**Revelation 22:12–17, 20** Look, I am coming soon and my reward is with me, to repay each one according to what he has done. 13I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. 14Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the Tree of Life and so that they may enter through the gates into the city. 15Outside are the dogs, that is, the sorcerers, the adulterers, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

16I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star. 17The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears this say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come. Let the one who wants the water of life take it as a gift.

20The one who testifies about these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

 I have always enjoyed preaching on the Book of Revelation. It is such a wonderful and if you were to ask me, a very comforting book that reminds us that no matter what Jesus and his victory are the most important thing ever. The text before us is one that really highlights that truth of Jesus. Let’s just jump in and look at our text under the theme: **JESUS IS COMING.**

 The first thing you should know about this particular text is that these are the last words found in Revelation and thus they are the last words found in the Bible. The importance of these words is clearly seen in what they say and what they tell us of the work, the wonder and the majesty of Jesus. And again, like many of the words of Scripture, you have the choice before you either to completely believe what is said here or to deny what is said. To deny what is said is to reject Jesus Christ as God, Lord and Savior from sin. Because if these words are false, then there is nothing at all to say of Jesus and our faith.

 But these words are true. Just look at how these words start. It is Jesus speaking to us. He says, **“I am coming soon.** That was his promise to us even before his crucifixion and resurrection and ascension. By the way, Ascension Day was Thursday. Thursday marked 40 days after Easter and the very day that Jesus ascended to heaven. He ascended to take his rightful and powerful place in Heaven. He has now been appointed the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings. He told us that all things in heaven and earth are now in his hands and that he will do all things for the good and salvation of the souls of his church. But he clearly also told us he would return. Return with power and glory. Return to be the judge of all! Every soul will answer to Jesus! Have you believed in Him or not?

 Please note our words say that Jesus is coming soon. Well, these words are already two thousand years old and yet to the Lord, the almighty and timeless Lord, two thousand years is nothing. Please remember that our idea of soon and God’s idea of soon from the perspective of eternity itself is going to be different. I would tell you, “Don’t get all wrapped up in the soon, rather pay attention to the fact that Jesus says he is coming back and I guarantee that His words, his promise will be true!

 How is he coming back? Our words say, **“My reward is with me, to repay each one according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they have the right to the Tree of Life and so that they may enter through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, that is, the sorcerers, the adulterers, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”**

 Wow, that is a mouthful. Take that first phrase: **“My reward is with me to repay each one according to what he has done.”** Dear people, these are the words of Jesus. In a nutshell, Jesus is telling us that his salvation, his gift of eternal life, the one he carries and gives, it is all his. It is not what we do, in other words, clearly works, personal goodness, and all sorts of other measures that mankind wants to use are going to be useless. Jesus has this reward, it is his, and Jesus will give this reward according to his just and righteous judgments laid out for us in his Word! Clearly all judgment is in the hands of Jesus.

 Now I want to speak of the judgment of Jesus but first let’s just grasp that he has the Right of judgment. That is found in the phrases that he gives us. Jesus calls himself **“The Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”** Now, contrary to what others might say, I believe that these phrase do not say the same thing but rather help us get a complete picture of who and what Jesus is. When Jesus tells us he is Alpha and Omega, that isn’t just saying he is the beginning and end, because Alpha is the first letter and Omega is the last letter. I believe this phrase is telling us Jesus is the A to Z. He is everything that is anything in this world of ours. You want to see the depth of this then go to Psalm 119. Psalm 119 is an acrostic psalm, each section begins with a specific letter of the alphabet. 22 Hebrew letters times eight verses for each letter. This psalm is a meditation on the Word of God and all that the Word of God is. Must I remind you that the Word of God is Jesus! You want to understand Alpha and Omega, then go read that psalm and everything said of the Word! Jesus is our Everything in every way!

 Or Jesus says he is **“the First and Last.”** I consider these words a commentary on our salvation. Eight times in the New Testament Jesus is called **“the firstborn.”**  Often this phrase fully reads: “the firstborn from the dead.” Jesus is the cause of our salvation and life and he has the last say in those who will follow, that’s is the force of calling him the last. Our salvation rests only and absolutely in Jesus and nowhere else!

 Or Jesus says he is **“The Beginning and the End.”** This world started in and through Jesus and this world will end in and through Jesus. He is the Almighty God, creator and judge of all. He determined to create this world and Jesus will determine when this world will be brought to an end and all souls judged. These three phrases give us a complete picture of the wonder and awe of Jesus.

 And what is the basis of that judgment? Jesus says first, **“to repay each according to what he has done.”** Here is how it simply works. When you believe in Jesus, truly believe, then all your sins are forgiven in Jesus and you will be considered righteous, holy and perfect in the eyes of God. You will be judged holy and pure and you will be given the gift of heaven. But should there be no faith in Jesus, then you will stand before the Lord to answer for each and every sin you let Jesus die for but you rejected and spurned this gift. If you are judged holy and pure by the Law, you will get salvation but I can guarantee that such is not going to happen. Just one sin, one fault and you will be condemned forever. Yep, repayed according to what we have done: Either we have believed or we have not!

 To clarify this are the next words. How do you know you have faith in Jesus? Jesus says, **“Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the Tree of Life and so that they may enter through the gates into the city.”** This is the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, the eternal Heavenly Kingdom of God spoken of here. You get in because your robe is washed. Washed in the blood of the Lamb. You have trusted Jesus, you have solely relied on Jesus, you know the forgiveness of sins and the power of Jesus in your pitiful sinful life. But in Jesus you are made holy. The blood of the Lamb makes us pure and holy. Here is how faith is described.

 Now, the counter to what faith is, is found in the next words. **“Outside are the dogs, that is, the sorcerers, the adulterers, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.”** It is not uncommon in Scripture that unbelievers are called “dogs”. I am told that the word used here is not the house pet but rather the wild, untamed, stray dog. And then the next words are kind of an explanation of what these dogs are: sorcerers, those who usurp the authority and power of God claiming this power for themselves. The adulterers, those who consider sexuality a toy and source of unbridled pleasure contrary to God’s command. They laugh at the 6th Commandment as if God no say. The murderers, those who have no care and concern for the sanctity and sacredness of life, but give themselves over to hatreds and consider death a reward. The idolaters, those who reject God’s truths for false and made up gods, often making themselves the judges of who and what God can be. The final words simply sum up the reality for all who are unbelievers. They love and practice falsehood. Yep, they reject the light of the wisdom of God for the darkness of evil. I do think all of us need to look closely at these words and their implications because clearly God is helping us to understand His boundaries and judgments on certain sins and attitudes that God says exclude us from having our robes washed.

 Then comes the last verses of our section. They says, **“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star. The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears this say, ‘Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come. Let the one who wants the water of life take it as a gift.”**

 These words are such an awesome summary of all that we have already considered. The new thing here is the reminder that what you are hearing and reading in the entire Bible is of and from Jesus. The words, “**”I have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches”** is actually a reference to the sending of the Holy Spirit of God. The word ‘angel’ means messenger. The messenger of Jesus and his salvation is God’s Holy Spirit, the one sent from the Father and the Son to testify about the wonder and awe of Jesus, to remind the apostles of all the Jesus taught and to make sure we have a clear and precise record of this awesome gift of salvation found in Jesus. That testimony is the Bible.

 Then we have Jesus calling himself **“The Root and the Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star.”** This reminds us that all of God’s Word, Old Testament and New Testament, are all about Jesus and how Jesus fulfilled every promise of the Father for our redemption. Every jot and tittle of God’s Word is of and from God. It is about Jesus given to us by the Holy Spirit that we might comprehend and grasp what Jesus has done for us.

 And this section ends with prayer and hope. The Spirit and the bride, that is the Holy Spirit and the Holy Christian Church, they pray for and hope for Jesus to return. Those who hear the testimony of Jesus, the wonders of his love and the joy of His salvation, they pray that Jesus would come. Those who are thirsty for the truth of God and the salvation of Jesus, who desire to drink of the One who calls himself the Living Water, they pray for Jesus to come. I can tell you that I too, filled with the wonder of God in Jesus, I pray that Jesus will soon come. Jesus coming back simply means that eternal life and salvation with Him forever begins.

 And this section ends: **“The one who testifies about these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”** Dear people, that is the promise of Jesus. It all hinges and rests on Jesus. Please Lord, fulfill your word and come. Amen.