

# NOON BIBLE STUDY: REVELATION 22 (PART 3)

GRANDE FINALE: FINAL TITLE (V.16)

FINAL INVITATION (V. 17)

FINAL WARNING (V. 18-19)

FINAL WORD (V. 20-21)

## REVELATION 22:16 - THE ROOT & DESCENDANT OF JESSE

REVELATION CONTAINS A LOT OF DESCRIPTIVE TITLES FOR JESUS: "FAITHFUL WITNESS" (1:5), "THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE SEVEN STARS IN HIS RIGHT HAND" (2:1), "THE LION FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH" (5:5), "THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN (5:12)". AND REVELATION 22:16 CONTAINS THE FINAL TITLE OF JESUS IN REVELATION: THE ROOT AND DESCENDANT (OR OFFSPRING) OF DAVID, THE BRIGHT MORNING STAR". UNDERSTANDING THIS DESCRIPTION AND WHY IT IS USED AT THE END OF THIS PROPHECY IS IMPORTANT.

GENERATIONS AGO, DURING THE PROPHETIC MINISTRY OF ISAIAH, GOD'S PEOPLE WERE FACING WRATH AND JUDGMENT FOR THEIR SINS. THE INSTRUMENT OF GOD'S JUDGMENT AGAINST HIS PEOPLE WAS THE NATION OF ASSYRIA. GOD'S PEOPLE, ONCE PROSPEROUS AND FREE, WERE STRUGGLING AND FEARFUL. THEY HAD FALLEN FAR FROM WHERE GOD'S COVENANT PROMISES HAD PLACED THEM BECAUSE OF THEIR SIN AND REBELLION AGAINST THE LORD. ONE OF THE ANALOGIES SCRIPTURE USES IS THAT ISRAEL WAS LIKE A TREE. GOD HAD "PLANTED" THEM IN THE PROMISED LAND AND THROUGH HIS GOOD CULTIVATING WORK, THEY WERE FRUITFUL. YET, AS A RESULT OF THEIR IDOLATRY, THIS ONCE LARGE AND EXPANSIVE TREE WAS CUT DOWN.

AND SO THE PEOPLE OF GOD FIND THEMSELVES IN A MOMENT WHERE THEIR HOPES ARE GONE AND THEIR FUTURE DARK. THE PROMISES OF GOD TO FATHER ABRAHAM SEEM A DISTANT DREAM AND THE COVENANT GOD MADE TO KING DAVID IS SURELY SHATTERED. NO LONGER A STRONG AND MIGHTY TREE, GOD'S PEOPLE, GOD'S PURPOSES ARE A LIFELESS STUMP.

AND IN THIS MOMENT, WE READ THE WORD OF THE LORD GIVEN TO THE PROPHET ISAIAH:

**ISAIAH 11:1-10 (NLT)** - OUT OF THE STUMP OF DAVID'S FAMILY WILL GROW A SHOOT-- YES, A NEW BRANCH BEARING FRUIT FROM THE OLD ROOT. 2 AND THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD WILL REST ON HIM-- THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL AND MIGHT, THE SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE FEAR OF THE LORD.

3 HE WILL DELIGHT IN OBEYING THE LORD. HE WILL NOT JUDGE BY APPEARANCE NOR MAKE A DECISION BASED ON HEARSAY. 4 HE WILL GIVE JUSTICE TO THE POOR AND MAKE FAIR DECISIONS FOR THE EXPLOITED. THE EARTH WILL SHAKE AT THE FORCE OF HIS WORD, AND ONE BREATH FROM HIS MOUTH WILL DESTROY THE WICKED. 5 HE WILL WEAR RIGHTEOUSNESS LIKE A BELT AND TRUTH LIKE AN UNDERGARMENT.

6 IN THAT DAY THE WOLF AND THE LAMB WILL LIVE TOGETHER; THE LEOPARD WILL LIE DOWN WITH THE BABY GOAT. THE CALF AND THE YEARLING WILL BE SAFE WITH THE LION, AND A LITTLE CHILD WILL LEAD THEM ALL. 7 THE COW WILL GRAZE NEAR THE BEAR. THE CUB AND THE CALF WILL LIE DOWN TOGETHER. THE LION WILL EAT HAY LIKE A COW. 8 THE BABY WILL PLAY SAFELY NEAR THE HOLE OF A COBRA. YES, A LITTLE CHILD WILL PUT ITS HAND IN A NEST OF DEADLY SNAKES WITHOUT HARM.

9 NOTHING WILL HURT OR DESTROY IN ALL MY HOLY MOUNTAIN, FOR AS THE WATERS FILL THE SEA, SO THE EARTH WILL BE FILLED WITH PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE LORD. 10 IN THAT DAY THE HEIR TO DAVID'S THRONE WILL BE A BANNER OF SALVATION TO ALL THE WORLD. THE NATIONS WILL RALLY TO HIM, AND THE LAND WHERE HE LIVES WILL BE A GLORIOUS PLACE.

THOUGH IT SEEMS THAT IT'S ALL OVER WITH ONLY A STUMP REMAINING, GOD DECLARES THAT BELOW THE SURFACE OF WHAT IS SEEN IS A DEEP AND ACTIVE ROOT SYSTEM OF HIS MERCY AND FAITHFULNESS WHICH WILL BRING LIFE AGAIN TO THE DEAD TRUNK THROUGH THE "ROOT AND DESCENDANT OF DAVID" - JESUS CHRIST.

JESUS CHRIST IS BOTH THE UNSEEN ROOT SYSTEM WORKING BELOW WHAT IS SEEN, ENSURING THAT GOD'S PLANS AND PURPOSES ARE GOD'S PROMISES ARE FULFILLED AND HE IS THE BLAZING AND OBVIOUS "BRIGHT MORNING STAR" THAT IS BRINGING LIGHT AND WARMTH TO ALL WHO LOOK TO HIM. HE IS THE ONE THAT WILL BE FAITHFUL, EVEN WHEN IT SEEMS HOPE IS LOST AND HE WILL BE THE ONE WHO WILL SHINE BRIGHT AND DISPEL ALL DARKNESS.

WHAT A DECLARATION BY JESUS HIMSELF TO HIS CHURCH AS REVELATION COMES TO A CLOSE!

### REVELATION 22:17 - COME!

AS REVELATION COMES TO A CLOSE THE LORD IS STILL CALLING OUT TO THE WORLD (AND TO US) TO COME TO HIM AND FIND LIFE. ALL THAT THE HUMAN SOUL IS LONGING FOR IS FOUND IN HIM. ALL SECONDARY PURSUITS WILL LEAVE A SOUL THIRSTY, BUT CHRIST'S INVITATION IS FOR FREE, THIRST QUENCHING WATER OF LIFE! TIME IS SHORT, BUT THERE IS STILL TIME!

THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE ARE CRYING OUT BACK TO JESUS "COME!" THERE IS A LONGING FOR CHRIST TO COME BY THE SPIRIT INSIDE OF HIS PEOPLE! THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST STIRS UP THE BRIDE OF CHRIST TO LONG FOR HIM AND THEY CRY IN UNDISTINGUISHABLE UNISON, COME LORD! (O LORD, GIVE US THIS LONGING FOR YOU).

### REVELATION 22:18-19 - WARNING

BEFORE THE FINAL WORDS OF REVELATION ARE SPOKEN, WE ARE SOBERLY CHARGED WITH THIS WARNING: ADD TO THE WORDS OF THIS PROPHECY, THE PLAGUES OF THIS BOOK WILL BE ADDED TO YOU. IF ANYONE TAKES AWAY FROM THE WORDS OF THIS PROPHECY, THAT ONE WILL BE TAKEN AWAY FROM THE TREE, CITY AND BOOK OF LIFE.

#### Q - WHY DO YOU THINK JESUS GIVES THIS WARNING?

- HOW WOULD ONE ADD TO THE PROPHECY OF THIS BOOK?
- HOW WOULD ONE TAKE AWAY FROM THE PROPHECY OF THIS BOOK?

AS WE DISCUSSED LAST TIME, WE HAVE QUESTIONS AND VARIOUS INTERPRETIVE OPINIONS ABOUT REVELATION. THAT IS GOOD, NORMAL AND UNDERSTANDABLE AFTER A FIRST DIVE INTO THIS DEEP BOOK. BUT THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE READ AND STUDIED REVELATION IS REALLY IMPORTANT (AND COMMENDABLE). GOD HAD THIS BOOK FIRST WRITTEN AND THEN PRESERVED SO HIS PEOPLE COULD KNOW THE THINGS THAT ARE TO COME.

BUT LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OR LINGERING QUESTIONS ARE DIFFERENT THAN THE ADDING AND TAKING AWAY THAT IS WARNED OF HERE. A SIMILAR WARNING WAS GIVEN BY MOSES AFTER THE COVENANT WAS READ TO ISRAEL.

**DEUTERONOMY 4:2 (NLT)** - DO NOT ADD TO OR SUBTRACT FROM THESE COMMANDS I AM GIVING YOU. JUST OBEY THE COMMANDS OF THE LORD YOUR GOD THAT I AM GIVING YOU.

THERE ARE JUST CERTAIN THINGS THAT CANNOT BE MESSED WITH WHEN IT COMES TO GOD'S WORD. FOR EXAMPLE, WE NEED TO GET THE GOSPEL RIGHT. ADDING TO OR TAKING AWAY FROM THE GOSPEL MESSAGE IS DANGEROUS. WE NEED TO RECEIVE THE WORDS OF OUR LORD JESUS *AS IS*. THE SAME IS TRUE ABOUT THE LETTER OF REVELATION. WE MAY NOT UNDERSTAND OR LIKE THE LETTER, BUT WE CAN'T CHANGE THE LETTER. THEY ARE TRUE WORDS FROM JESUS TO HIS CHURCH.

## REVELATION 22:20-21 - GRACE

IF YOU ASK MOST CHRISTIANS "WHAT ARE THE LAST WORDS OF THE BIBLE", I THINK MANY WOULD SAY "COME, LORD JESUS" OR "I AM COMING QUICKLY" BUT THE LAST WORDS OF THE BIBLE ARE ACTUALLY "THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS BE WITH YOU ALL, AMEN."

ONCE THE GOSPEL BIOGRAPHIES OF JESUS CONCLUDE, THE MAJORITY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT WRITINGS ARE RESOUNDING IN THEIR FINAL WORDS:

ROMANS 16:24 - THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH YOU ALL. AMEN.

1 CORINTHIANS 16:23 - THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS BE WITH YOU.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14 - THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH YOU ALL.

GALATIANS 6:18 - THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH YOUR SPIRIT, BRETHREN. AMEN.

EPHESIANS 6:24 - GRACE BE WITH ALL THOSE WHO LOVE OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST WITH INCORRUPTIBLE LOVE.

PHILIPPIANS 4:23 - THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH YOUR SPIRIT.

COLOSSIANS 4:18C - GRACE BE WITH YOU.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:28 - THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH YOU.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:18 - THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH YOU ALL.

1 TIMOTHY 6:21B - GRACE BE WITH YOU.

2 TIMOTHY 4:22 - THE LORD BE WITH YOUR SPIRIT. GRACE BE WITH YOU.

TITUS 3:15C - GRACE BE WITH YOU ALL.

PHILEMON 1:25 - THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH YOUR SPIRIT.

HEBREWS 13:25 - GRACE BE WITH YOU ALL.

2 PETER 3:18 - BUT GROW IN THE GRACE AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. TO HIM BE THE GLORY, BOTH NOW AND TO THE DAY OF ETERNITY. AMEN.

REVELATION ENDS WITH THE FAMILIAR ENDING OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH - IT ENDS WITH GRACE, AND THE PRAYER THAT THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS WOULD BE WITH THE CHURCH. GRACE IS A FAMILIAR WORD TO THE CHRISTIAN AND WE MOST OFTEN ASSOCIATE IT WITH CONVERSION AND SALVATION - "BY GRACE WE ARE SAVED" PAUL WRITES (EPH. 2:5,8). AND INDEED WE ARE. BUT GRACE IS NOT JUST PRESENT AT THE BEGINNING OF OUR NEW LIFE.

THE WORD GRACE MEANS A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT THINGS BUT IT IS ROOTED IN THE IDEA OF KINDNESS, FAVOR AND HELP - AND THE KIND OF KINDNESS, FAVOR AND HELP THAT IS GIVEN EVEN WHEN IT ISN'T DESERVED. GRACE IS A GIFT NOT A PURCHASE. I LIKE TO THINK OF GRACE AS THE GOOD HELP THAT IS GIVEN TO THOSE IN NEED. TO BE GRACIOUS IS TO BE KIND AND HELPFUL TO SOMEONE IN NEED. MERRIAM-WEBSTER DEFINES OUR ENGLISH WORD "GRACE" LIKE THIS: "*UNMERITED DIVINE ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO HUMANS FOR THEIR REGENERATION OR SANCTIFICATION.*"

***DIVINE ASSISTANCE*** OH HOW I NEED DIVINE ASSISTANCE! OH HOW I NEED GRACE!

WE HAVE JOURNEYED THROUGH THE LETTER OF REVELATION FOR OVER A YEAR AND IT WOULD BE WISE FOR US ALL TO RETURN TO CHAPTER 1 AND START THE JOURNEY AGAIN. THE TRUTHS OF THIS BOOK ARE NOT TRUTHS THAT WE READ, COMPLETE, AND THEN MOVE AWAY FROM LIKE A BEST SELLING NOVEL WE CHECK OUT AT THE LIBRARY. THE TRUTHS OF THIS BOOK ARE FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS THAT WE LAY DOWN LIKE BRICKS AND BUILD UP LAYER BY LAYER. REVELATION CONTAINS PROPHECY AND SPIRITUAL REALITIES AND FORETELLING AND WARNING AND ENCOURAGEMENT AND VISIONS OF JUDGMENT AND CLEAR PICTURES OF HOPE - BUT ALL OF THESE WORDS AT THE END OF THE DAY ARE THE WORDS OF JESUS CHRIST TO HIS CHURCH. AND IT WOULD BE GOOD TO REMEMBER HIS FINAL WORDS IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT:

**MATTHEW 7:24-27** - "THEREFORE EVERYONE WHO HEARS THESE WORDS OF MINE AND ACTS ON THEM, MAY BE COMPARED TO A WISE MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON THE ROCK. **25** "AND THE RAIN FELL, AND THE FLOODS CAME, AND THE WINDS BLEW AND SLAMMED AGAINST THAT HOUSE; AND YET IT DID NOT FALL, FOR IT HAD BEEN FOUNDED ON THE ROCK. **26** "EVERYONE WHO HEARS THESE WORDS OF MINE AND DOES NOT ACT ON THEM, WILL BE LIKE A FOOLISH MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON THE SAND. **27** "THE RAIN FELL, AND THE FLOODS CAME, AND THE WINDS BLEW AND SLAMMED AGAINST THAT HOUSE; AND IT FELL-- AND GREAT WAS ITS FALL."

WE HAVE HEARD THE WORDS OF JESUS, NOW WE MUST ACT UPON THEM. TRUE FOR MATTHEW 7, TRUE FOR REVELATION 22. WE NEED DIVINE ASSISTANCE. WE NEED GRACE.

REVELATION HAS REVEALED A LOT ABOUT THE REAL STATE OF THE WORLD. THERE ARE COSMIC SPIRITUAL FORCES WARRING IN UNSEEN REALMS OVER THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF HUMANS. THE DEVIL IS A BLOODTHIRSTY DRAGON. HIS HENCHMEN ARE BEASTS. HIS INFLUENCE AND METHODS ARE LIKE A BABYLONIAN WHORE.

THE FALLOUT OF THE FALL OF HUMANITY OPENED UP THE WORLD TO TROUBLES AND INJUSTICE AND SICKNESS AND BROKENNESS AND EVIL AND CHAOS. IN THE DAYS TO COME THE WORLD WILL PROCEED FROM EVIL TO EVIL WITH INTENSIFYING EVILS CAUSED BY EVIL FORCES AND BY JUDGMENTS OF GOD MEANT TO AWAKEN THE HEARTS OF STONE COLD HUMANS. WE NEED DIVINE ASSISTANCE. WE NEED GRACE.

AND WITH THIS IN VIEW, THE CHURCH OF GOD MUST WAKE UP. REVELATION IS A WAKE UP CALL. WE MUST HONESTLY EXAMINE AND CONSIDER, AS THE CHURCHES OF REVELATION WERE URGED TO, WHERE WE NEED TO REPENT, WHERE WE NEED TO HOLD FAST, WHERE WE NEED TO CHANGE, WHERE WE NEED TO DIG IN, WHERE WE ARE THREATENED FROM THE OUTSIDE AND WHERE WE ARE BEING THREATENED FROM WITHIN. TROUBLES, TRIBULATIONS, PRESSURES, PERSECUTION, DECEPTION AND DISTRACTIONS ARE/WILL THREATEN US AS WE WAIT FOR OUR RETURNING KING. THE MESSAGE OF REVELATION TO THE CHURCH TODAY IS THE MESSAGE OF THE CHURCH OF THE FIRST CENTURY: THE VICTORY HAS BEEN WON, BUT THE BATTLE IS NOT OVER - HERE IS HOW TO OVERCOME. WE NEED DIVINE ASSISTANCE. WE NEED GRACE.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS A PROPHETIC LETTER OF WARNING AND HOPE. IT IS FILLED WITH SYMBOLISM AND YET FILLED WITH CLARITY. THERE ARE DIFFICULT DAYS AHEAD. THERE IS GLORY ON THE OTHER SIDE. THERE IS A WAY WE MUST REJECT, AND A WAY WE MUST WALK. WE NEED DIVINE ASSISTANCE. WE NEED GRACE.

THE BOOK SPEAKS OF SEALS AND TRUMPETS AND BOWLS AND BEASTS AND MARKS AND THRONES DEMONS AND ANGELS AND FIRES AND CITIES. WE NEED DIVINE ASSISTANCE. WE NEED GRACE. THE BOOK LEAVES US WITH EYES WIDE OPEN AND SOBERED HEARTS. WE NEED DIVINE ASSISTANCE. WE NEED GRACE. THE BOOK MAKES US ASK IF WE WILL HAVE THE FAITH TO STAND IN THE EVIL DAY. WE NEED DIVINE ASSISTANCE. WE NEED GRACE. THE BOOK STIRS US WITH A RENEWED SENSE OF THE SOON COMING OF THE KING. WE NEED DIVINE ASSISTANCE. WE NEED GRACE.

AND SO OF ALL THE WAYS TO CONCLUDE REVELATION, OF ALL THE WAYS TO CONCLUDE THE HOLY BIBLE ITSELF, WE ARE LEFT THIS THIS PRAYER BY JOHN FROM JESUS FOR US: "*THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS BE WITH YOU ALL.*" THE BIBLE DOESN'T END WITH "I'M COMING SOON", THOUGH HE IS. THE BIBLE DOESN'T END WITH "PRAISE TO THE LORD", ALTHOUGH WE MUST. THE BIBLE DOESN'T END WITH A TRITE "THE END" OR "AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER" THOUGH IT IS AND WE SHALL. THE BIBLE ENDS WITH GRACE. WHEN ALL HAS BEEN WRITTEN AND READ AND SAID, WE ARE LEFT WITH GRACE.

WE ARE LEFT WITH GRACE BECAUSE GRACE IS OUR GREATEST NEED. WE CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES NOR STAY FAITHFUL ON OUR OWN OR EVANGELIZE THE LOST OR REJECT THE WORLD OR BATTLE WITH THE SYSTEM OF THE BEAST. WE NEED DIVINE ASSISTANCE. WE NEED GRACE. WITHOUT GRACE WE ARE DONE, ALL IS LOST. WITH GRACE, WE WIN BECAUSE OF GRACE. OUR ATTENTION TURNS TO THE COMING OF OUR GOOD KING - BUT THE FILTER THROUGH WHICH WE WATCH FOR HIS COMING IS COLORED BY GRACE. WE LONG FOR THE MESSIAH TO RETURN, FOR GOD'S KINGDOM TO CONQUEROR, FOR EDEN TO BLOSSOM AGAIN, BUT WE NEED GRACE AS WE WAIT.

**HEBREWS 4:16** - THEREFORE LET US DRAW NEAR WITH CONFIDENCE TO THE THRONE OF GRACE, SO THAT WE MAY RECEIVE MERCY AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED.

AS WE WAIT FOR JESUS CHRIST, WE ARE IN OUR TIME OF NEED. WE NEED DIVINE ASSISTANCE. WE NEED GRACE. THE GOD WHO HAS MADE MANY GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES ABOUT THE FUTURE, ALSO PROMISES TO BE GRACIOUS TO US TODAY. OUR GRACIOUS LORD PROMISES NOT ONLY TO RETURN AND RESCUE AT THE END OF THE AGE, HE PROMISES TO BE WITH US ALWAYS, AND GIVE US HIS GRACE ALONG THE WAY.

*THROUGH MANY DANGERS TOILS AND SNARES  
WE HAVE ALREADY COME  
'TIS GRACE HAS BROUGHT US SAFE THUS FAR  
AND GRACE WILL LEAD US HOME*

AND BECAUSE OF THAT GRACE:

*WHEN WE'VE BEEN THERE TEN THOUSAND YEARS  
BRIGHT SHINING AS THE SUN  
WE'VE NO LESS DAYS TO SING GOD'S PRAISE  
THAN WHEN WE'VE FIRST BEGUN*

HE WHO TESTIFIES TO THESE THINGS SAYS, "*YES, I AM COMING QUICKLY.*"  
WE SAY: *AMEN! COME, LORD JESUS.*  
THE GRACE OF THE LORD JESUS BE WITH ALL.

**AMEN!**