

Book of Revelation – Epilogue (Conclusion to Revelation)

Series REV-71

- Revelation 22

Part III

Revelation 22:16-21

We have come to the end of the book, the last few verses of the last chapter. But what the Lord has in store for us is precious, even to the very end.

We will be looking out some exciting things in the closing thoughts of the words of Jesus—the testimony of Christ. But before we do, note this SOP statement on these verses, which are for our admonition.

*‘Blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things that are written therein; for the time is at hand.’ **Read the last chapter of Revelation carefully and prayerfully. What significance there is in the statements of this chapter.** ‘I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.’ ‘Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. ‘I Jesus have sent mine angels to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.’*

-{1888 Materials, pp. 1489-1490}

As this statement above closes with the verse we now open to, we first note that we are instructed to read carefully and prayerfully this chapter. As with most chapters in the Book, if not all, we should carefully and prayerfully consider the subject matter of each, for the simple reason it is the word of God. The Lord has much we should be continually learning that we may become more like Him, reflecting the light of His presence and truth all around us.

Rev 22:16 – I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright and morning star.

Vs. 16 – Jesus is speaking Himself

This truth indicates there is a living principle referenced here that originally was spoken of by John in the first chapter, vs. 2 & 9. Christ’s words in chapter 22 are its closing of this principle in Holy Writ. But before looking at the verses in Rev 1 on this matter, let us try to understand what is meant by the phrase, “these things in the churches?” [hint: Read Rev 1:11, 19 in conjunction with 1:2, 9 to help with your answer. What things is John talking about]

Part of the title spoken of in Rev 22:16—the Root and Offspring of David—is mentioned in Rev 5:5. Compare and Contrast.

- a) What’s the similarity and the difference between the 5:5 text and this one? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

- b) The deeper question, is there a cleansing element that might be inferred in both, especially surrounding this word, 'root'? [hint: re. the 5:5 verse, think context, what's going on in that chapter.] _____
- c) Who also in Christian history is referred to as "the morning star"? _____

Rev 22:17 – *The Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

Vs. 17 – Last Invitation

"The cry of Christ to the thirsty soul is still going forth, and it appeals to us with even greater power than to those who heard it in the temple on that last day of the feast. The fountain is open for all. The weary and the exhausted ones are offered the refreshing draught of eternal life. Jesus is still crying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink." -DA 454

Notice the three groups giving the invitation: _____ ; _____ ; _____.

And the last appeal is for _____.

[To be discussed in our last study Monday night on this fabulous Book:
Why do you think the appeal initially is coming from the Spirit and bride?]

To the very end of the Bible, the Lord holds out the invitation ~

- After two of three 2nd Coming statements, including reference to rewards (vss.7, 12)
- After the Verdict spoken at Close of Probation is given (vs.11)
- After the 6 categories of the lost is listed (15)

In Jesus final testimony, is that invitation given. What a gracious longsuffering Saviour we have. Thank you Lord.

Rev 22:18, 19 – For **I testify unto every man** that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book,

If any man shall add unto these things,

God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy,

God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and the things which are written in this book.

Probably the most fearful warning given in Scripture ~

DO NOT TAMPER WITH THIS BOOK!

Because all the books of the Bible meet and end in the Revelation, this warning was originally given in the book of Deuteronomy, specifically 4:2. But note it was spoken to Israel, a theocracy (specifically, people of faith) and not like the one in Rev 22:18, 19 (a more general reference to every man or any man).

Right after the invitation is given, Jesus testifies this warning...that is not by mistake.

The Deut. 4:2 text states clearly, that Israel was not to ‘alter’ (add or diminish) the Word, God commanded, ‘that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God.’

Do you find it ironic that the Rev 22:18, 19 warning also comes in context with the commandments of God? {Amazing the consistency of Scripture.}

[Just ponder a bit on the men who have tampered with His Word in the creation of these new translations the last 100+ years (1500 years if we include the changes Rome as made in their corrupt manuscripts and versions.) The hubris and audacity of mortal man to add or change God’s word at the risk of their names being expunged from the book of life, is just incredible to say the least.]

As we come to the close of the ‘testimony of Jesus’ (vs. 20), we see Jesus reminding us that “**Surely, I come quickly.**” He leaves us with that closing promise till the end of time. Only in eternity will we realize, how many have been saved at last who hung onto this comforting and most encouraging promise, from the word of Jesus Himself.

[BTW: It is interesting to note that the word ‘grace’ here in the closing text is only mentioned twice in the book. The other time is in (1:4)~John’s opening and closing thoughts.]

As an addendum to this last lesson, I will send out some SOP statements on this chapter (Sunday) which we will look at in our last study together. It will be a nice bow to tie up our concluding picture of the book.

In closing out this tremendous study over the last two and half years, it has been my prayer through the process that with our earnest efforts to come to understand the Revelation, the Holy Spirit would grant us a rewarding experience, blessing us richly with the ongoing unfolding of truth for His people to the end of time. I can testify, that He has answered that prayer. I’m sure you each can agree. May we continue to pray, nonetheless, that we would be faithful to the light He has shed upon us, throughout our lives. He will not leave us, nor forsake us (Heb 13:5), but will complete the work He has begun in us (Phil 1:6).

Thank you for persevering with me to the end. Your reward is written in heaven!!!

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.