

Even So- Come!

1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, **flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb** 2 down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood **the tree of life**, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing (*therapeian*) of the nations. 3 **No longer will there be any curse.** The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. 4 **They will see his face**, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. **And they will reign for ever and ever.**

6 The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place." 7 "**Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.**" 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. 9 But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!"

10 Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. 11 Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy."

12 "**Behold, I am coming soon! My reward (wages) is with me, and I will give to everyone according to 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, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.** 15 **Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.**

Ps 46:4-6

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. 5 God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. 6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

Seeing the tree of life again points to a restoration of all things. "Now at last, almost at the end of the great drama of the Bible, man may return and legitimately enjoy the blessing which he was banished for illegitimately desiring." (Preston/Hanson)

Even though this great chapter of the Bible tells us of heaven, we should think deeply about it and take in now what we can. "We do not suppose that a man is shooting at a target if he does not look that way; nor can we imagine that a man's ambition is fixed on heaven if he has no heavenward thoughts or aspirations." (Spurgeon)

No more curse	Perfect Restoration
Throne in their midst	Perfect Administration
Servants shall serve	Perfect Subordination
Shall see His face	Perfect Transformation
Name on foreheads	Perfect Identification
God is the light	Perfect Illumination
Reigning forever	Perfect Exultation

Because the time is at hand, and history now runs parallel to the brink of the consummation of all things, this book isn't sealed. This is in contrast to Old Testament prophecy (Daniel 8:26); men seal the Book of Revelation in defiance of God's command.

Coming soon/Quickly
tachu (takh-oo') shortly, i.e. without delay, soon, **or (by surprise) suddenly.**

The title the First and the Last is also irrefutable proof that Jesus is Yahweh, the LORD: I, the LORD, am the first; and with the last I am He." (Isaiah 41:4)

KJV- "do my commandments" is a poor translation.

16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him 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, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

The last verse of the Old Testament contains a curse: Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse (Malachi 4:6). Fittingly, the last words of the New Testament speak of grace, because grace describes God's dealing with man on the basis of the New Covenant.



“Thus the very God of all inspiration, and of all inspired men, reiterates and affirms the highest authority for all that is herein written. Either, then, this Book is nothing but a base and blasphemous forgery, unworthy of the slightest respect of men, and specially unworthy of a place in the Sacred Canon; or it is one of the most directly inspired and authoritative writings ever given.” (Seiss)

Is this an invitation to Jesus, asking Him to return? Or is it an invitation to those with a spiritual thirst to come to Jesus? Either sense is certainly true.

Let him take the water of life freely: When you desire, when you come, then you must take. All of this world's religion can be summed up in the idea that you must bring something to give unto the gods. The essence of Christianity is summed up in the idea that God invites us to take the water of life freely. You can't bring anything to save or justify or commend yourself before God, but you can take the salvation He offers.

Glory in the greatness of the invitation: whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely! Anyone who desires salvation in Jesus Christ can come to Him and take the water of life freely.

- i. “I don't understand all the Christian doctrine and theology” - come anyway, because it doesn't say *whoever understands, let him take the water of life freely.*
- ii. “I can't repent the way that I should. My heart is hard and I can't even weep over my sins or feel bad over them as I should” - come anyway, because it doesn't say *whoever feels, let him take the water of life freely.*
- iii. “I don't know if I can live the Christian life the way that I should” - come anyway, because it doesn't say *whoever can, let him take the water of life freely.*
- iv. “I don't know if I am worthy to live the Christian life” - come anyway, because it doesn't say *whoever is worthy, let him take the water of life freely.*