



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #365
The Eternal Ministry of Jesus in Heaven
The Continuing Words and Works of the Risen Jesus Throughout Eternity Future

Jesus' Final Invitation, Command, and Promise to Come Again
Rev. 16.15; 19.11-16; 22.1-7, 12-13, 16-17,
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16.15 *"Look, I am coming like a thief! The person who stays vigilantly on guard and keeps their clothing in order, so as not to walk about naked--shamefully exposed-- is truly blessed."*

22.1 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of eternal life, bright and clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb 2 straight down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of eternal life, blossoming in twelve crops of fruit, bearing its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree are used for the healing of the nations.

3 There will no longer will be any kind of curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be right there in the city, and his servants will serve him in worship. 4 They will gaze upon his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 There will be no more night. They will have no more need of the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will shine as their light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

6 The angel said to me, *"These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who directs the spirits of the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must surely take place soon."*

Jesus said: 7 *"Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who faithfully holds to the words of the prophecy written in this scroll."*

12 *"Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. 13 I, myself am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the Conclusion."*

16 *"I, myself, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I AM the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."*

17 *"The Spirit and the bride are saying, 'I command you to come!'
And I command the one who is hearing me to say, 'I command you to come!'"*

*"I command the person who is thirsty to come;
I command any person who wants it, to receive the free gift of the water of eternal life."*

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

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible

book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	On the Greek Island of Patmos, Just Off the Coast of Turkey
Timeline	About 60 Years After Jesus Ascended
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IX: The Resurrection and Eternal Ministry of Jesus
	Jesus' Eternal Ministry in Heaven
	The Continuing Words and Works of the Risen Jesus Throughout Eternity Future
Title:	Jesus' Final Invitation, Command, and Promise to Come Again

We have come at last to the final reading in the DAILY JESUS NEWS. As the author of this series of studies, I would like to thank you for patiently making your way through a year-long journey of studying the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. It is my prayer that you would complete this year more in love with Jesus, and a little bit more like him as his disciple. I also hope the chronology and flow of his life is more clear, and precious to you now.

In this closing reading we see more of Jesus' eternal ministry in heaven on earth, and we receive Jesus' final command and promises to us. This text is the climactic ending of the Bible itself.

We begin by considering the four aspects of Jesus' eternal ministry described in this passage. First, he will provide a profound intimacy in the fellowship of the Trinity to all of his people. He will enable us to "gaze upon his face." Remember, this is the phrase that John used to describe Jesus' fellowship with the Father in his preexistence in JN 1.1 (DJN #001). Our intimacy with the Trinity will be as complete as the eternal fellowship between Father, Son and Spirit.

The SAGA of Jesus has come full cycle now, as the Trinity has successfully expanded the love and fellowship which they alone enjoyed before creation. The Father will have a vast family of sons and daughters conformed to the image of the Son. These redeemed people are also the love-bride of Jesus and the eternal Temple of the Holy Spirit. Thus, the Church fulfills a particular, eternal role in relation to each Person of the Trinity.

Next, Jesus will continue to empower our worship as his priests. His Name (his identity) will be written on us. We will be eternally complete in the riches of his fulness that has been lavished on us. This will enable us to worship him for the glory of his saving works that are alive and visible in us, like the scars on his resurrection body. The Church will declare the saving work of the Lamb forever, for everything we are and do is a product of his work on our behalf.

Jesus will also be the Light as he radiates his glory and it is reflected by us. This light will outshine the present light of the sun, so there will be no more need of the light cast by created entities like the sun and stars. Jesus' light is not merely physical, it is primarily spiritual. The Light of revelation about the Trinity and all of his creation will continue to teach us and enrich our understanding in non-stop growth throughout eternity, yet we will never reach the limits of the Trinity's infinite omniscience. In other words, Jesus will continue to teach us, and we will continue to learn of him as his disciples forever.

Finally, Jesus will equip and enable each of us to reign over aspects of his creation. We will have joyous responsibilities and opportunities to glorify our KING in his service that are proportionate to the faithfulness we demonstrated on this earth.

So loving fellowship, worship, learning, and service will characterize our life with him in eternity because Jesus, the Worthy Lamb that was Slain will empower each of us in these ways. Eternal life in heaven on earth will be anything but boring! It will be non-stop growth into ever greater experiences of his glorious love.

Now we turn to Jesus' final commands and promises to us. These are crucial for us to know and obey. Last words are important words.

Jesus reminded us that it was HE who sent this message for the churches to us (22.16). This means all churches and believers of the entire age, for he promised: **"Blessed is the one who faithfully holds to the words of the prophecy written in this scroll."** (22.7) Jesus expects us to take these, his final revelations from heaven to us recorded in Scripture seriously, and to be blessed in our obedience to them.

Jesus also repeated the central theme of his teaching during his earthly ministry about his final coming again one more time: BE READY! This was his point when he spoke of his final return in the closing months of his ministry in Judea and Perea, and in the Olivet Discourse. The Lord added a blessing to those who remain ready: **"Look, I am coming like a thief! The person who stays vigilantly on guard and keeps their clothing in order, so as not to walk about naked--shamefully exposed-- is truly blessed."** (16.15)

So how do we remain ready for the coming of the Lord? Jesus' final commands point the way. Continued faithfulness in evangelism and world missions is the way we stay vigilant in readiness for his coming. Let's listen to our Lord's final commands to us.

Jesus began by saying, **"The Spirit and the bride are saying, 'I command you to come!'"** The Holy Spirit is constantly, invisibly speaking the command of Jesus to come to him by faith to all the lost people of the world. The existence of the universal church in the world is living proof of the truth of the gospel. By our very existence we are echoing Jesus' command to all unbelievers to come to him for salvation.

Then Jesus added: **"And I command the one who is hearing me to say, 'I command you to come!'"** If we have ears to hear the Holy Spirit speaking the words of Jesus to us, the Lord is commanding us to go to every unbeliever we can and extend Jesus' command/invitation to them to "come." Remember, the first two disciples believed in Jesus because he gave this very command to them and they obeyed it (JN 1.35-42; DJN #033). Then, this command was passed on to others and they in turn came to faith in Jesus (Phillip to Nathanael; the Samaritan woman to the people of Sychar). Extending Jesus' command to "come" is the essence of evangelism.

Finally, Jesus said: **"I command the person who is thirsty to come; I command any person who wants it, to receive the free gift of the water of eternal life."** Jesus is commanding everyone in the world to come to him for salvation. As believers we simply pass on his command, just as the Holy Spirit is doing, and the existence of the Church is doing. We MUST add our own faithful voice to Jesus' command to "come."

Jesus ended his words in Scripture by promising: **"Yes, I am coming soon."** Over 1900 years have passed since Jesus gave this promise in about 95 AD. Does that mean he is not honoring his promise? Of course not. "Soon" is a relative term. Compared to eternity, 2000 years; 20,000 years; or 2,000,000 years are nothing. The opportunities of this life for us as individuals, and of the Church in this age to obey this command will be over all too "soon." The time for obedience is now. This was Jesus' final point.

APPLICATION:

We have seen that we will fellowship, worship, learn and serve for eternity in heaven, just as we do now on this earth. There is one thing, however, that we can do in this life that we can never do in heaven: we can sacrifice to obey Jesus' command to tell every person of his command/invitation to "come." There will no longer be any way to sacrifice in heaven. And the work of evangelism will be permanently over. This is the work he has given us to do in this age, that can only be done in this age: ***"make disciples of all the nations."***

This is the specific reason we publish the DAILY JESUS NEWS. We do not want to merely amass information about Jesus. We want to know and obey his commands, and especially his final command to command all people to come to him by faith. One way you can do this is to encourage your friends and fellow believers to read the DAILY JESUS NEWS.

How will you renew your commitment to Jesus' final command to you? When will you begin?

What measurable difference will this make in your life in the next year?

How will you continue to study the life and teachings of Jesus in the next year?

Who can you encourage to subscribe to the DAILY JESUS NEWS?