

Lesson Twenty Six

Epilogue (22:6-21)

Once the new heaven and new earth are revealed, the consummation of history is complete. Revelation concludes with a series of exhortations for the reader of Revelation.

Truthfulness of Revelation (22:6a, 16)

An angel affirms the trustworthiness of the entire book of Revelation. The angel connects the visions of Revelation with those of the OT prophets. The angel also attests to the Davidic descent of Jesus. Revelation is the unveiling of Jesus (1:1). The testimony of Revelation is for the churches. It was written to give assurance of the coming of Christ amidst persecution and soon-coming tribulation.

The soon coming of Jesus (22:6b, 7, 10-13, 20)

21:6b-7. Revelation repeatedly reports of the soon coming of Jesus Christ (2:16; 3:11; 11:14; 22:12, 20). The events of Revelation are all connected to Christ's coming. End Times began with the first coming of Messiah (I John 2:18). It is imperative to connect the events of the End with Jesus' first coming.

22:10. As a result of this promise, Believers are to be inspired to keep the words of the prophecy of this book and to publish its contents. The message and application of Revelation are not for a final generation of Believers

on earth. They are for Believers in John's day and for every generation of Believers until Jesus returns.

22:11. The intent of this verse can easily be taken out of contexts. Verse 17 offers an invitation to come to Jesus for salvation. Yet the aim of this verse is to elevate the soon coming events of the End. Events of Christ's coming are so immanent that there is no need to change one's course of actions.

21:12-13. As a final reminder, when Jesus returns judgment follows. Jesus will bring rewards and judgment. There is no escape. This is a word of caution and encouragement for good works.

21:20. John cries out in longing for this great event of redemption. The Aramaic phrase, "marana tha" was a common expression in the early church (cp. I Corinthians 16:22).

Reverence & Humility (22:8-9)

22:8. John attests to the veracity of the visions of Revelation as a human witness (cp. I John 1:1-2), John believed a human witness to divine visions would add assurance to Believers. Once more John is overcome with emotion and reverence that he falls down at the feet of the angel (19:10).

22:9. Perhaps John desired to be an object lesson to a central message that runs throughout the book of Revelation. Only God is to be worshipped.

Blessings and Curse (22:14-15, 18-19)

22:14. A blessing is pronounced on those who wash their robes (cp. 3:4; 7:14). The reward of salvation is inheritance in the new heaven and new earth. Citizens of the new order have free access to New Jerusalem.

22:15. John reminds the readers of the loss of those who reject salvation. These people are barred from New Jerusalem and dwell in the lake of fire (21:8). A list of sinners is used to illustrate people who reject salvation. Dogs symbolize filth and wickedness.

22:18-19. A curse is pronounced on those who would seek to alter the contents of this Holy Book. The motive of the curse is to safeguard and protect the contents from corruption (cp. Deuteronomy 4:2). This However, it was directly given to anyone who “hears the words of the prophecy.” Revelation was originally given to the seven churches of Asia Minor (see chapters 2-3). Yet the universal nature of this phrase is a message to warn all people of all time.

An Invitation (22:17)

In light of the urgency of the message of Revelation, John issues an invitation to come to Jesus. The Holy Spirit is offering an invitation to come to Jesus. The bride or the church offers an invitation to come to Jesus. Whoever can hear let him resound the invitation to come to Jesus. Anyone who is thirsty or has spiritual longing is to come to Jesus. All who come to Jesus receive eternal life without cost to him or herself. Revelation creates an urgent invitation to immediately come to Jesus for the great gift of everlasting life.

Benediction (22:21)

Revelation is a unique apocalyptic writing that utilizes the form of a letter. A benediction is pronounced at its close. The benediction references mankind's complete need and dependency on the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.