



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Jim Hoffman

Chapter 22

- **10** And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.”
- **Dan 12:4** But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase **9** He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time.
- **What Daniel was told to “seal up” until the time of the end had to do with the revelation John had on Patmos – the two are related.**

Chapter 22

- **This is more language that has to do with the doctrine of immanency – John was not to “seal up” or conceal in any way the visions and revelations he had on Patmos because Jesus is coming quickly.**
- **In Daniel’s day, there is no hint of the message being for his day, but for a day in the future.**
- **In John’s day, there is every reason to not conceal the message because Jesus said three times “I am coming quickly”.**

Chapter 22

- **11 “Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy.”**
- **What seems to be a very strange and perhaps shocking statement from the angel turns out to be just basic truth and a commentary of the heart of man.**
- **Maybe as much as anything else, this verse teaches that faith in Jesus cannot be forced, cannot be scripted, cannot be inherited, and cannot be manufactured.**

Chapter 22

- So when the angel tells John to “let” them perhaps he is telling all of us that we should pray and preach with the understanding that not all will believe.
- While the truth of the gospel has the power to save souls and transform lives, not all will believe, and without that understanding we could become very discouraged.
- Ezek 3:27 But when I give you a message, I will loosen your tongue and let you speak. Then you will say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says!’ *Those who choose to listen will listen, but those who refuse will refuse, for they are rebels.*

Chapter 22

- “After one of Daniel’s visions, he was told that the words were closed up until the time of the end and that both good and evil would continue: the wicked would not understand the things of God, but the wise would (Dan. Dan. 12:9-10). The same situation is before us in this age. We have much more revelation than Daniel was given, including the entire New Testament and this book of last things. Yet, the wicked continue to ignore the sure prediction of the judgment of God on the horizon. This will culminate in a generation at the time of the Tribulation who are unique in their blasphemy and unrepentant rejection of God. Even though they will know God exists and that He is the source of their judgment (Rev. Rev. 6:15-17+), they will continue in rebellion and refuse every opportunity to repent (Rev. Rev. 9:21+; Rev. 16:8+, Rev. 16:11+). God is saying that men choose to sin because they want to, not because they know no better; and the inference is that even this book, which reveals the ultimate, stark, destiny of sin, will not deter sinners from pursuing their fancy.”

Unknown

Chapter 22

- **Speaking about verse #11 John Walvoord writes, “By this he does not mean that men should remain unmoved by the prophecies of this book, but rather that if the prophecies are rejected, there is no other message that will work. If the warnings of the book are not sufficient, there is no more that God has to say. The wicked must continue in their wicked way and be judged by the Lord when He comes. The same rule, however, applies to the righteous. Their reaction to the prophecy, of course, will be different, but the exhortation in their case is to continue in righteousness and holiness. It is an either/or proposition with no neutrality possible.”**

Chapter 22

- 12 “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.”
- The angel is now retracing some of truths we’ve studied before – specifically, that while our works cannot save us, apart from Christ they can condemn us.
- “render to every man according to what he has done” tells us in no uncertain terms that saved or lost, *our works matter more than we may know.*

Chapter 22

- **For the unbelievers, their works will determine exactly how much they will suffer in eternity.**
- **For believers, our works after salvation will determine our eternal rewards and, in all likelihood, even our ability to serve Christ on the new earth and in the New Jerusalem.**
- **There just is no other way to understand ““render to every man according to what he has done” – what else could it possibly mean?**

Chapter 22

- **13 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.**
- **Three different ways of saying the same thing – all of creation, and all of eternity begins and ends with Jesus.**
- **He is not only first chronologically, he is first in order – Col 1:18
And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.**

Chapter 22

- **Rev 7:13** 13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?” 14 And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”
- **Isaiah 1:**“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. 19 If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; 20 But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword”; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Chapter 22

- “Blessed are those who wash their robes” – As you know this is about more than clean clothes. *Washing and repentance are tied together in scripture.*
- Isaiah 61:10 I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- Psalm 51:7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Chapter 22

- **15 Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.**
- **This verse, like Rev 21:27, does not present the possibility that sinners might still have a chance at access to Heaven, but rather that their fate is sealed.**
- **They are said to be “outside” and if we look closely they are way outside in the lake of fire for all of eternity.**

Chapter 22

- **So why even say it? Why even bring the lost up if their fate is sealed and they are already judged and lost forever?**
- **Because John is prophesying – he is foretelling future events so I believe the lost are mentioned for the purposes of evangelism.**
- **Anyone living who reads these words of doom are still in a position where they could turn from their sins and avoid being on the “outside”.**

Chapter 22

- **By the way, the “outside” is not a way of saying they were merely outside the city, the New Jerusalem.**
- **We will be able to go outside the city to explore the new earth, and the new universe.**
- **So “outside” here is not to be taken completely literally – those outside of Christ are not just outside the city, they have been judged and forever consigned to the darkness and blackness of hell.**

Chapter 22

- **Those who try to discredit the bible, may say, “look, the list of the lost is very short – it is limited to just the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.”**
- **But wait, we have numerous other scriptures that would have a longer list of sins the lost commit and we also have 1st John 5:12. (the lists of sins are representative, not comprehensive)**
- **1st John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.**

Chapter 22

- **16 “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”**
- **Now John writes another odd, and seemingly impossible statement – that Jesus was both the source of David (his ancestor) and his descendant.**
- **This is a very leading statement that ends with one of the great doctrinal statements about the person of Jesus – that He is the God-man. (he is both)**

Chapter 22

- **And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. (from the Nicene creed)**
- **The theological term for this truth is the Hypostatic Union – Jesus is the only one in all of history with this make up of two perfect natures. (God and sinless man) That makes Him both the root and the offspring of David.**

Chapter 22

- **“We live in a society where we cannot always be sure that traditional definitions still hold. But I stand where I always have stood. And the genuine believer, no matter where he may be found in the world, humbly but surely is convinced about the person and position of Jesus Christ. Such a believer lives with calm and confident assurance that Jesus Christ is truly God and that He is everything the inspired writer said He is. He is "the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being." This view of Christ in Hebrews harmonizes with and supports what Paul said of Jesus when he described Him as "the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation" (Colossians 1:15), in whom "all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form". Bible-believing Christians stand together on this. They may have differing opinions about the mode of baptism, church polity or the return of the Lord. But they agree on the deity of the eternal Son. Jesus Christ is of one substance with the Father—begotten, not created. In our defense of this truth we must be very careful and very bold--belligerent, if need be.” A.W. Tozer**

Chapter 22

- He is also the “bright morning star” – the morning star is the brightest star of the day and signals a new day, a new beginning.
- Numbers 24:17 I see him, but not here and now. I perceive him, but far in the distant future. *A star will rise from Jacob*; a scepter will emerge from Israel.
- Luke 1:78 “Because of God’s tender mercy, *the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us*, 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.”

Chapter 22

- **2nd Peter 1:19** Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the *Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts.*
- The Jews of the 1st century used the word “star” very much like we do – we assign it as an adjective to great athletes, musicians, and others.
- Again we are reminded of the preeminence of Christ – he is the star of stars, the bright and morning star.

Chapter 22

- **17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.**
- **If you want to know how people come to Christ it is right here, “The Spirit and he bride say. ‘come’.”**
- **The Holy Spirit’s primary role to the unsaved is to convict of sin and to draw people to Christ. He did it for you, and He has the same ministry to every unsaved person to this day – you can count on it!**

Chapter 22

- **John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.**
- **Do not ever be concerned that He is not “on the job” so to speak until He determines it is time to give up on someone.**

Chapter 22

- **Psalm 81:12** So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices.
- **Romans 1:24** So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies.
- **Gen 6:5** Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. **6** The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Chapter 22

- **As far as I can tell, we are not called to give up on people – that sort of understanding is for God and Him alone.**
- **If you had to boil the message of the bible down to a few very prevalent messages – one of them would have to be a simple one, “come to Jesus”.**
- **And here in God’s last words to mankind we see it again where God is saying to us – keep preaching the gospel, keep saying to the lost, “come to Jesus”.**

Chapter 22

- **“And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.”**
- **Please note that while the gospel is for all, and that Jesus died for all, not all will come to Him and be saved.**
- **So we have another theme that is repeated – let’s call it personal responsibility with how each of us responds to the gospel.**

Chapter 22

- *The lake of fire will not be filled with people who wanted the water of life – it will be filled with people who wanted their sin.*
- Salvation is free to *the one who is thirsty for it* – it is without charge *to the one who wants it.*
- And while it is offered to all, the sad truth of history is that not all want to be saved; *many, many, simply want their sin.*

Chapter 22

- **18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.**
- **Some have limited the warnings in Rev 22 to not “add to”, or “take away” from the prophecy to just this book of prophecy.**
- **There are however, enough other warnings in scripture to safely apply the warning to then entire bible.**

Chapter 22

- Deut 4:1 “Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, so that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. 2 *You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.*
- Jer 26:1 In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the Lord, saying, 2 “Thus says the Lord, ‘Stand in the court of the Lord’s house, and speak to all the cities of Judah who have come to worship in the Lord’s house all the words that I have commanded you to speak to them. *Do not omit a word!*”

Chapter 22

- Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. 6 Do not add to His words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.
- Gal 1:6-9 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.
- Here is the heart of the matter – who would want to “add to”, or “take away” from the Word of God?

Chapter 22

- **20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.**
- **And so the bible ends with a warning and an invitation – a warning that Jesus is coming quickly, and an invitation to come to Jesus.**
- **John 6:37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.**

Chapter 22

- **So what will we do in eternity?**
- **My answer is wrapped in a philosophical point of view that holds that God will redeem all who trust Him, and all of the creation – a sort of return to Eden approach.**
- **In addition, I hold tightly to the truth that we were made in the image of God and are therefore eternal, creative, social, and productive.**

Chapter 22

- **Also, given that the disciples recognized Jesus in His resurrected body, I believe we too will recognize each other. (we were fearfully and wonderfully made so why through away that level of perfection)**
- **Obviously I do not have all of the details, but in general I believe we can expect to worship, serve, work, and learn.**
- **I believe we will laugh, eat, and interact with others on a level that we have never known due to the effects of sin.**

COME,
JESUS
COME

REVELATION 22-12-21

Questions