

Revelation 22:6-21

In these final verses of the book of Revelation and in these final verses of the Bible, there are nineteen concluding messages:

Concluding Message #1 – Every word which has been written is faithful and true. **22:6a**

This is important to understand. What is actually inspired are the words of the Bible and every word in the Bible and every word in Revelation can be trusted and is to be believed because it is faithful and true. God ends His Word by stressing the importance of “the words.” The words God has put into writing are true words. The numbers are accurate and right. The predictions are precise and they are literal.

Concluding Message #2 – God is the One who chose to reveal prophecy to His bond-servants. **22:6b**

Notice that God reveals His program to His “bond-servants.” God did not give prophetic truth for Hollywood movies. He did not reveal His prophetic truth to cults or nonbelievers. God gave His truth to His bond-servants, and frankly, only those who are close to God will truly accurately understand Biblical prophecy.

Concluding Message #3 – Jesus Christ, Himself, says He will come quickly. **22:7a**

This point is repeated three times in these final verses - **22:7; 22:12; 22:20**. Jesus Christ, Himself, states this point three specific times, so it is obviously important. The word “quickly” is the Greek word “takos” (ταχος) from which we get our English word “tachometer.” This particular word is one that has to do with swift speed.

This is not a word that means “I come immediately” or “I come instantly”; it is one that means that when Christ comes, He is coming with quick speed. Things will move very fast. We know that one day with the Lord is as a 1000 years to us, so in all actuality it has only been two days since Christ left the earth physically.

Concluding Message #4 – Those who heed the Words of God will be blessed. **22:7b**

The Greek word “heeds” is one that means to carefully keep, watch over, and guard. Jesus promises that the one who carefully keeps and guards the words of the prophecy will be blessed by Him. Now the “words of the prophecy of this book” may refer to Revelation and they also may refer to the entire Bible. One who carefully guards the Scriptures, including the prophetic Scriptures, will be blessed by God. Notice what book Jesus promises His blessing, the Words of “this” book, the Word of God that includes Revelation.

Concluding Message #5 – Everything in Revelation John actually heard and saw . **22:8a**

The book of Revelation is not some mystical, apocalyptic fairytale in which we are taken into the future to speculate as to what we think things will be. Revelation is the prophetic truth of God and the Apostle John was an eyewitness of everything. Everything in this book was heard and seen by the Apostle John.

John was a man who was very fact-oriented. We may illustrate this by looking at what he did when it was reported that Jesus Christ had risen from the dead. The Apostle John took off running for the tomb because he wanted to see for himself and make certain that Jesus' body was not there. John was so committed to truth that when he wrote Revelation, he was on a prison island, Patmos, because of his defense of the Word of God and His testimony for Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:9). This was not a man given to the emotional or sensational. When he says, "I heard and saw" everything in this book of Revelation, you may know it is absolute truth.

Concluding Message #6 – Prophetic truth affected the Apostle John in that he wanted to worship God. **22:8b-9**

Apparently after John had seen the New Heaven, New Earth and New Jerusalem, there was a change in what John was hearing and seeing; and that prompted him to realize he had seen everything, and that prompted him to fall down and worship the angel who had showed him these things.

The angel immediately rebuked John and said, "Do not do that." He informed John that he was a fellow servant of God, just as humans are fellow servants of God. This angel pointed out that his job was to be involved in the prophetic plan of God that was written in the words of this book. He was a servant, just as prophets were servants and John was a servant. Notice carefully what this angel says to John, "worship God." God is the only Being we worship.

Concluding Message #7 – The words of the prophecy of this book are not to be sealed . **22:10**

Notice that Revelation is classified as a book filled with words which are prophetic . Revelation is a prophecy. It does predict the future and the message it presents is to be clearly understood and taught and not sealed.

Now one stated reason why this book is not to be sealed is because "the time is near." In other words, Revelation is not to be sealed but expounded because of the nearness of the events, or as one writer said, because of the "nextness" of the events. I understand the adverb "near" (εγγυς) to refer to the nearness of time of sequential events (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 127).

We are already in the Church Age of Revelation 2-3, which means the next event which is nearest to us is the Rapture and then the beginning of the Tribulation. God wants us to speak up and not seal up the prophetic truth found in this book because the time is near.

Concluding Message #8 – When prophecy is fulfilled a person’s spiritual condition is sealed.
22:11

This verse is a powerful warning against putting off any decision to get serious about knowing and applying God’s Word. A person’s eternal state will be sealed the moment these events get underway. I understand this as being aimed at believers.

It seems to me that the primary point of this verse is that as we near these events, real repentance will be very rare. Most people will continually stay in the state they are presently in and most will not respond to the convicting work of the Holy Spirit and get serious about God’s Word.

Verse 11 gives us a glimpse as to what things will be like as we near the end:

- 1) Those doing what is wrong will stay in the wrong.
- 2) Those doing what is filthy will stay in the filth.
- 3) Those who practice righteousness will continue to practice righteousness.
- 4) Those who are holy will continue to keep themselves holy.

What God is revealing here is that as we near the Coming of Jesus Christ, God will lock people into their spiritual condition and not let them get out of it. If you are one who senses the need to change and then you do make the changes, you thank God, for it is His rare work in your life.

Concluding Message #9 – When Jesus Christ returns He will reward every person. **22:12**

Every person will face Jesus Christ and will be judged by Him. If we put this in the immediate context, **verse 11** is obviously in close proximity to **verse 12**. There will be believers who are doing wrong, unrighteous, and filthy things, and there will be believers who are practicing righteousness and doing holy things. When Jesus Christ returns, He will analyze every believer and will reward him accordingly to what he did.

The word “reward” (μισθός) is one that refers to one’s wages (G. Abbott-Smith, *Greek Lexicon*, p. 294). It is especially used in reference to Divine wages and rewards that will be given by God (Matthew 5:12; 6:1, 2, 5, 16; 10:41, 42; I Corinthians 3:8, 14). The only place where John uses this word is II John 8, in which he uses it in a context of losing full rewards.

What I understand Jesus Christ to be saying here is when He returns He will reward believers accordingly to what they were doing and how they were living. Some will have been living wrong unrighteous lives and some will have been involved in filthy things. Others will be practicing righteousness and holiness. Every one will be analyzed and receive eternal wages and rewards commensurate with their lifestyle.

Concluding Message #10 – Jesus Christ is the totality of the entire program of God. **22:13**

In the immediate context, these titles give Christ the right to carry out the entire program of God:

- 1) Jesus Christ is the complete program of God in writing - “The Alpha and the Omega.”
- 2) Jesus Christ is the complete program of God in chronology - “The first and the last.”
- 3) Jesus Christ is the complete program of God in time - “The beginning and the end.”

Everything in the program of God is aimed at and carried out by Jesus Christ. The Scriptures are about Him, time is controlled by Him, and He is the One who starts and ends everything.

Concluding Message #11 – The believer in Jesus Christ will be blessed forever. **22:14**

Those who are blessed are those who have washed their robes. The washing that is referred to here is the washing in the blood of the Lamb which gives us the white righteousness to have a relationship with God. This washing occurs when one believes on Jesus Christ (Rev. 3:5; 7:14). The moment one believes on Jesus Christ, He is washed white in the blood of the Lamb (Rev. 7:14). To one who has believed on Jesus Christ there are two eternal blessings promised:

(Eternal Blessing #1) - Believers will have continual access to the tree of life. **22:14a**

(Eternal Blessing #2) - Believers will have continual access to the holy city. **22:14b**

Concluding Message #12 – The unbelievers will exist outside of any eternal blessings. **22:15**

Robert Thomas accurately observed, “To be outside the Holy city means a final destiny in the Lake of Fire (20:15; 21:8)” (*An Exegetical Commentary of Revelation 8-22*, Vol. 2, p. 507). The unbeliever will be outside of all the eternal blessings of God. The only thing the unbeliever receives is eternal burning and everlasting fire.

Concluding Message #13 – The book of Revelation is for New Testament churches. **22:16a**

The book of Revelation is given by Jesus Christ and is to be carefully studied and understood by New Testament churches. This certainly is very logical in view of the fact that the Rapture, which ends the Church Age, is what triggers all of these prophetic events.

The pronoun “you” (υμιν) is plural which means Jesus Christ had more than just John in mind for this book of Revelation, but also all the churches. This book is for all of God’s people in His churches.

Concluding Message #14 – Jesus Christ gives final titles to Himself for the Church. **22:16b**

Jesus Christ specifically wants the Church to remember two titles pertaining to Him:

(Title #1) - Jesus Christ is the “root and offspring of David.”

What this means is that Jesus Christ is the legal descendant of David, who has a legal right to reign, and He is the beginning and the end of the entire Kingdom economy associated with David.

(Title #2) - Jesus Christ is “the bright morning star.”

The emphasis of this is that Jesus Christ is the brightest heavenly being in existence. He will appear at a time when things are very dark and bring about the most shining day of God ever seen. He will bring forth God’s eternity.

Concluding Message #15 – Revelation gives a final invitation of the book. **22:17**

Revelation 22:17 is a final invitation for all lost people to come to faith in Jesus Christ. The invitation comes via the Spirit of God and the bride, which is the Church of God. We may notice that the bride, the Church, invites people to come to Christ and also one who “hears,” which would be the individual believer, invites people to come to Christ. So the corporate church has the responsibility and so does the individual believer.

There are three parts to the Gospel presented to unbelievers:

- 1) The unbeliever must sense his thirst or need to believe on Jesus Christ. **22:17a**
(John 7:37-38)
- 2) The unbeliever must wish to come to Jesus Christ to have the thirst quenched. **22:17b**
- 3) The unbeliever must realize this is free grace without any cost. **22:17c**

Concluding Message #16 – Revelation gives a final warning of the book. **22:18-19**

Not only is one warned to hear what is in the Word of God, but one is given a very serious warning not to tamper with God’s written Word in any way. **Do not add to the Word of God and do not subtract from the Word of God.**

This warning is not just for the book of Revelation, as some would suggest, but this very point is seen all throughout Scripture. For example:

Deuteronomy 4:2 says, “You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it ...”

Proverbs 30:5-6 says, “Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar.”

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In Jeremiah 36, there is a remarkable illustration of a wicked king of Judah, whose name was Jehoiakim, who dared to tamper with the Word of God. He did not like the prophecies that had been written by Jeremiah, so he took the scroll, cut it up and threw it into the fire (Jer. 36:23). As a result, God not only severely punished him but also his descendants. All of this was because he dared to tamper with the written Word of God.

When Moses received the Word of God, which told him to speak to the rock once to get water, he decided to hit the rock twice. He probably got the idea from what had happened earlier when God told him to hit the rock once and it would produce water (Exodus 17:5-6). God's Word told Moses to speak to the rock and Moses added striking it to God's Word and God punished Moses and would not let him lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land (Numbers 20:8-12). All Moses did was add something to God's Word.

The Bible ends with two warnings:

(Warning #1) - The person who adds to God's written Word will suffer the judgments of the book. **22:18**

God's Word is not subject to change or further development. It is not subject to further revelatory data. It is final! Those who claim they get additional messages from God, other than the written Scriptures, had better think very seriously about this warning. Revelatory gifts have ceased.

(Warning #2) - The person who subtracts from God's written Word will not be in God's eternity. **22:19**

Any person who has God's Spirit actually in him will take God's written Word very seriously and will not be adding or subtracting from it.

Concluding Message #17 – Jesus Christ says He will come quickly . **22:20a**

Jesus Christ who testified of all of these things says, "I am coming quickly." It may be morning, may be noon, may be evening, but it will be soon.

Concluding Message #18 – Those right with God truly want Jesus Christ to come. **22:20b**

Notice John identifies Christ as the Lord Jesus. The "Amen" means truly we want the Lord Jesus to come.

Concluding Message #19 – Truly our relationship with the Lord Jesus is by grace . **22:21**

The Bible opens with the story of creation, it develops with a story of rebellion, and it ends with the theme of God's grace. To get God's creation into God's eternity, demands God's grace. That grace is found in One person, the Lord Jesus.