

Revelation: God with His People

Read Revelation 21 and 22

In Revelation we've seen Jesus as the glorified Christ, walking among the churches. We've seen Him as our High Priest, the Lion of Judah, the triumphant Lamb, and the One who unfolds all God's destiny for our race and our world. He is reigning over all kingdoms, the mighty conqueror, the Faithful and True, the sovereign Word, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

But in Revelation 21, we see Him in a different light, in relationship to His beloved, redeemed people. Now He is the bridegroom (v.2), being eternally joined with His people, His glorious bride. He is God's temple among us, His full personal presence (v.22). He is the light of heaven, for in the glory of His immediate presence, no sun or moon is necessary. The blaze of His being would swallow up all lesser lights (vv.23-26).

Then in the closing chapter, Revelation 22, Christ speaks to us directly. Take careful note of what He says about Himself here at this critical place:

- *"Behold, I am coming quickly"* (v.12a, NASB). Don't think of His coming as far away, at some future date. Be ready. Stay ready. Live ready.
- *"My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done"* (v.12b, NASB). He is coming to pass judgment on us all.
- *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end"* (v.13, NASB). He is both the Source and the Goal of all existence. Keep Him as the Source and Goal of your life.
- "The difference between those who enjoy His beautiful salvation and those left outside is drastic, tragic, and eternal. Keep your life pure!" (vv.14-15, para.)
- "I am the promised Messiah you have waited for so long" (v.16b, para.).
- *"I am...the bright Morning Star"* (v.16c, NASB). Jesus, our Morning Star, is a sure promise and certain sign that the long night of tribulation is almost over, and the morning is about to dawn.

All that God ever promised us, all that His love ever desired for us, has come to us in Jesus Christ. He is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15), the exact representation of His very being (Hebrews 1:3). In Him we see every picture of God in all its fullness and beauty. In Him we share forever in all He is.

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