

End Matters

Revelation 22:6-21

Review & Introduction:

Revelation 22:6-21 - First, a believer's response (22:6-12) Second, an invitation to unbelievers before it is too late (22:13-21) There is a theme phrase in these final verses that urges believers and unbelievers alike, "I am coming quickly" (7, 12, 20).

To Believers - Revelation 22:6-12

Concept: Believing in the return of Jesus Christ is a life altering belief that should change my thinking and alter my personal preparations.

Concept: Part of loving his appearing involves resting in God's grace that will be fully manifested when he sees me through his saving grace.

Summary: The word translated "recompense" (12) is also translated "reward"; when Jesus returns we will receive our spiritual rewards. (Isaiah 62:11)

To Unbelievers – Revelation 22:13-21 – We are reminded in verse thirteen that we are not in charge, there is someone else. The call is to come and verse 20-21 provide the reason for coming now; "Surely, I am coming soon".

Conclusion: Perseverance and holding to what we believe is the challenge for believers (1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Corinthians 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:8; 2 Thessalonians 2:15); coming and believing in Jesus Christ is the challenge for unbelievers.

The angel in our text stipulates to three things: Worship God (22:8-9); Do not seal these prophecies (22:10); and then we read, "*Let the evildoer still do evil, and let the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy*" (11). Part of verse 11 is an acknowledgment that humans can be very stubborn. That will still be the case at the end of the age; so the reader is confronted with the question, are you that kind of stubborn person.

The words of verses 18-19 are not new to the Word of God. They occur in Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:5-6. What I do with the Word of God is important. For all the books in the world this is the only one that matters with God. Believers are called to be people of The Book!

I don't get dreams that identify my future, the future of my company, the Church I attend or anything else; but scripture has a closing vision that describes the future of our race, this planet and God's people. God loves his people, he loves the Church and he has detailed plans to bring them home. To get in on this plan you must 'come and believe'.

Biblical Theology in Revelation

There are some themes in Revelation that warrant our attention as we complete our study of its chapters and verses.

First, I am living between two worlds; the one created by God, and the world that is coming, What is coming is described in Revelation—it's inevitable. All that remains is for believers to

remain faithful and for lost soul to turn to Jesus for redemption and forgiveness.

Second, all of divine Revelation indicates that God was, is and will be involved with everything that takes place on this earth. Revelation indicates that my greatest joy is worshipping my creator. I am personally happiest when he is most glorified in my life and that includes my choices. One day I will be judged on that issue, so choose and act wisely.

Third, Revelation stipulates that God is the final judge and that means that I, that we will all be judged. Part of understanding this is the position in which we find ourselves. If my relationship is proper; believing, I have nothing to fear; but if my relationship is not in order I am looking at a very challenging future.

Fourth, suffering is part of this life, it will continue to be an increasing part of life and as the end nears suffering may be overwhelming. For believers this is great news regarding the future, but requires endurance and taking the long view if each of us is to survive and be ready for the return of Jesus Christ. The fact that he will snatch us out is no reason to slough off and waste time. I am safe in my future, but now I have a responsibility to point others to Jesus Christ so they too can be safe in their future.

Fifth, there are many battles in life, some battles are more important than others and those battles nearly always involve something spiritual. Satan's influence is never eliminated until the eternal state so we must recognize his fingerprints and resist his influences in culture and through the people around us that do not know Jesus Christ. We can love those that Satan controls but we must resist them by God's power to maintain God's proper place in our lives.

Sixth, Satan has plenty to answer for, but what I should be concerned with is what I will answer for, my evil heart and my wicked intentions that are part of my miserable sin nature. Satan will answer for his stuff and I will answer for mine. I have the Holy Spirit to battle my sinful nature and live a life that honors and glorifies God.

Seventh, the Revelation begins with a vision of Jesus Christ in all of his glory and immediately proceeds to seven letters to seven New Testament house Churches in Asia Minor. After chapter 3 the word "church" does not appear; are they taken out of the picture immediately or sometime during the tribulation? We are not told; but we do learn that people are saved during the time of tribulation, as few as that may be, as the rest of the world goes after the works and ways of Satan led by the antichrist, beast and false prophet. In the end all of God's children come together as the redeemed and live eternally with him in the New Heaven and New Earth. We are living before Revelation 4 so our task is simple, get out the Word; share faith in Jesus Christ; be witnesses willing to die, tell family and friends about the most important gift ever given and that will be as important a thing as I can do to prepare for his return.