

Title: COME BECAUSE I AM COMING, REVELATION 22:17
(Chatham, NJ; 05/12/13, AM) [E – Topical]

Theme: Even if we are unsure about a literal 1,000 year reign of Christ, we can be sure that Satan has been defeated, that Christ is making all things new, and that He is coming soon.

Purpose: To remind us to have faith in these essential truths.

Introduction:

1. I take a traditional approach to the millennium known as amillennial, which means I believe that chapter 20 is a metaphor and not to be taken literally.
2. It is the approach adopted by Augustine, one that has stood the test of time and tradition.
3. I won't say that all the details of Revelation fit with this snugly, but considering all the false predictions given by those who believe in a literal 1,000 years, this position seems a little more sensible.
4. When prognosticators keep being wrong, the predictions can be adjusted only so many times.
5. Into this mix there are some things that all Christians believe.

I. Satan has been defeated, and death will also be destroyed

A. Satan's binding (20:2)

1. Victory belongs to Christ
2. Destroyed the works of the devil, 1 John 3:8
3. Freed us from the fear of sin and death, Heb. 4:14-15
4. This may not be the reference in Rev. 20 because Satan is still actively deceiving people (3)
5. At the same time, we are confident that he has lost the ultimate battle
6. Honestly I don't know about his release and capture a second time, 7

B. Death will ultimately be destroyed, 20:14

1. 20:11-15 paints a picture of final judgment
2. Death and Hades thrown into the lake of fire
3. Those whose names are found in the book of life will enter eternal life
4. Evil people will suffer the second death (condemnation)
5. Jesus told us this in very literal terms, John 5:28-29
6. Paul affirms the death of death, 1 Cor. 15:54

II. All things new, 21:5

A. New heaven and earth, 21:1

1. Peter also said this, 2 Peter 3:13
2. Creation awaits the transformation, Romans 8:22-23
3. No tears, no death, no mourning, no crying, 21:4
4. These have no place in the new order of things: verse 8

B. New Jerusalem and River of Life

1. The holy city is a bride whose radiance is like jewels, 11
2. She is walled off and adorned with jewels, 19

3. No temple since the Lord is present throughout, 22
4. No night there, nothing unclean, no temptations, 27
5. The river of life flows from the throne of God, 22:1-2
6. It waters the Tree of Life, the same tree Adam and Eve were separated from when cast out of the garden
7. The inhabitants will reign forever and ever, 22:5

III. He is coming soon, 22:7

- Do not seal up this book, 10, for the time is near
- He is coming in judgment, 12
- This is both fearful and to be anticipated
- Fearful for those who do evil, anticipated for those who follow the Lamb
- Wash your robes, 14
- Be diligent to be found doing good, 2 Peter 3:14
- Come (3xs), 17
- Take from the water of life (now?), 17

Conclusion:

1. "I am coming soon," 20.
2. Long for his coming: "Amen, come Lord Jesus!"
3. Do not fret over evil men, Ps. 37:1-2
4. Do not fret over those whose predictions have failed to materialize.
5. We are assured that Satan has lost, that all things will be made new, and that he is coming soon.
6. Always keep before you the promise of His coming.