

Coming soon...

 Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21

The last of John's visions in Revelation is of Jesus, who tells him both that he fulfils God's promises to Israel and that he is coming again soon. Everyone who looks forward to Jesus' return is joined together in community and offered the gift of the water of life.

Now read Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21 see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

Twice in this vision, Jesus makes an invitation to 'everyone'. There is a looking back to the prophecies of the Hebrew Scriptures, when he says he is descended from David, but also a pointing forward to a time when the old categories used to exclude people will be abolished. Jesus offers a sense of belonging, not just to a chosen few, but to anyone who responds positively to him.



Where do you belong in God's story?



Royal Seal

Jesus says that while he has royal blood (as a descendent of David), he is also a heavenly king and that we belong to him. This week, our nation and the wider commonwealth will be celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Seventy years of service is remarkable, and Queen Elizabeth has frequently referenced her Christian faith throughout this time. Look round your home for symbols which show that you are part of this celebration. Find a coin with the Queen's head on, and make a rubbing, while you reflect on what it means to belong to something bigger.

COMING SOON

Jesus promises John that he will come again soon. This is like a teaser trailer for the next season of your favourite series on TV, or a film that you have been looking forward to for a long time. Design a poster, in the style of one advertising a new film, telling people that Jesus will soon return. Do you feel a sense of anticipation in creating your poster?

INVITATIONS

Not everyone feels as though they belong at school, at work, or even during leisure activities. The kingdom that Jesus describes offers invitations to everyone, including the people who feel as though they don't fit in. How can you be more like Jesus? This month, think about the people who are on the fringes of groups. Can you find ways to invite them in? How could you be more inclusive in your everyday life?



Do you find it easy or difficult to talk about God to others? Jesus tasks John with delivering the message of his visions to the churches. It is not always easy to turn a visual message into a written one, and this online game demonstrates that: <https://garticphone.com/>. Invite a few friends to join you and discover how good you are at communicating the message.



LISTEN



Would you describe yourself as being thirsty for God? What does Jesus mean when he uses this phrase? In this song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=coWRDjX02pU> there is a connection made between brokenness and being thirsty for God. Listen to the words and imagine how it would feel to join in with the chorus of people asking Jesus to come.

Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

Jesus spoke to me, saying, 'I am the one who sent the angel to you; it is my message you must deliver to the churches. I am the Alpha and Omega, the first, the last, the beginning and the end.

'I am coming soon and when I come, everyone will be given what their work deserves. Everyone who washes their robes clean in my blood will be allowed to enter the new Jerusalem through the gates, and they will be able to eat from the tree of life.

'I, Jesus, am a king from the family of David, but I came both before and after David. I am the bright morning star.'

These visions I saw were revealed to me by the Lord Jesus, who says, 'Surely I am coming soon.'

The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.'

Let everyone who hears these words say, 'Come.'

Let everyone who is thirsty for God say, 'Come.' The water of life is a free gift for anyone who wants it.



By saying, 'Amen', I echo all of the calls to Jesus. Come Lord Jesus! Amen!

May the grace of the Lord Jesus be with all who believe in him. Amen.

Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21

Did you know?

- The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet are Alpha and Omega.
- David was the second king of Israel and the most popular of the nation's rulers. God made a promise to David that one of his descendants would always be king (2 Samuel 7.16).
- The Spirit is the Holy Spirit and the bride is the Church.

Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21 (NRSV)

'See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. 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 will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

16 'It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David,

the bright morning star.' The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.' And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.