

FAITH SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

January 2, 2011

“Come to Jesus; Come, Lord Jesus”

Focal Passage: Revelation 22

Cross References:

Revelation 21; Isaiah 55:1; John 7:37-39

Central Idea: The last chapter of the Bible emphasizes the benefits of coming to Jesus and ends with a prayer for Jesus to come again.

Lesson Idea: We need to come to Jesus and pray for Jesus to come again.

Background: Revelation is a book of prophecy given to the Apostle John by visions towards the end of the first century. John was exiled to the island of Patmos because of his belief and teaching about Jesus. He received this revelation about the end times from Jesus Himself and from the angel of the Lord.

There is much symbolism throughout Revelation and much debate over its meaning. One thing that is universally accepted is that God gave this book to encourage a persecuted church and let them know that God is still in control and will win in the end.

The book of Revelation encourages believers to endure to the end and stay faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Alpha and the omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

Bible in a Year Readings

Dec 26, 2010-Jan 2, 2011

Dec 26 Revelation 4 - 7
Dec 27 Revelation 8 - 11
Dec 28 Revelation 12 - 14
Dec 29 Revelation 15 - 17
Dec 30 Revelation 18 - 19
Dec 31 Revelation 20 - 22
Jan 1 Genesis 1 - 3
Jan 2 Genesis 4 - 7

Highlights of the Week:

Rev 4: Worship in Heaven
Rev 5-8: The Seven Seals
Rev 8-10: The Seven Trumpets
Rev 11: The Two Witnesses
Rev 12: War in Heaven
Rev 13: The Two Beasts
Rev 14: The 144,000
Rev 16: Six Bowls of Wrath
Rev 17: Victory for the Lamb
Rev 18: Fall of Babylon
Rev 19: The Coming of Christ
Rev 20: The Great White Throne
Rev 21-22: The New Heaven and Earth
Gen 1-2: Creation Account
Gen 3: The First Sin
Gen 4: Cain and Abel
Gen 6--9: Noah and the Flood

Revelation 22:1-5 **The Throne of God**

22:1 AND he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2 in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him; 4 and they shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever.

DISCUSSION:

- What is the significance of the water of life and the tree of life being prominent in this description of heaven?
- What does it mean that the tree of life bears twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month?
- What kinds of healing do the nations need that will ultimately come in God's kingdom?
- In v 3 what curse is done away with?
- The greatest blessing of heaven is mentioned in v 3-4. What is that blessing?
- Having the Lord's name on our foreheads imply that we belong to Him. What comfort do you have knowing that you belong to God?
- What is the significance of not having night anymore?
- How long will heaven last and what will we be doing according to v 5?

Revelation 22:6-9 **Faithful and True Words**

6 And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must shortly take place. 7 "And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."

*8 And I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 And he *said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book; worship God."*

DISCUSSION:

- What does it mean that God's Words are faithful and true?
- If the Lord is the God of the spirits of the prophets and sent His message through an angel, what does that mean concerning how trustworthy Revelation is?
- Angels are powerful and very popular in our society. Why should we not worship them and put too much emphasis on them?
- What command did the angel give John instead?
- As you have read Revelation this week, what kind of things had John experienced that would cause him to have an attitude of worship?
- Why should you worship the Lord?

Revelation 22:10-16 **The Alpha and the Omega**

10 And he *said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. 11 "Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and let the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and let the one who is holy, still keep himself holy."* 12 *"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man 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 enter by the gates into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

16 *"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star."*

DISCUSSION:

- If John was told the time was near over 2000 years ago, what does that mean for us today?
- What does v 11 mean? Does God really want those who do wrong to keep doing wrong and those who are filthy to keep being filthy? What is he saying?
- How do you keep yourself holy?
- In v 12 Jesus says He is coming quickly and bringing His reward. How will Jesus reward people?
- Thinking back on this past year, how would Jesus reward your life?
- What should change in this new year that would make that reward better?
- Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and Omega is the last. What does it mean that Jesus is the first and the last, the beginning and the end?
- According to v 14 what qualifies someone the right to the tree of life?
- V 15 talks of those who are "outside" God's city, separated from God based on their choice of a life of sin instead of surrendering to the Lordship of Christ. What do people choose today instead of choosing to follow Christ?
- Revelation shows the divine nature of Christ in many ways. Compare v 6 and v 16. How do these verses point to Jesus being God?

Revelation 22:17-21

Come

17 *And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.*

18 *I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.*

20 *He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

21 *The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.*

DISCUSSION:

- The Spirit is the Holy Spirit, but who is "the bride" in v 17?
- What is the message that we have for the world?
- Why can people take the water of life for free? See also Isaiah 55:1; John 7:37-39.
- There is a stern warning against adding or subtracting from the words of Revelation. Why?
- What is the promise of Christ in v 20? Why does this promise give you hope?
- The next to the last verse in the Bible features a prayer we should pray. What is that prayer and why should we pray it?
- The final verse is a blessing. What does a life look like when the "grace of the Lord Jesus" is with it?

APPLICATION

As 2010 comes to a close and we look towards 2011, consider the following questions and resolve to draw nearer to God:

- What excites you the most about our heavenly home?
- How closely have you walked with Jesus this past year?
- What is one thing you could change to make 2011 an even better year?