Revelation, Chapters 20-22

Prayers, reflections, new hymns, and scripture for public worship and personal devotions

from the series:
Fresh Views of
Timeless Truths

Ken Bible

LNWhymns.COM

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Contents

Scripture, Prayers, Reflections, and *Hymns*

Introduction	4
Revelation 20:1-10 You Are in Full Control God Blesses His People Our Childish Perspective Wait on the Lord Satan Bound We Have Come, God's Living Temple	5 7 8 9 10 12 13
Revelation 20:11-15 The Judgment When I Face You, Lord	14 15 16
Revelation 21:1-4 Our Joining Christ and His Bride	18 19 20
Revelation 21:5-8 Unbroken Oneness Imagine Your Creator's Breath	22 23 25
Revelation 21:9-21 The Jewel Revelation 21	26 28 29
Revelation 21:22 – 22:5 The Fruits of Your Presence When Christ Our Healer's Work Is Done	30 31 33
Revelation 22:6-16 Ultimate Urgency Second Coming Hymn	35 37 38
Revelation 22:17-21 Free for the Asking Lay Aside Your Passing Pleasures	40 41 42

Introduction

The book of Revelation is a revelation of Jesus Christ – that is, it is the Father's revelation given *through* Jesus Christ *about* Jesus Christ. In it, the Father uses vivid, larger-than-life visions to show us what He is doing through His glorious Son. The visions give us the big picture of God's actions past, present, and future. These visions seem less focused on relaying specific historical events and more focused on showing us a broad view of what God is doing. They relay history from a perspective that is wider and higher than any single historical incident can possibly capture.

The five-volume *Revelation* series in "Fresh Views of Timeless Truth" is designed to help us see and respond to the truths in this amazing, and sometimes intimidating, book. It is not a commentary, and thus it makes no attempt to explain every image, detail, and interpretation. Instead, it focuses on the major truths taught in Revelation and provides devotional resources to help us understand and respond to them.

With each passage of scripture you'll find:

- The scripture itself.
- A devotional reflection and/or prayer response based on some major truth in that passage.
- An original hymn that helps us respond to that truth with body, mind, and heart.
 The words and music of the hymn are provided, along with a link to that hymn's
 recording on our website, LNWhymns.com. Everything there is downloadable
 and free.

As with every word I write, this book is written with the purpose and deep desire that you be drawn to our magnificent Father. What a glorious, eternal destiny He has created for us in His Son, Jesus Christ!

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. (Ephesians 1:18-19, NASB)

--Ken Bible

Revelation 20:1-10

(NASB)

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

And he laid hold of the dragon,

the serpent of old,

who is the devil and Satan,

and bound him for a thousand years;

and he threw him into the abyss, and

shut it and

sealed it over him,

so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed;

after these things he must be released for a short time.

Then I saw thrones, and

they sat on them, and

judgment was given to them.

And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded

because of their testimony of Jesus and

because of the word of God,

and those who had not worshiped the beast or

his image,

and had not received the mark on their forehead and

on their hand:

and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

The rest of the dead did not come to life

until the thousand years were completed.

This is the first resurrection.

Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection;

over these the second death has no power,

but they will be priests of God and of Christ and

will reign with Him for a thousand years.

When the thousand years are completed,

Satan will be released from his prison.

and will come out to deceive the nations

which are in the four corners of the earth,

Gog and Magog,

to gather them together for the war;

the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

You Are in Full Control

Prayer Response to Revelation 20:1-10

Father, You bind and You loose the forces of evil as suits Your purpose.
You give them just enough rope to hang themselves.

When Jesus was being tortured and killed, it seemed that evil had a free hand to do anything it wished to the Son of God.

But even then, You were sending signals

But even then, You were sending signals reminding us that You were in full control:

Prophecies given long ago were being fulfilled.

Pilate unwittingly testified to Christ by his sign on the cross, "Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews,"

The repentant thief acknowledged who Jesus was.

As Your Son died,

You shrouded the world in darkness.

You tore the veil of the temple.

Even in those dark hours, You were still sovereign, loving God, faithfully working Your loving will and fulfilling Your timeless plan.

In the tumultuous last days,

when it seems that evil has a free hand to do anything it wishes to Your dear children,

You will still be in full control.

You will still be sovereign God.

All will happen according to Your loving plan.

You use even those who rebel against You

to bless Your people

perfectly and completely.

Praise to You, sovereign Father! We are always secure in Your care!

Hymn recording; God Blesses His People

God Blesses His People



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Our Childish Perspective

Prayer Response to Revelation 20:1-10

Father, You think and act in eternity.
We live second-by-second in our little time and place.
Exactly when and exactly how

will Your eternal actions

touch us?

That's what we ask.

It's all we want to know, and

we don't always understand Your answer.

Our perspective is too

small and

self-centered.

But Your timing is always perfect.

Your ways are always right.

Your gifts are always flawless.

You never take short-cuts.

You never rush.

You patiently work our redemption till it is

full and complete,

perfect in every detail,

no matter how long it takes.

Father, we joyfully and gratefully

wait on You.

We relax in Your care,

trusting and

worshiping all the while.

Hymn recording: Wait on the Lord

Wait on the Lord

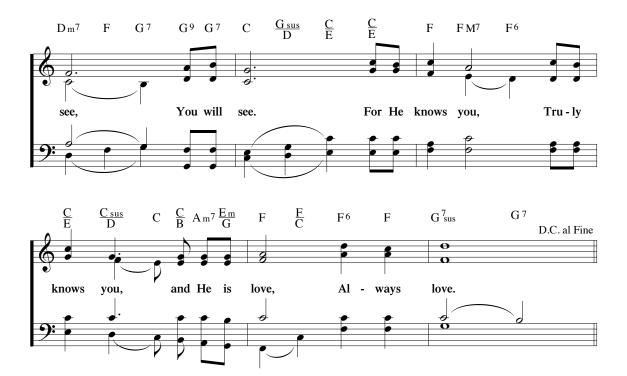


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PSALM 37 Irregular



Satan Bound

Reflection on Revelation 20:1-10

Not everyone will agree with this interpretation of the millennial reign. I offer it for your consideration.

Has Satan been bound?
Is the millennial reign being fulfilled now,
in our day?
Don't look at the broad, largely-unbelieving world.
As with all the other fruits of the Kingdom of God,
we see Satan's binding best
in the Church and
in the lives of individual believers.

Wherever Jesus Christ is

trusted and followed,

see the Kingdom come with power (Mark 9:1).

See how Elijah has restored all things (Matthew 17:11).

See Messiah received as a conquering hero (Luke 19:28-40).

See His temple

now cleansed.

now a house of prayer for all nations (Matthew 21:12-13).

See resurrection life in full bloom (Matthew 28:1-8).

See Satan bound (Revelation 20:1-3).

See his house being plundered (Matthew 12:29).

See him falling like lightning (Luke 10:18).

See him disarmed and cast out (Colossians 2:15; John 12:31).

See Christ living and moving among His obedient people.

The Kingdom of God has come in Jesus!

Hymn recording: We Have Come, God's Living Temple (LAUDA ANIMA)

We Have Come, God's Living Temple

TUNE: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (LAUDA ANIMA) Psalm 122:1; John 2:19-22; 4:23-24; Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:11-16



Alt. Tunes: CWM RHONDDA; REGENT SQUARE

LAUDA ANIMA

WORDS: Ken Bible

MUSIC: John Goss; arr. by Ken Bible

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Revelation 20:11-15

(NIV)

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it.

The earth and the heavens

fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

And I saw the dead,

great and small,

standing before the throne, and

books were opened.

Another book was opened,

which is the book of life.

The dead were judged

according to what they had done

as recorded in the books.

The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and

death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them,

and each person was judged

according to what they had done.

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.

The lake of fire is the second death.

Anyone whose name was not found

written in the book of life

was thrown into the lake of fire.

The Judgment

Reflection on Revelation 20:11-15

Each of us will face Jesus Christ personally, and He will judge us.

He knows what it is to be human.

He knows our temptations.

He knows the cost of our salvation and

what it provides.

He knows and understands each of us in every detail, with nothing hidden.

He will judge from His great white throne in absolute authority and absolute rightness.

His judgment will be final and

His judgment will be final and without appeal.

He will judge us according to our deeds.

We are saved by faith,

but our daily lives are the indisputable evidence of our faith.

We will each be judged by our

living,

active

relationship with Jesus Christ.

Those found in Him will go on to an even higher life.

Those separated from Him will be cast into an even deeper death.

Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ.

Trust Him.

Follow Him.

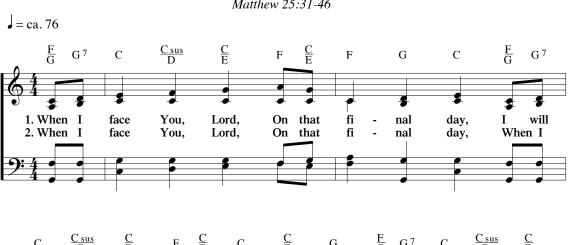
Live as He lived.

Love as He loved.

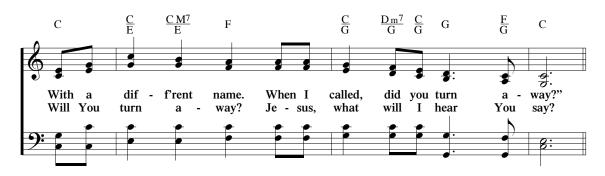
Hymn recording: When I Face You, Lord

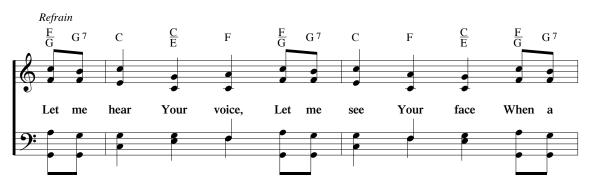
When I Face You, Lord

Matthew 25:31-46









WORDS and MUSIC: Ken Bible

MATTHEW 25 5.5.5.5.5.8. w. Ref.

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Revelation 21:1-4

(NRSV)

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Then I saw
a new heaven and
a new earth;
for the first heaven and
the first earth
had passed away, and
the sea was no more.
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And I saw the holy city,
the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and
crying and
pain

will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

Our Joining

Prayer Response to Revelation 21:1-4

O Father, the new creation! How we long for it! All the root of sin and all the fruit of sin will be gone completely and forever. But surely the crown of the new creation will be the crown of the first creation: Your people, made in Your own image, breath of Your own breath, life of Your own life. We who were once stained by sin, bound by death, rebellious, far away and unfaithful, will be the pure and glorious bride of Your own dear Son. As His bride, we will not arise from the earth but will descend from heaven itself, perfectly prepared and beautifully adorned by You. In Jesus Christ, Your holy and loving Son, we will be lovingly, intimately joined with You in perfect, constant. eternal union, with all trace of separation gone forever. One with You, Father. One in Your Son, Jesus Christ. O Lord, how we long for His return!

How we yearn for our joining!

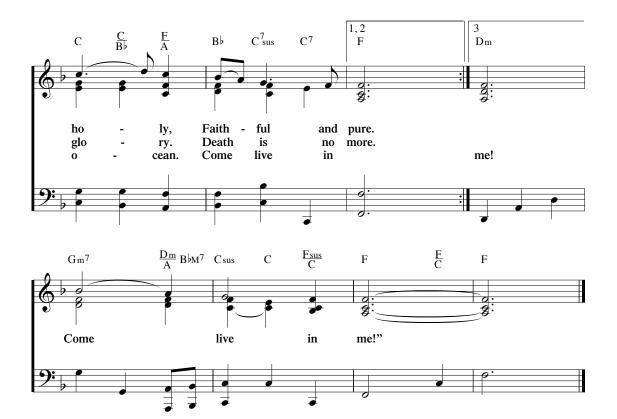
Hymn recording: Christ and His Bride

Christ and His Bride

Revelation 21:1-11



WORDS: Ken Bible LARGO MUSIC: George Frederick Handel and Ken Bible 6.6.4.4.5.6.4.



Revelation 21:5-8

(NASB)

```
And He who sits on the throne said,
      "Behold, I am making all things new."
And He said,
      "Write, for these words are
             faithful and
             true."
Then He said to me.
      "It is done.
      I am the Alpha and the Omega,
             the beginning and the end.
      I will give to the one who thirsts
             from the spring of the water of life
             without cost.
He who overcomes will
inherit these things, and
      I will be his God and
      he will be My son.
But for the
      cowardly and
      unbelieving and
      abominable and
      murderers and
      immoral persons and
      sorcerers and
      idolaters and
      all liars.
their part will be in the lake that burns
      with fire and brimstone,
      which is the second death."
```

Unbroken Oneness

Prayer Response to Revelation 21:5-8

```
Father, in the new creation, the source of the entire
       glorious transformation
will be Your
      full.
       immediate,
       personal,
       undiminished,
       unveiled presence.
Your life force,
Your unbridled joy,
      will make all things new.
You will be
      the life,
       the splendor, and
       the holiness of the new heaven and earth.
We Your people will finally
       see You and
       live in You and
       know You
for what You have always been:
      the Beginning and the End,
      the Source and the Goal.
All of life,
every breath, will be lived
       from You,
      through You, and
       to You.
As Your true children,
       all that is
       will be ours
       in You.
But our greatest inheritance will be
       You.
       Yourself.
As You are the
      joy,
       peace, and
       sufficiency of Your Son Jesus,
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You will be our
joy,
peace, and
sufficiency,
constantly,
completely,
forever.

Heaven will be
unbroken,
unclouded,
unhindered,
uninterrupted
oneness with You.
```

Hymn recording: <u>Imagine Your Creator's Breath</u>

Imagine Your Creator's Breath

Tune: LAND OF REST

Genesis 2:7; Isaiah 11:6-9; 35; John 15:5; 20:22; Ephesians 3:14-19; Colossians 2:9-10; 3:1-4; Revelation 21:1-7



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MUSIC: Traditional Folk Tune; arr. by Ken Bible

Revelation 21:9-21

(NIV)

One of the seven angels

who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me,

"Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

And he carried me away

in the Spirit

to a mountain great and high, and

showed me the Holy City,

Jerusalem.

coming down out of heaven from God.

It shone with the glory of God, and

its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel,

like a jasper,

clear as crystal.

It had a great, high wall

with twelve gates, and

with twelve angels at the gates.

On the gates were written the names of the

twelve tribes of Israel.

There were

three gates on the east,

three on the north,

three on the south and

three on the west.

The wall of the city had

twelve foundations.

and on them were the names of the

twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure

the city,

its gates and

its walls.

The city was laid out like a square,

as long as it was wide.

He measured the city with the rod and found it to be

12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long.

The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits thick.

The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold,

as pure as glass.

The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone.

The first foundation was jasper,

the second sapphire,

the third agate,

the fourth emerald,

the fifth onyx,

the sixth ruby,

the seventh chrysolite,

the eighth beryl,

the ninth topaz,

the tenth turquoise,

the eleventh jacinth, and

the twelfth amethyst.

The twelve gates were

twelve pearls,

each gate made of a single pearl.

The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

The Jewel

Prayer Response to Revelation 21:9-21

Father, in the new creation Your splendor in

Your Son

will be

the Light of the world and the glory of all the universe.

We Your people,

redeemed from every age and nation,

will be fully formed as

Your temple,

Your dwelling place.

We will be expertly prepared,

pure and transparent, so that

Your blazing glory,

the light of all You are, will shine

within us and

out through us

unhindered.

Your presence within will make us

glow and

sparkle

like a precious jewel.

We will be perfectly fashioned to radiate

Your love,

Your life,

Your holiness,

Your boundless joy.

All the universe will bask in the beauty of

Your presence in

Your people.

Hymn recording: Revelation 21

Revelation 21



Alt. Tunes: AUSTRIAN HYMN; PLEADING SAVIOR; HYMN TO JOY

MUSIC: Joachim Neander and Ken Bible

8.7.8.7.D.

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Revelation 21:22 - 22:5

(NRSV)

I saw no temple in the city,

for its temple is

the Lord God the Almighty and

the Lamb.

And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it,

for the glory of God is its light, and

its lamp is the Lamb.

The nations will walk by its light, and

the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

Its gates will never be shut by day —

and there will be no night there.

People will bring into it

the glory and the honor of the nations.

But nothing unclean will enter it,

nor anyone who practices

abomination or

falsehood,

but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Then the angel showed me the river of

the water of life.

bright as crystal,

flowing from

the throne of God and

of the Lamb

through the middle of the street of the city.

On either side of the river is

the tree of life with its

twelve kinds of fruit,

producing its fruit each month; and

the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Nothing accursed will be found there any more.

But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and

his servants will worship him;

they will see his face, and

his name will be on their foreheads.

And there will be no more night;

they need no light of lamp or sun,

for the Lord God will be their light,

and they will reign forever and ever.

The Fruits of Your Presence

Prayer Response to Revelation 21:22 - 22:5

```
Your presence will be
      full.
       personal,
       immediate.
We Your people will be Your temple.
You will live in and among us.
We will need no other sources of light.
You and Your Son will be the light, and
You will shine
      within us and
       in our midst.
We will glow and sparkle transparently
       with the glory of Your presence.
Life will be
       fresh.
       fruitful,
       abundant,
       freely available,
       constant,
       forever.
We will live at its very source.
There will be no need to
       horde it or
       haul it
             in small doses.
It will flow in the water around us.
It will grow on all the trees.
Health and wholeness on every level will be
       complete and
       universal.
There will be no more curse.
       no more shame.
Never again will we hang our heads and say,
       "I am only human."
Christ the Holy,
```

Father, we will have no more need for a temple,

no need for a symbolic reminder of Your presence.

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Christ the Glorious is the new Adam, and
```

we are of His race. We are His beautiful bride,

His chosen ones,

a blessing to all creation.

No longer will we be banished from the presence of the King.

We will see His face.

His name,

His character,

His glory

will radiate from us.

We will fully share

His life,

His authority,

His holy splendor

forever and ever.

Hymn recording: When Christ Our Healer's Work Is Done

When Christ Our Healer's Work Is Done

Psalm 23:1-3; 36:8-9; John 10:1-4, 14, 27-28; 1 Corinthians 15:36-55; Revelation 7:15-17; 21:22-27; 22:1-5

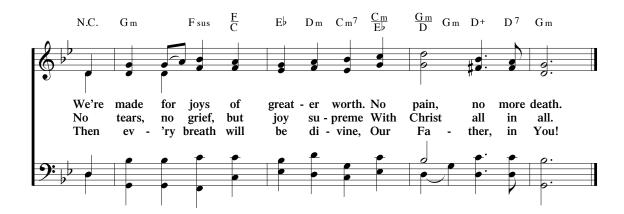


MUSIC: Appalachian Folk Tune and Ken Bible

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8.6.8.5.D.



Revelation 22:6-16

(NASB)

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 soon take place.

"And behold, I am coming quickly.

Blessed is he who heeds

the words of the prophecy of this book."

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.

But 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."

10 And he said to me,

"Do not seal up the words of

the prophecy of this book,

for the time is near.

Let the one who does wrong,

still do wrong;

and the one who is filthy,

still be filthy;

and let the one who is righteous,

still practice righteousness;

and the one who is holy,

still keep himself holy."

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me,

to render to every man

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 may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and

everyone who loves and practices lying.

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

Ultimate Urgency

Reflection on Revelation 22:6-16

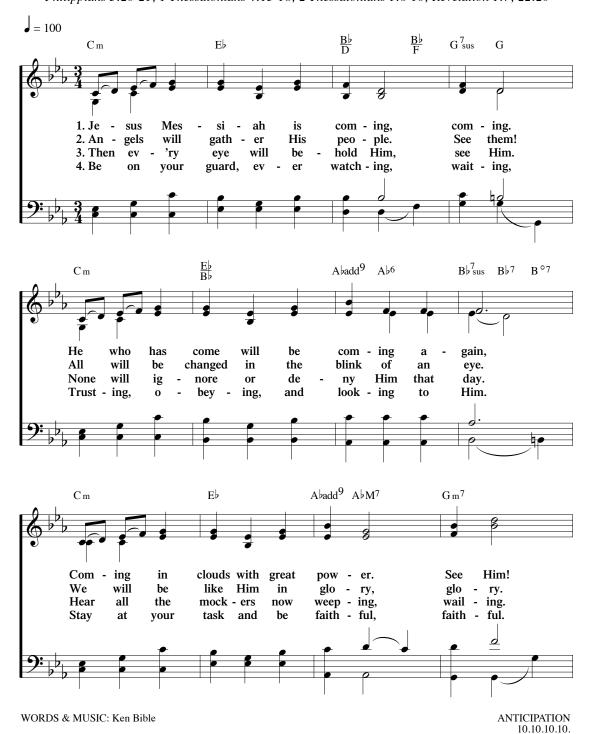
We are approaching the gate to eternity.

```
The end will come
      quickly,
      suddenly,
       unpredictably,
      irreversibly,
The fate of each person will be eternally fixed.
The righteous will go to
      complete,
      unending union with
             the Source of all good.
The wicked will go to
      complete,
      unending separation from
             the Source of all good.
Heaven or
      hell.
blessed or
      cursed.
inside or
      forever outside.
Jesus had seen
      earth and heaven.
      time and eternity.
He spoke of His return and the judgment
      with absolute, ultimate urgency.
His coming again was
the overriding reality that should determine
      our every decision,
      our every priority.
He urged us,
implored us to
      get ready and
      stay ready.
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Hymn recording: Second Coming Hymn

Second Coming Hymn

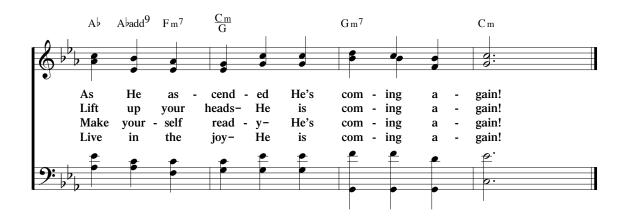
Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 16:27; 24:30-31, 42-46; Mark 13:26-27, 33-36; Luke 12:35-38, 42-43; 21:27-28, 33-35; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Revelation 1:7; 22:20



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Revelation 22:17-21

(NIV)

The Spirit and the bride say,
"Come!"

And let the one who hears say,
"Come!"

Let the one who is thirsty
come; and
let the one who wishes take
the free gift of
the water of life.

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll:

If anyone adds anything to them,
God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll.

And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy,
God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City,
which are described in this scroll.

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

Free for the Asking

Reflection on Revelation 22:17-21

All God's very best gifts are free for the asking.

"Ho! Everyone one who thirsts,
come to the waters;

And you who have no money,
come, buy and eat.

Come, buy wine and milk

Without money and without cost.

Why do you spend money for
what is not bread,

And your wages for
what does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to Me, and
eat what is good,

And delight yourself in abundance."

(Isaiah 55:1-2, NASB)

His Spirit calls to you,

"Come!"

His redeemed people call to you,

"Come!"

All who have ever trusted Him urge you to

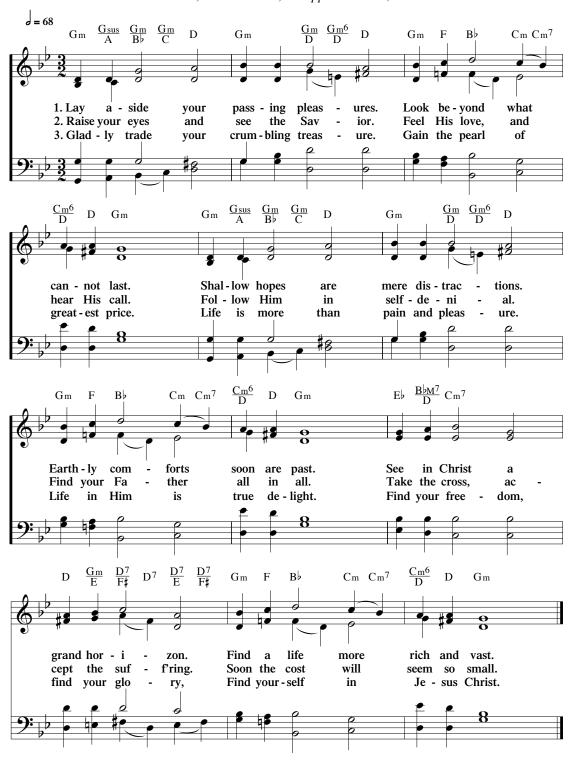
"Come!"

Do you have a thirst that
nothing else has ever satisfied?
Forgiveness,
purity, and
the fullness of life
are freely available.
Come!

Hymn recording: Lay Aside Your Passing Pleasures

Lay Aside Your Passing Pleasures TUNE: BRYN CALFARIA, alt.

Matthew 13:44-46; Mark 8:31-38; Philippians 3:7-14; Hebrews 12:1-3



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: William Owen; arr. by Ken Bible BRYN CALFARIA, alt. 8.7.8.7.8.7.

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