

Read Revelation!

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” (Revelation 1:3)

Chapter 22: The Final Word!

Now we come to the end of the Book of Revelation, and the end of the whole Bible, too! Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would “*guide*” His apostles “*into all truth*” (See John 16:12-15). John was the last apostle to die, and he finished writing the Book of Revelation before he died. This portion of scripture would be God’s last Word to His people before Christ’s Second Coming. The last chapter contains many important things to which we should all pay close attention.

I. The Final State (verses 1-15).

Chapter 22 reveals more about what the eternal state will be like. Picture in your own mind what the apostle John saw in verses 1 through 5. Notice in verses 1-2 that the “*nations*” will be healed. See in verse 3 that there will be “*no more curse.*” The new creation will be like the original creation was before the sin of Adam, only better. Notice in verses 3-4 that God’s “*servants shall serve him: and they shall see his face.*” There will be work for us to do, and it will be a happy thing to serve our blessed Lord! Verse 5 says that we “*shall reign for ever and ever.*” God’s Kingdom will continue forever, and we will “*reign*” with Him! The concept of the Kingdom of God began with the creation of Adam. Genesis 1 says that Adam was made “*in the image of God*” (v. 27) and was authorized to “*have dominion*” over the world (v. 28). Of course, that arrangement was derailed by sin, but the principle of God reigning over the earth through a man was established forever. It is seen again in the kingdom of Israel, but again that arrangement was wrecked by the sons of the kings and the people. The Kingdom will come at the Second Coming of Christ, but even that form of God’s Kingdom will end when Satan is loosed after a thousand years (Revelation 20). Finally, after the rebellion and war that concludes the age of Christ’s Kingdom on earth, the old creation will be destroyed, and God’s eternal Kingdom will commence in the new creation. And we cannot imagine how perfectly wonderful it will be! Let’s remember, however, that the wicked will still exist—in the Lake of Fire! Verses 11 and 15 indicated that, even in their suffering, they will still be very wicked! Those living in God’s Kingdom will be “*righteous*” and “*holy*” and they will “*do his commandments*” (vs. 11 and 14).

II. The Final Message (verses 7-10, 12-13, 16 and 20).

Again and again, the last chapter of the Bible repeats the message that Christ’s coming for His saints could happen at any moment! “*Quickly*” in verses 7, 12, and 20 means “*suddenly.*” The term “*at hand*” in verse 10 means “*ready to happen.*” The Rapture will occur suddenly, and everything is ready for it to happen! And the Rapture sets in motion the events that will bring in God’s Kingdom in its fullness (Tribulation, Return,

Kingdom, Judgment, New Creation)! The Lord is speaking of the Rapture in this final message, because He says, *"I come quickly, and my reward is with me, to give every man as his work shall be"* (v. 12). After the Rapture, Jesus will reward His servants according to their service for Him. Let us pay attention to this final message of the Bible. Jesus is coming, and He might come today!

III. The Final Invitation (verse 17).

The Bible does not close without giving sinners one last appeal to come to Christ and be saved. The Holy Spirit says, *"Come."* The Bride (God's people) says, *"Come."* Everybody who hears the Gospel is supposed to invite sinners to *"Come."* God Himself says,

"Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

The Lord wants to save you from your sins more than you want to be saved! He provided for your salvation on the sacrifice of His Son and in His resurrection from the tomb. You will be saved if you will come to Jesus, and let Him save you. That is saving faith. Won't you come?

IV. The Final Warning (verses 18 and 19).

The Bible ends with a warning that men should not tamper with the written Words of God. Copies of the original books as they were written by *"holy men"* (II Peter 1:20-21) were made, and copies of those copies have been made by many. There was much opportunity for bad men or careless men to *"add unto"* or *"take away from the words of the book of this prophecy."* However the promises of Matthew 24:35 and I Peter 1:23-25 indicate that God's providence has kept the traditional text of scripture pure. Those who have deliberately changed the sacred text for their own purposes, will suffer the consequences of that activity for ever! Thankfully, these corrupt copies of the Bible were not accepted by the orthodox. True believers have had a true representation of the written Word down through the centuries.

V. The Final Prayer (verses 20 and 21).

The response of John to the final message of Jesus, as well as to the whole Book of Revelation that was given to him, was a simple prayer:

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

The Lord Jesus taught us to pray every day, *"Thy kingdom come"* (Matthew 6:10 and Luke 11:2). Are we really looking for Jesus? Are we living in the light of His imminent coming (See I John 3:1-3)? Are we praying for the Lord to come back and take us to Himself? Are we ready for Jesus to come again?