

Revelation

(A Chapter-by-Chapter Overview of God's Picture Book)

Lesson #21: Revelation Chapter 22

Review

Act I: Understanding the Relationship with Christ (Revelation 1-3)

A glorified Jesus who is "standing among the lampstands" (in the midst of the church), sends letters of encouragement, exhortation, and correction to seven in Asia Minor.

Act II: Understanding the Judgment from God (Revelation 4-11)

Chapters 4 & 5 - Heaven, the Scroll, the Lamb

Chapter 6 – Opening of the First Six Seals

Chapter 7 – An Interlude

Chapters 8 & 9 -Opening of Seventh Seal, The First Six Trumpets

Chapters 10 & 11 -Interlude, Seventh Trumpet

Act III: Understanding Why There is Opposition (Revelation 12-14)

Featured in Chapter 12:

The Woman and the Dragon

The Background of Opposition

Featured in Chapter 13:

The Beast of the Sea

The Beast of the Land (666)

Featured in Chapter 14:

The victory experienced by those who overcome

The judgment experienced by those who oppose God

Act IV: Understanding God's Wrath and God's Righteousness (Revelation 15-22)

Chapters 15 & 16 - The Sevenfold Wrath of God

God's wrath is pictured as seven bowls being poured out by angels on the wicked. The wrath of God is sure. The wrath of God is terrible. The wrath of God is only for the wicked.

Chapter 17 & 18 – The Doom of 'Babylon'

Babylon is described figuratively as a 'great prostitute', worthy of judgment.

Those who were seduced by and benefited from the 'great prostitute' mourn her demise.

Featured in Chapter 19:

A series of 'hallelujah hymns' celebrating God's judgment of the wicked and His blessing of the faithful.

A picture of Jesus as a heavenly warrior defeating the beast.

Chapter 20 – Thousand Years/Judgement of Satan

The Millennium is Now

The Devil is bound now.

Christians reign with Christ now.

We receive our first resurrection now.

The Reality of Opposition: But God's People Win

The Great White Throne

Chapter 21 – Reward for the Righteous: God with His People

The faithful are described as *the bride*, *the wife of the Lamb*, and *the Holy City*.

This chapter describes a new situation for God's people, a promised heaven.

This promised heaven is described as a holy city, a refuge, that is lighted, walled, gated, and measured.

Revelation 22:1-21 The Conclusion

Eden Restored

Verses 1-2a

water of life - This is an image of the provision of God.

middle of the great street - This endless supply of water is constantly delivered to the heart of the city.

Verse 2b

tree of life - This harkens back to a tree that was placed in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:9).

twelve crops of fruit - This number denotes complete provision.

yielding fruit every month - This denotes constant provision.

leaves for the healing of the nations - This denotes a curing supply.

Verse 3

no longer will there be any curse - The curse entered the world when Adam and Eve rebelled. Now, finally it is gone!

throne of God of the Lamb...in the city - God and his people are together.

Verse 4

they will see his face - This is also promised in 1 John 3:2.

name on their foreheads - His name is their name. They are identified with Him.

Verse 5

no more night - God's presence provides complete security.

they will reign - Living with Christ is the same as reigning with Christ.

Reminder of the Practical Purpose of the Book

Verse 6

the angel said to me - The angel is about to offer some concluding remarks to John.

trustworthy and true - All that has been seen in this book can be trusted.

soon take place - Instead of putting a _____ value on the word 'soon', it is more

helpful to put a _____ value on it.

Assurance to the Faithful

Verse 7

I am coming soon - This statement is repeated five times through the book of Revelation.
(Revelation 2:16; 3:11; 22:7; 22:12; 22:20)

The term 'soon' or 'quickly' is designed to remember one's _____,

not one's _____.

Verses 8-9

I, John, am the one who heard and saw - The message of the book was first of all intended to meet John's need on Patmos.

I fell down to worship - A natural response to hearing and understanding the truth of God is to worship.

I am a fellow servant - A reminder that we worship God alone, and not His angels.

The Message is Practical for the Righteous

Verse 10

do not seal up the words - In chapter 5, we were presented with a sealed scroll. Now that the message is revealed it should not be hidden.

the time is near - The word translated 'time' in this verse denotes the idea of _____.

Verse 11

The Point: We choose whether to follow God or follow sin.

Invitation and Warning

Verses 12-13

according to what they have done - Who one identifies with on earth will determine what one receives in eternity.

Alpha and Omega - Christ is the _____,

Verse 14

A blessing is for those who make the proper _____ to the _____ of God.

wash their robes - A figurative description of the proper response to God. (1 Corinthians 6:11)

Two blessings for with washed robes

right to the tree of life - Eternal provision

may go through the gates of the city - Eternal protection

Verse 15

outside are the dogs - To the original reader, these creatures were scavengers, not the household pets we think of today.

Verse 14 tells us what to do. Verse 15 tells us what to avoid.

Verse 16

I, Jesus - This is not only the message of Jesus, but also from Jesus.

Root of David, Morning Star - This refers to titles previously mentioned (Revelation 5:5; 2:28)

Verse 17

come - This is an invitation and encouragement for those who hear this message to respond appropriately.

Warning to the One Who Distorts the Message

Verses 18-19

if anyone adds - This amounts to 'attacking'. A willful perversion of the truth.

if anyone takes words away - A parallel of the previous verse. The phrase means 'carry off'.

Final Words

Verse 20

I am coming soon - Again, the word 'soon' can be interpreted to mean 'with certainty'.

Amen - So be it.

come, Lord Jesus - This expresses the soul cry of all who live and suffer for the Lord.

Verse 21

A fitting benediction for a powerful message.