

# Sermon: The Lord is coming, so come to the Lord

Rev 22:6-21

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Today we focus once again on eternity - on being with God. Last weeks we have been looking at what the book of Revelation tells us about the goal of history, when God will renew all things.

How I desire for that. We live in hard days, and our life is so imperfect. I love this life, but how great the moment when God renews us and this world we live in. How great that moment when we shall be with the Father who made us, when we can look him in the face.

How great that moment when we will be reunited with family and friends that have passed away and that are already with our Lord.

## **Jesus is coming**

Today we have read that Jesus will return to this world. When he ascended into heaven, he promised his disciples that he would come back. That feast in the church calendar was celebrated just a few days ago.

He surely will return. Jesus said it to his disciples before he returned to his throne, and in the book of Revelation we see how God had send an angel to the apostle John to underline the same message.

Our Lord will not leave this old world to continue in misery, He will reunite heaven and earth and it will be paradise again!

John was so impressed by this angel that he fell in worship at his feet. How in the world is that possible. He had known Jesus, he was an apostle. And he worshipped an angel! I think this teaches us a good lesson - we are all very good in worshipping idols.

John was in hard circumstances, banished from his beloved city of Ephesus to the Island of Patmos, and he was vulnerable. People in hard circumstances can do dumb things. If you are under pressure and stress, guard your heart extra against the worship of anything that may seem desirable.

One such idol in Egypt is the idol called stability. If only Egypt would be stable! Or the idol of security. And the idol of the Green Card... Ye Rabb! Or the good old idol called money. Guard your heart! What about the idol of job security, or a new contract.

John was told to not worship anything but God and the Lamb - the Son of God. It is good to see that the Bible hereby sets Jesus far apart from angels or anything created. he is to be worshipped as God Almighty.

Yes as God Almighty. In our passage we see that Jesus is called the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last. The beginning and the end.

Now if Jesus is the first and the last, can there be anything before him or after him? No of course. Not even God Almighty. And very interesting in Rev 1:8, we read the same words: "I am the Alpha and Omega, says... Says the Lord God, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

If God Almighty calls himself the Alpha and the Omega, and Jesus says as well, "I am the Alpha and Omega" it is pretty obvious that Jesus claims to be God Almighty himself. Without suggesting that there's actually one individual only.

God Almighty says, I will come, and Jesus says: Behold i am coming soon.

We know that God Almighty is like Jesus. So we have no reason to fear his coming, but every reason to look forward to it. He will not be a different Jesus then he was when he was on earth. In that Jesus we have come to know God.

He will come with eternal blessings for those who obey him. And people who decided not to believe in him, will be allowed to continue living far from the presence of God. "I will give to everyone according to what he has done" is the promise of Jesus. Great comfort for us who follow him, and an encouragement to do so with all of our heart.

It is our Lord who is coming, the one who stamped his name on our lives; the Good Shepherd is coming for his sheep; the Head of the church comes to be with his body forever.

I am coming, Jesus announces to John, and through John to us as well.

## **Come Lord Jesus**

No wonder the church throughout the centuries has continued to pray, "yes, Come Lord Jesus."

Strange prayer actually. The Lord promises that He will come, and the church says, please come Lord. This shows that prayer is much more than trying to get something that you hope to get. It is above all relating to our Lord and wholeheartedly agreeing with his will. It is aligning our life and our desires with God.

This is no wonder - because it is the Holy Spirit who together with us prays this prayer, Come Lord Jesus. Our prayers are driven by the Spirit of God in us and in our church; He knows

the mind of God and He only desires the will of God, because He himself IS God.

God will send his Son; the Son of God will come; the Spirit of God desires with the Father and the Son that heaven and earth will be renewed and that all Gods children will be united in eternal life.

As a fantastic deposit of that future, the Spirit is already in our midst, and one day we will receive the fullness of being united with God, with perfection, with love, with joy, with peace unimaginably fantastic.

On that great day, we will be with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We will dine with the Holy Trinity at his table and see God in the face. This is the message of the icon behind our communion table. When we kneel, we kneel at his table and we anticipate the great heavenly banquet with our Lord.

And as we anticipate, we even today have a foretaste. The church is the Temple of God; He is in our midst. We have Holy Communion with Him.

So the Spirit has since the day of Pentecost, worked in the Church to make it desire for Jesus Christ and his return. He makes us pray, Lord, come back!

This is not the same as trying to figure out how all things will exactly go in the future. It does not mean we pay too much attention to what will exactly happen. I think the Bible does not say much about that anyway. A focus on all this so easily distracts us from the One who is coming. He will surely come, that is our hope!

### **Invite thirsty people to come**

The proper response to the fact that Jesus will come back is to align our hearts with Him and say, yes Lord, come. And to live for Him, not tomorrow but today.

And a natural reaction to the coming of our Lord to his church is that we invite all people to be part of his church. That is why Rev 22 ends with an invitation to us and to all people.

"Whoever is thirsty, let him come, and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life."

The Lord comes, so please, come to the Lord! Come to his church. Be part of the community that He will shower with eternal blessings when he comes, and even today, He quenches our thirst"

So many people are thirsty for truth, for reality, and that can only be found in God. Our heart has no rest until it finds its rest in God. And this is not just future music, it is a promise for today. If we are thirsty today, God will give us to drink from the Water of Life, from the Holy Spirit who is in our midst and who receives his life giving power straight from the throne of God because He is God.

The very early church had a liturgy for Holy Communion, and during communion they prayed, maranatha. Come Lord! Because they realized that as the Lord will come one day to make all things new, He even today, at Communion, comes to us for blessing us, for lifting us up, for making us ascend to God.

And as we enjoy this, we offer the same joy to all people. If you are thirsty, come. Be reconciled with God. Live for Him. Give up your bad habits, and come to the Father who waits with open arms, come to Jesus Christ who reconciled you with God, come to the Holy Spirit who applies those beautiful facts to your life today.

So a church that expects the Lord Christ, a Church where Spirit lives, a Church carried in the arms of the Father, is a church that goes out into the world to help other make their lives in order.

### **Conclusion**

Let us be wise and live 100% for our Lord Jesus Christ. He will not do with less - for He himself is God Almighty. He gave his life for you. And he wants you to be ready for the moment when He will bring heaven and earth together in a new paradise.

What a reason to live for Him and for Him alone. Our nice jobs, money, women, men, a house or a good car, it is all nothing compared to living for him and compared to the life he is to bring.

So make up your mind who you serve and do speak with your friends about the gospel of our lord. He is coming back.

Come Lord Jesus

And Come, all you who are thirsty and drink from the water of life.

**Amen.**