

“I Come Quickly” Jesus Is Coming Soon!

Text: Revelation 22 : 12, 20-21

Introduction: Robert Winsett was born in 1876 in Bledsoe County, Tennessee (up around the Dayton area, north of Soddy Daisy). He was a Church of God preacher and a songwriter who composed and published about 1,000 gospel songs in his lifetime. Perhaps his best-known song, “Jesus Is Coming Soon,” was first published in 1942. This popular gospel song actually won “Song of the Year” in the Gospel Music Association’s very first Dove Awards in 1969.

When Robert Winsett published the song in 1942, the United States had been entrenched in the Great Depression and had just entered World War II after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941. Is it any wonder he wrote these words? ...

*Troublesome times are here, filling men’s hearts with fear,
Freedom we all hold dear now is at stake;
Humbling your heart to God saves from chast’ning rod,
Seek the way pilgrims trod, Christians, awake.*

But Robert Winsett saw hope in the troublesome times in which he lived. And when we hear the words of his song, it sounds like he believed in the imminent return of Christ. His third stanza says...

*Troubles will soon be o’er, happy for ever-more,
When we meet on that shore, free from all care;
Rising up in the sky, telling this world good-bye,
Homeward we then will fly, glory to share.*

And then his chorus says...

*Jesus is coming soon, morning or night or noon,
Many will meet their doom, trumpets will sound;
All of the dead shall rise, Righteous meet in the skies,
Going where no one dies, heavenward bound.*

Well, we’re living in troublesome times too, aren’t we?

I read the Olivet Discourse in Matthew chapter 24 where Jesus told His disciples...

(Matthew 24:6-12) *And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and*

shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

These things will apparently be taking place in the first part of the Tribulation period. And as I read this passage it seems clear to me that many of the awful things that we are seeing in our world now are only a foreshadowing of the terrible things that will take place after the rapture of the church.

But as Robert Winsett wrote over 70 years ago, “JESUS IS COMING SOON!”

In fact, as your Bibles are open to the very last chapter of the very last book, the book of Revelation (Revelation chapter 22), this is the message and the promise that Jesus leaves us with. And He said it three times. In verse 7, and verse 12, and verse 20, Jesus said: “I come quickly.”

Notice Revelation 22, and verse 20. He said, “Surely I come quickly.” And then He said, “Amen!”

And then (as if he is completely in favor of it), the old apostle John who has been penning down this amazing Revelation said, “Even so” (in other words, “YES!”), “come Lord Jesus.”

This morning, I want to consider Jesus’ three “I come quickly” statements in Revelation chapter 22, and I want to preach on the thought that “JESUS IS COMING SOON.”

"I Come Quickly"

Rev. 22: 7, 12, 20

I - Personal
I Am - Positive
quickly - Prompt
"on time"

"The Lord Himself"
J. Hab. 4:16

we are
"looking
forward"
to His
return

① vs. 7 - THE BLESSING ~ cp. Rev 1:3

- Read
- Heed
- Need

② vs. 12 - THE BEHOLDING

- * Reward ~ NOW or THEN
- * Recognition

③ vs. 20 - THE BLESSED HOPE — cp. Titus 2:11-15
"eager anticipation"

Conclusion

Several years ago, I read this little story. And some of these stories, you don't know if they're truth or fiction. I don't know but what this one didn't actually happen. Anyway, the story goes that...

A new preacher had just begun his sermon. He was a little nervous and about ten minutes into the talk his mind went blank. He remembered some advice they gave him in seminary school for when a situation like this arose — repeat your last point. Often this will help you remember what should come next. So he gave it a try.

"Behold, I come quickly," he said. Still his mind was blank. So he tried again, "Behold, I come quickly!" Still nothing.

He tried once more, this time with so much enthusiasm that he tripped over his microphone wire and fell off the stage, right into the lap of a little old lady in the front row.

The young preacher was very embarrassed and tried to apologize, and the woman replied, "That's all right, young man. It was my fault. ... I should have gotten out of the way. You told me three times you were coming!"

Well, Revelation 22 is not fiction this morning. And in this chapter, Jesus has told us three times that He's coming. I believe that this morning. And the fact that He's coming reminds us of our READINESS, and it reminds us of our REWARD, and it reminds us of our REASSURANCE.

Can I ask you this morning ... if the Lord were to come today, are you ready? First, have you been saved, and do you have a personal relationship with Jesus as your Savior? If you're saved, are you living in obedience to His Word?

Maybe you're saved, and you're really trying to live a life of obedience to Him. But you've become discouraged about some things in your life. There's comfort in the fact that He's coming, and there's comfort in the fact that He cares. And if you need to come to the altar and pray this morning, and draw upon His comfort ... I invite you to come.