this one called Jesus!
- Keep the words of this prophecy...keeping the words of this prophecy: are key to winning with Jesus. Holding them close to my heart will protect my heart when times are challenging.

I. I am Coming- Keep the Word

- A. *"And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."* (Revelation 22:7, ESV) These are powerful words of hope to a man who has just observed the end of the age.
1. When you know Jesus as we have seen him to be in Revelation, and He says, "I am coming soon!" Those are words of encouragement that are meant to strengthen.
 2. John is getting the full picture in his encounter with God. Chapter 1-22.
 - a) He sees the 56 positive things spoken and shown about Jesus in the first three chapters. God does this because He knows what is coming and what we need to overcome.
 - b) He sees Jesus' leadership
 - (1) In his willingness to strengthen the seven churches.
 - (2) As He is the only one who can take the scroll.
 - (3) He breaks the seals. Seven times we read "He opened/broke the seal" – he is overseeing the plan of God to make sure all happens.
 - (4) The judgements begin. *"God uses the least severe means to reach the greatest number of people at the deepest level."* Mike Bickle
 - c) The seals roll over right into the trumpets. The judgements are more severe.
 - d) The trumpets roll over into the seals, which are the wrath of God, reserved for those who have sided with the beast.
 3. Jesus' leadership – in both authority, and actual participation thus it reassures John and the church that He, Jesus, is in control!
 4. Chapters 21 and 22, like chapters 1-3, are meant to encourage the church that is suffering because of it's faith in Christ. The 'bookends' of Revelations are hope filled!!! This cannot be overstressed enough.
- B. Our response:
1. Keep the words of this prophecy! *"Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near."* (Revelation 1:3, ESV)

- a) *Tereo* Gr. – The basic meaning of this word is “to keep in view,” “to note,” “to watch over”; Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT (p. 1174). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans. It can also mean to guard and to protect, to apply oneself to.
- b) It is Jesus way of saying, “You are definitely going to need this so don’t lose it!”
- 2. Prophecy - *prophetes* - Gr. the declaration of the divine will of God. Jesus proclaimed it, angels proclaimed it, Father proclaimed it and now John is entrusted to proclaim it. And because it is prophecy, it is valuable to the Saints!
- 3. ‘Soon’ short period of time
 - a) What is short period of time in light of eternity????
 - b) Soon is never soon enough for someone who is suffering or enduring. It prompts the statement heard earlier: “How long O Lord?”

II. I am Coming Soon, With Recompense!

- A. *“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”* (Revelation 22:12-13, ESV)
 - 1. Again, these words are spoken for a second time, *“I am coming soon!”* Any time you find Jesus repeating himself it is worth noting and it is important.
 - 2. They are words of encouragement, that are meant to strengthen God’s people.
 - 3. They are seeing the end from the beginning! Is 46:10
- B. He is not empty handed when He comes!
 - 1. He is bringing recompense with Him.
 - 2. Recompense - a payment for worthy acts. Re-compensation for what was lost.
 - 3. ‘to repay’ - (Gr. *apodidomi*) as in we earned it.... *“It brings out the personal nature of the relation with God. We do not do good for good’s sake but out of love of God and in recognition that we are his.”* Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). TDNT) p. 167). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
- C. He is: Alpha-Omega; First and Last; Beginning and End.
 - 1. The six main titles of God in Revelation are grouped together. They are the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End and the First and the Last Rev. 1:8, 11, 17; 2:8; 3:14; 21:6; 22:13.
 - a) **Alpha (4x)**: Rev. 1:8 (Father); 1:11 (Jesus); 21:6 (Father); 22:13 (Jesus)
 - b) **Omega (4x)**: Rev. 1:8 (Father); 1:11 (Jesus); 21:6 (Father); 22:13 (Jesus)
 - c) **Beginning (4x)**: Rev. 1:8 (Father); 3:14 (Jesus); 21:6 (Father); 22:13 (Jesus)
 - d) **End (3x)**: Rev. 1:8 (Father); 21:6 (Father); 22:13 (Jesus)
 - e) **First (4x)**: Rev. 1:11, 17; 2:8; 22:13 plus Isa. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12 (all 7 references to Jesus)
 - f) **Last (4x)**: Rev. 1:11, 17; 2:8; 22:13 plus Isa. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12 (all 7 references to Jesus)

2. These titles mention two polar opposites to emphasize that everything between the opposites is also included.
 - a) All the events described between Rev. 1:8 and 21:6 are under God's sovereignty. These titles express the guarantee that all in Revelation will be fulfilled.
 - b) The titles Alpha and Omega seem to be synonymous with the Beginning and the End. Jesus, "I started this thing, I will finish it!"
3. Verse 14 is another reminder to keep the garment clean so that one is ready to receive Christ's reward.

III. "Surely I am Coming Again!" Just for reassurance...

- A. For the third time these words are spoken. This message is important to Jesus' heart to communicate to us.
- B. He wants us to stake ourselves up to Him in order that we receive His strength to overcome. He loves His bride!
- C. Not only does he say, "I am coming again." But He says, "*Surely...I am coming again.*"
 1. The Greek translation of surely is, "**YES, YES, YES!**" I positively affirm that I will be there!
 2. Jesus is sure, confident, Lord over all....So yes, I will come again.
- D. We are called to trust Him, believe what He has said and Stand!

Conclusion:

- Something positive happens to the human heart when we just focus on who Jesus is in the Book of Revelation.
 - It gives us assured confidence in Him.
 - It gives us hope.
 - It gives us courage to stand in adversity, for He has already overcome.
- Having read the front and back of the Book, I know I am in good hands as I keep my life in Him!