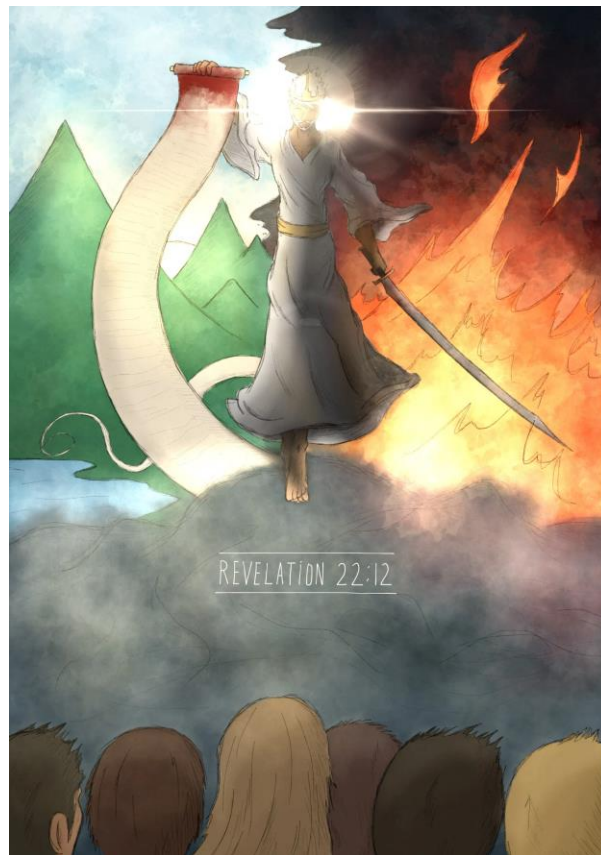


SOON, HOW SOON IS SOON & HOW NEAR IS NEAR

SOON



“Behold I am coming soon!”

“Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.

Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay every one for what he has done.”

Revelation 22:11-12

“Behold I am coming soon!”

20 centuries and counting. And we're still waiting.

Did the Apostle John get it wrong?

It's not as if the Lord Jesus is somewhere off in the universe, waiting for the signal to return. As Lord of heaven and earth, he *even now* fills this troubled planet with his glory.

But he is coming---soon.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself, and has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment.”

John 5:25-29

The word “soon” begins to make sense when our eyes open to the glory which is closer to us than our breath.

To those who suffer, to those who have been beaten down by our greed, lust and indifference, the Lord Jesus says,

“Behold I am coming soon.”

To the scribe and Pharisee in each of us, the Master warns,

“Behold I am coming soon.”

To those who “have conquered (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death,” (Revelation 12) he says,

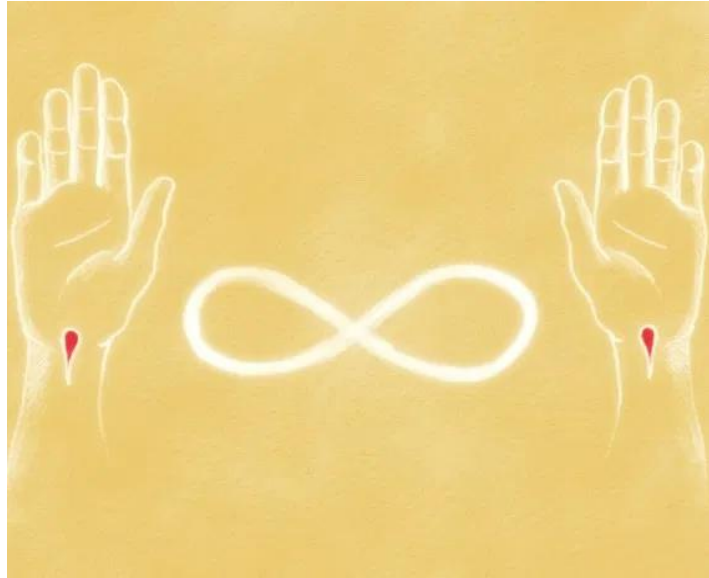
“Behold I am coming soon.”

Whether it's midnight tonight or two centuries down the road, it's “Soon”.

Time to repent of *our speculations*, and *live our lives in the present*, which is always----

----the Eleventh Hour.

HOW SOON IS SOON?



"Behold I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay every one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Revelation 22:12-13

Soon.

Jesus never implied that we could relax and dabble in distractions.

He said, "Stay awake."

Which means:

"Abide in me."

"Pay attention to my words to you."

"Stay under my yoke."

"Walk with me."

"Be my witness."

---with your life.

---with your mouth.

Whether you live or die, he is coming.

And you will answer for what you did with the grace he poured out upon you through his shed blood.

You will account to him for the fruit you have borne by the power of his Resurrection Spirit.

Don't make the mistake of trusting...

your "experience of salvation,"

your certainty that you are "one of the elect,"

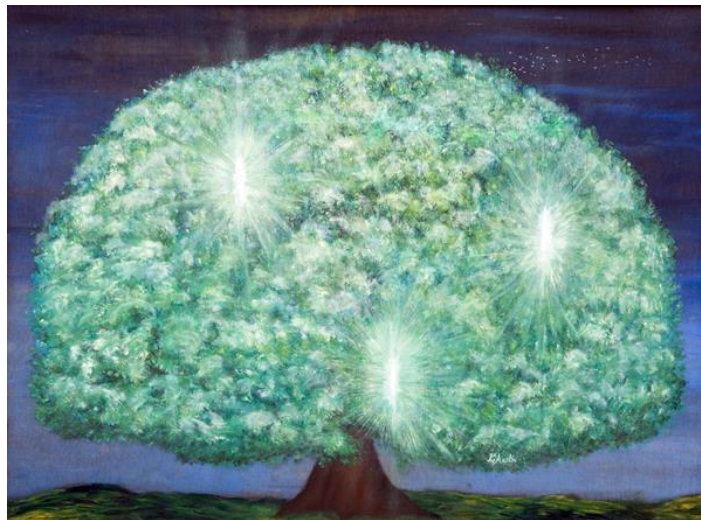
your "superior kindness."

Trust only Jesus,

enough to repent of yourself and answer his call---daily.

Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the Tree of Life and that they may enter the City by the Gates.

Revelation 22:14



The Tree of Life courtesy of Kate Austin

HOW NEAR?



*Time is Running Out
by Kate Austin*

They keep telling us that the End is near.

How near?

Only the Father knows the day and the hour,

but wherever the Spirit of God is moving on this earth with redemptive power,
we are witnessing the beginning of the End.

The Spirit is the foretaste of the end.

He comforts the mourners

He heals the sick.

He redeems the lost.

He convicts the arrogant.

He shakes the complacent.

He warns the smug.

He brings the lordship of Jesus the Messiah to bear on our present circumstances.

When the Spirit of the Lord speaks to your heart,
you are looking at the End.

Depending on where you stand with God,
you are either staring into a terrifying black hole, or beholding the glory of the Lord.

"Behold I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay every one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and every one who loves and practices the Lie.

Revelation 22:12-15

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Prayer

Holy coming Lord...You who are the beginning and the end, open our eyes to your coming, open our hearts to your presence now.

May our fear of impending doom and our alarm and speculation not cause us to lose faith, to turn away and to make alliances with darkness and evil.

May we trust in you, turn to you, love you with all we have.

May we obey your command to be the light of the earth.

May we continue to wash our robes in your redemptive blood.

Speak to our hearts so we can arise in your redemptive power and bring your holy touch, your holy healing to any soul who needs it.

And Lord when we look at the end, may all we see is your magnificent glory.

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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN