

THE APOCALYPSE – A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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Even So Come Lord Jesus!

(Rev 22:1-21)

22:1-2 (The River of the Water of Life and the Tree of Life) –

Revelation 22:1-2, *“And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”*

There is a pure river of the water of life which is clear as crystal. It will proceed from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In Genesis 2 there was the river which proceeds out of the Garden of Eden with the two trees in the midst of the Garden (cf. Genesis 2:9-10). The river of water branched out into four tributaries. Water has always symbolized as life and in particular the sustainer of life.

In eternity and in the new heaven and earth, this pure river of water of life symbolizes eternal life that will flow unceasingly from the presence of God Almighty and the Lamb of God. Christ is still called the Lamb here for it is a reminder to all believers that it is by grace and mercy that they are found in heaven. The Lamb of God offered as our sin offering, burnt offering, peace offering and thank offering to God that we might have eternal life. On earth this reminder was through the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. In eternity it will be through the visible presence of the Lamb.

There will be the tree of life located in the midst of the street and on either side of the river. This tree of life will bear twelve manner of fruits and it will yield a different kind of fruit every month. The leaves of the tree will be for the healing of the nations. It must not be construed that there will be sickness in eternity. The word “healing” means “therapeutic value.” Life in heaven will be exciting and energetic and full of life. The perpetual bearing of twelve different kinds of fruit throughout the year from the same tree points to the rich eternal life that Christians have from God alone, the ONE TREE OF LIFE! Every part of the tree including the leaves will be of some value.

If the figurative understanding of the twelve different manner of fruit of the Tree of life is that of the fruit of the Holy Spirit then it will point to the rich life of the believer. His transformed nature and life is one of depth, and breadth, and height as represented by the different manner of fruit from the same single tree. This is bliss beyond compare.

Eternity does not mean that time has ceased to exist. Time will remain but the concept of time and the limitation of time will be completely transformed. The believer will view time in terms of eternity even as he values every minute of his "time."

22:3-5 (No Curse, No Night, No Candle, No Sun) --

Revelation 22:3-5, *"And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."*

There will be no more curse at all. Since there will be no more sin, there is no more need for the curse. The curse came about in Genesis 3 when sin entered into mankind. Since every believer in eternity possesses the glorified body, there is no need for the curse. God need not punish us any more.

God will be there in the New Jerusalem and so will the Lamb. God's servants ("*douloi*"--slaves) will serve Him eternally. They will be able to see God's face, i.e. the face of Jesus Christ, as they too will be holy and with the glorified body. The name of Christ will be on their foreheads. This is a sign of possession and ownership.

There will be no night. No candle will be needed. The light of the sun will also not be needed. The Lord God Himself will give forth light. The believer will reign with God forever and ever. There will be no end in eternity.

Why are these earthly "things" not needed in heaven? Night is not needed because night symbolizes evil and darkness. Candles represent temporary lights which will not be needed as Christ will be our eternal light. The sun will also not be needed for the same reason as the candle. These are temporary lights which are needed in time of darkness. When there is no night there is naturally no need for any temporary light. God will be our giver of light.

THE EPILOGUE: CHRIST'S FINAL CALL (22:6-21)

Call to Obedience – 22:6-11

22:6-7 (To Show Christ's Servants) –

Revelation 22:6-7, *“And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.”*

What are we suppose to do with all these truths and faithful sayings? These are revealed to God's servants not to unbelievers. They must shortly come to pass. From our perspective it has already been nearly 2,000 years since these words were spoken to the apostle John. But from God's perspective, He says it must shortly be done. In a short while all that has been prophesied here will be accomplished.

The sixth beatitude is one of obedience to God's Holy Word. The one who continues to keep God's Holy Word will be blessed.

To read, memorize and study God's Word alone is not enough. Only by obeying them are we blessed, says the Lord.

Jesus says behold he is coming quickly. The time to believe is now. Do not wait till tomorrow.

22:8-9 (Keep the saying and worship God) –

Revelation 22:8-9, *“And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.”*

John fell down in worship after he had heard and seen all these things. This is the highest honour John to give to anyone, that of worship. But the problem was that we are forbidden to worship angels. Only fallen angels would deceive men into worshipping them. They desire to rob God of His glory. It is interesting to note that the good angel said that he was a fellow servant (“slave”) like the apostle John. Angels were created to serve God whereas we have been saved to serve.

The good angel immediately told him to stand up and worship only God. What John needs to do is to obey the revelations of this book and worship God. The angel was only the messenger. Worship the One who sent the messenger, God Himself.

22:10-11 (Seal Not the Sayings) –

Revelation 22:10-11, *“And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.”*

Do not seal these saying that are in the Book. Let it be made known to all. The time is near. Go and tell the world the days of light and grace and mercy are soon over. It will be a time of great judgement and destruction and calamity where the wrath of God would be unleashed upon a sin sick world. **2 Corinthians 6:2**, *“(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”*

The truth of God's Word will reveal the true nature of all mankind. Those who are filthy will remain filthy if they do not obey God's Word. Those who are righteous will remain righteous if they obey Gods Word. The yardstick or test is obedience to God's Holy Word. **What we say will not make us Christians!**

Matthew 7:21-23, *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”*

What we hear will also not make us Christians! It is when we obey the Word of God that makes us believers. We do the will of God in our lives!

Matthew 7:24-27, *“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”*

Call to Labour – 22:12-15

22:12 (Reward According to his Works) –

Revelation 22:12, *“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”*

Jesus is coming quickly. He will bring with Him rewards. **1 Corinthians 3:11-15**, *“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”*

22:13-15 (Inside or Outside the Gates) –

Revelation 22:13-15, *“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. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.”*

Jesus says that He is Alpha and Omega that is the beginning of all prophesies and the Word of God. Jesus is the beginning and the end that is He is the beginning and end of all events and actions and deeds. Jesus is also the first and the last. He was there when time began and the first man was created and He will continue to be there at the end when the last person comes into this world and be judged by Him. In other words Jesus Christ will always be victorious and He will have the final word and action in all things.

Obedience is always the key to separate the genuine believers from the false. There is no other way. The Word of God is paramount and indispensable to all humanity if we want to have hope and eternal life. To be truly born again has everything to do with our relationship to God's Holy and perfect Word! The highest respect for God's Word is needed here. Do not believe anyone who tells you that the Bible has mistakes. This is a lie of the Devil! Right from the very beginning Satan has attacked the Word of God when he uttered to Eve in Genesis 3:1, “Yea hath God said?” Obedience to the Word of God is to hide God's Word in our hearts and this is the only passport to enter the city of God and eat the fruit of the Tree of Life.

Those who are outside are: dogs (figuratively refers to those who are morally unclean); sorcerers (those who dabble with black magic, witches, wizards, necromancers, charmers, etc.); whoremongers (all kinds of sexual sins including homosexuality, fornication and adultery); murderers (killers of body and character and mind); idolaters and anyone who loves and makes lies. Telling lies is a very heinous sin. There are those who cannot seem to tell the truth and not only that they delight in telling lies. They will all be found outside the kingdom of Heaven. Satan is the father of lies Jn. 8:44) !

They may say they are Christians but if the above sins characterized their lives, saying that they are Christians will not make them Christians!

Call to Come and Keep His Holy Word – 22:16-20

22:16-17 (Come and Hear) –

Revelation 22:16-17, *“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And 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.”*

Jesus says that He has sent the angels to testify all these things to John and to all of us! We have no excuse not to believe! Jesus says that He is the root of David implying that He is the life giving sources to David and the foundation of David (a reference to His Deity as God) as well as being the offspring of David (a reference to His humanity i.e. of the lineage of David, Christ’s credentials in fulfillment of prophesy in Isaiah 11:1). Jesus is also the bright and morning star.

Burkitt says it well, **“Christ styles himself the bright morning star, that is, the light of the world, enlightening and enlivening the new creation; the fountain of all knowledge, grace, and comfort, on earth, and of all glory and happiness in heaven. As the morning star first brings light to the world, so Christ first published the light of the gospel, and now, by this revelation, gives a superadded light to his people, informing them what shall befall his church until his second coming to judgment.”** [William Burkitt’s Expository Notes, Swordsearcher 4.7]

The offer to come to Jesus is for everyone. No one must feel that his sins are too great for Jesus to save. All we need to do is go to the Saviour and he will sup with us. **Revelation 3:20**, *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”* Jesus says come and He asks all of us to also say Come to everyone around us.

Salvation is indeed free but it was never cheap for it costs God the blood of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ!

22:18-19 (The Perfect Word of God Kept Intact) –

Revelation 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 from the things which are written in this book.”

Do not add or subtract from God’s Holy Word. It is true that the immediate context refers to only the Book of Revelation. But by application it will extend to the whole Bible.

Those who say that God did not preserve His Holy Bible after He has inspired it perfectly are charging God will be breaking His own Word here. God Himself will be charged with adding or subtracting from His own Holy Word if He did not preserve His Holy Word perfectly! If we do not have the perfect Word of God with us today and in our hands how will we know if we have added or subtracted from God Holy and perfect Word? The unwritten assumption in these two verses is that we have the written Word of God perfectly preserved for us by God Himself or else these two verses would be meaningless!

The penalty is very severe. To subtract would result in one’s name taken out of the Book of Life. To add would result in all the plagues mentioned here added to the sinner. Do not tamper with the Word of God. You will not get away with it. God will deal with you severely in His own good time!

22:20 (Even So Come Lord Jesus!) –

Revelation 22:20, *“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”*

Jesus is coming very soon. The day of salvation and repentance is now. Jesus desires to come to bring us home more than we desire to go home to be with Him! How sad but true! We live in a day and age where in times of plenty we do not think of Christ’s return. When days are dark and gloomy we desire for Christ to return soon.

But not those who know what Heaven is like and who are busy serving and doing the will of God. He will know that as long as he is living by faith he will not be living by sight and by sight is far better than by faith! We will see God face to face with a glorified body!

Benediction – 22:21

Revelation 22:21, *“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.”*

Mercy and peace are not included here for a purpose. Mercy would be the punishment removed by God which we deserve. It was borne by our Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary. The grace of God would be all the blessings bestowed to believers by God that we do not deserve. This would include the perfect Word of God, heaven and the glorified body.

Count your blessings is the conclusion of the matter in the Word of God.