"THE TIME IS NEAR!"

(A Message for the New Year)

(Revelation 22:10-21)

12-28-2025



A Practical Key Truth -- * Realize the urgency of the present hour!**

I. ***Now is the time to:*** **<u>CHANGE YOUR DESTINY</u>!** *(v.11)*



II. ***Now is the time to:*** **<u>LAY UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN</u>!** *(v.12-13)*



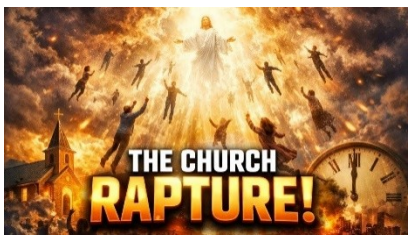
III. ***Now is the time to:*** **<u>SUBMIT TO GOD'S WORD</u>!** *(v.14-15)*



IV. ***Now is the time to:*** **<u>ACCEPT GOD'S INVITATION</u>!** *(v.16-17)*



V. ***Now is the time to:*** **<u>PREPARE FOR CHRIST'S COMING</u>!** *(v.20-21)*



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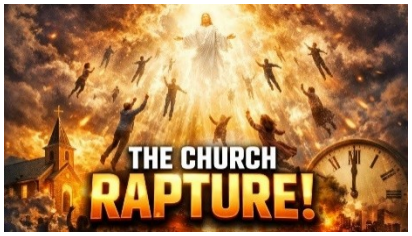
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“THE TIME IS AT HAND!”

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The Devil’s Strategy

The devil and his cohorts were devising plans to get people to reject the Gospel. “Let’s go to them and say there is no God,” proposed one. Silence prevailed. Every devil knew that most people believe in a supreme being. “Let’s tell them there is no hell, no future punishment for the wicked,” offered another. That was turned down, because men obviously have consciences which tell them that sin must be punished. The concave was going to end in failure when there came a voice from the rear: “Tell them there is a God, there is a hell and that the Bible is the Word of God. But tell them there is plenty of time to decide the question. Let them ‘neglect’ the Gospel, until it is too late.” All hell erupted with ghoulish glee, for they knew that if a person procrastinated on Christ, they usually never accept Him.

v.10 ***"The time is at hand"***

A major emphasis in Rev. 22:6-21 is on the urgency of preparedness: the extreme importance of being ready for Christ's return.

Note the repeated references to Christ's coming:

"Behold I come quickly" (v. 7)
"Behold I come quickly" (v. 12)
"Behold I come quickly" (v. 20)

The fulfillment of the book of Revelation is surely near!

This is why John is told not to "seal up" the book of Revelation (verse 10).

"The time is at hand" - lit. the specific season for fulfillment is near!

The time is near for the Antichrist to be revealed . . .for the seals to be loosed . . . for the trumpets to blow . . . for the bowls to be poured out . . . Above all, the time is near for Christ to come back!

Therefore, now is the time for God's people to wake up spiritually (SEE: Rom. 13:11-12)

A Practical Key Truth -- * Realize the urgency of the present hour!**

I. Now is the time to: CHANGE YOUR DESTINY! (v.11)

In every age, God’s willingness to forgive is evident (ex. Hezekiah’s son, Manasseh)

Note the contrasts:

"unjust" (unrighteous) -- -- ***"righteous"***
"filthy" -- -- -- -- -- --***"holy"***

There is a point of no return. Life does not work like a video game where you can get respawned or start over.

At which point is man's fate fixed? (When will it be impossible to alter one's eternal destiny? When is it too late to change one’s status with God?)

--Upon death (Heb. 9:27; Lk. 16:26) It's too late in eternity to change your destiny!

When it comes to salvation, urgency is most clearly emphasized in Holy Scripture

Prov. 27:1 - "Boast not thyself of tomorrow: for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."
II Cor. 6:2 - "(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succored thee: beheld, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)"

--Upon receiving the Mark of the Beast (Rev. 14:9-11)

*Those who heard the Gospel and rejected the love of the truth will believe the lie of the Antichrist will have no chance to change their destiny - II Thes. 2:10-12

-- In this context, one's condition and fate is sealed at the moment of Christ's return (v.12);
Again, those who knew the truth and turned from it following the lie of the Antichrist
will be shut out from the kingdom of Christ.

II. Now is the time to: LAY UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN! (v.12-13)

V. 12

"My reward is with Me" = Christ comes with His rewards at hand.
This phrase, when compared with Isaiah 40:10, proves Christ to be Jehovah God!

"Behold, the Lord GOD (Adonai Yahweh) will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him."

"To give" = to pay back

"Every man" = impartial and universal treatment

"As his work shall be" - Whatever has been done will be rewarded.

Our works for Christ will not go unrewarded. "Their works do follow them" (Rev. 14:13)

"Whatever is sown will be reaped" (Gal. 6:7) Works don't lie.

Christ saves according to grace (Eph. 2:8),
But He rewards according to works! (I Cor. 3:13-15; II Cor. 5:10)

Where are you laying up treasure? SEE: Matthew 6:19-21 (cp. I Tim. 6:13-19)
SEE: II Peter 3:10-11

V. 13
Lest anyone would doubt Christ's true ability to reward men of all ages, He identifies Himself as eternal!

--Nothing has ever been before Christ -
"He is before all things" - Col. 1:17
"In the beginning was the Word..." - Jn. 1:1

--Nothing will exist <u>after</u> Christ

III. Now is the time to: <u>SUBMIT TO GOD'S WORD!</u> (v.14-15)

V. 14

"Blessed are they that do His commandments" – (A textual variant here). Some suggest that the better reading is: "Blessed are they who wash their robes" (NASV, NIV).

However, Tertullian (160-221 A.D.) quoted this verse as *"do his commandments"* ("On Modesty" I:19:2)

Obviously, God is not teaching "works" salvation.

So what commandments would give one the right to the tree of life?
*The command to <u>believe</u>.

(SEE John 6:28-29; cp. Acts 16:31)
NOTE: the proof (evidence) of such belief would be keeping His commandments (SEE I Jn. 2:4-5); Particularly Christ's command to love God and others. (1 Jn. 4).

"Right to the tree of life" = authority to eat of that tree (cp. 22:2), only comes to those who are saved and have evidenced such salvation by obedience.

"Enter in through the gates into the city" - Authority to enter the pearly gates of New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:10, 21) will also go to the obedient true believers.

V. 15

"Without" = outside; left out; those who will not be allowed entrance are described in verse 15.

Who will <u>not</u> be in the heavenly city?

1) ***"Dogs"*** = not referring to canine animals but to people of evil character.
Phil. 3:2 - "Beware of <u>dogs</u>, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision"
The word "dogs" was particularly used of Sodomites. In a context describing who was and was not allowed into the <u>camp</u> of O.T. Israel, Moses refers to Sodomites as "dogs" who are not to be allowed in Israel
(SEE Deut. 23:17-18; cp. Lev. 18:22, 20:13)

2) ***"Sorcerers"*** - Pharmachoi - drug users (cp. 21:8)

3) ***"Whoremongers"*** = fornicators; those involved in illicit sex and pre-marital sex.

4) ***"Murderers"*** - someone who takes the life of an innocent person (EX: abortion, hatred)

5) ***"Idolaters"*** - someone who lives for that which is not God! (Beware of "idols of the heart" - Ezek. 14:3-8)

6) ***"Liars"*** - those who practice falsehood

"Loveth" - those who find pleasure in lying

"Maketh" - those who live a lie. Just as telling a lie with your lips is wrong, so is making a lie by your life wrong. Falsehood and deceit is accomplished in more ways than with the mouth. Don't be a hypocrite!

IV. Now is the time to: <u>ACCEPT GOD'S INVITATION</u>! (v.16-17)

V. 16

"in the churches" - the warnings and admonitions in Revelation must have direct bearing on the N.T. local church.

Don't neglect Revelation because you suppose its fulfillment will be future. It could explode into fulfillment in this generation.

V. 17

Who is inviting men to salvation?

1) The ***"Spirit"*** - the Holy Spirit (Don't resist Him! Acts 7:51)

2) The ***"Bride"*** - the saved, the Church (Eph. 5:22-33; Rev. 19:7)
The "Spirit and the Bride" are closely joined because it is the Spirit who invites men to salvation through the Bride.

3) ***"Him that heareth"*** - him who has "ears to hear" (Rev. 2-3)
Implied - one who has heard and believed should witness so others can hear. "How will they hear without a preacher?" (Rom. 10:14)

Who can come to salvation?

1) The <u>thirsty</u> - ***"Him that is athirst"*** cp. Rev. 21:6; Jn. 4:14; 7:38
Psalm 42:1-2 - "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"

2) The <u>willing</u> - ***"Whosoever will"*** - Those who <u>wish</u> to be saved will be! Those who <u>desire</u> to be saved will be.

"The water of life <u>freely</u>" - No cost to the one who drinks.

Is. 55:1 - "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

V. Now is the time to: <u>PREPARE FOR CHRIST'S COMING</u>! (v.20-21)

V. 20

"He which testifieth" = Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1-2)

"Surely" = YES

"I come quickly" - Christ's coming will be <u>with speed</u>
(Mt. 24:27 - *"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."*)

"Amen" = "so be it" This is the response of someone who is ready.

"Even so" = Yes

"Come Lord Jesus" = the heart's desire of someone who loves Christ is to have Him come--and soon.

How do you know when you are prepared to meet Christ?
ANSWER: When you can say, *"Even so, come, Lord Jesus"*
Can you say that?
Or do you have you <u>own</u> agenda to finish first? (Ill. The youg man to said "I want to get married first")

Today, we await the coming of Christ (I Th. 4:14-18). The Day of the Lord will follow and catch the world by surprise (I Th. 5:1-9)

This interim time period is a time to:

***<u>wait</u> for His coming**
I Th. 1:10 - "And to wit for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."
***<u>look</u> for His coming**
Titus 2:13 - "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savor Jesus Christ"
***<u>be ready</u> for His coming**
Mt. 24:44 - "Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."
***<u>to desire</u> His coming**
Rev. 22:20 - "Even so come Lord Jesus"

V. 21

"Grace" - Unmerited favor. Grace is not only needed for the lost to be saved, but for the saints to be victorious through life. Grace will be needed for the Tribulation saints to make it through!

"Of our Lord Jesus Christ" - God's grace is only in Christ. God has no other reserve wherein grace is stored. The source of grace is only Christ! (Eph. 2:5-7; Jn. 1:7; Rom. 5:15; Eph. 1:3) Apart from Christ, God has no grace to offer.
The grace of Christ is the most needed virtue you could <u>wish</u> upon anyone.
Rather than saying, "God bless you," a better phrase might be: "May God's grace be upon you" The reason: God's grace in Christ is the source of blessing!

"With you <u>all</u>" = all need Christ's grace, and His grace is extended to all, but only those who have Christ have his free grace (Rom. 6:33; I Jn 5:11-12).