

“Epilogue: Jesus is Coming (Chaps. 22:7-21)”

INTRODUCTION

The Revelation given to John closes is a series of brief prophetic utterances. They may seem random, but they draw together themes threaded throughout the book.

NOTES ON 22:7-21

1. Notice the repetition of ideas in this section:
 - a. “Coming soon” in vss. 7, 10, 12, 20.
 - b. Keeping the prophecy - in vss. 7, 9, 18-19.
2. **“Do not seal up...”**(22:10). Daniel was told to “seal up” his book until it was time for it to be fulfilled (Dan. 12:4). This is a common command of the “apocalyptic” genre: that the revelation was to be hidden until the end was nigh. However, John and the angelic messenger dispense with this command: the end is at hand even as John writes, the Church needs his visions immediately.
3. **“Those who wash their robes”** are those who enter the city (the New Jerusalem in chap. 21) and have the right to the tree of life (22:2). Throughout Revelation, the righteous are depicted as being clothed in pure white. The **dogs** outside the city are the sinners. For Jews, “dog” is a term applied to all types of impure, unclean people. In Dt. 23:18 it designates specifically a male prostitute.
4. **“The Spirit and the bride** (22:17). The Holy Spirit and the Church are the two witnesses who testify to the world about Jesus in our time (cf. John 15:26-27). 22:17 may be urging “whoever is thirsty” to come to the water of life (John 4:5-16). Or they may be praying for Christ to come again, as He has promised.
5. **“Bright morning star”** (22:16). This is the prophecy about a king who will rise out of Jacob in Numbers 24:17-19.
6. **“Amen, Come, Lord Jesus”** (22:20). “Amen” is Hebrew for “so be it” (this affirmation appears in Greek and Hebrew in 1:7). “Come, Lord Jesus” renders into Greek the Aramaic expression “*Marana tha*” (literally, “O Lord, come”), which became a frequent prayer of the early church (cf. 1 Corinthians 16:22).

QUESTIONS:

1. Why does this section try to emphasize the authority and reliability of the one who testifies to this book of prophecy (22:6, 16, 20)? Will it make any difference for those who do not believe (22:11)?
2. What does it mean to “keep the words of prophecy in this book?” Why is it important not to add or take away from the prophecy (vss. 18-19)?
3. Are you thirsty for the water of life, even though you may be a Christian? If so, how can you “come” and receive this free gift?

REVIEWING REVELATION

A review can help you remember not just bits and pieces of Revelation, but the whole sweep of the book. The best way to begin a review is to reread the book at one sitting. Don't stop to ponder specific passages, but do watch for (and jot notes about, if you like) threads that tie the book together.

1. Go back through the book and write down a summary or a series of impressions of what you have learned about the following:
 - a. God the Father
 - b. Jesus Christ
 - c. the Holy Spirit
 - d. Satan
 - e. power in the world
 - f. Kingdom of God (the inheritance of the Saints)
 - g. the suffering (tribulation) of God's people
 - h. the protection of God's people
 - i. how God wants His people to act in light of this
2. Do you think that Revelation is meant to describe events that took place in the past, are currently taking place, or will take place sometime in the future? Why?
3. If you had to tell someone in a couple of sentences what Revelation is about, what would you say?
4. What do you think is the most important lesson you have learned from studying Revelation?
5. Have you changed in any ways as a result of studying Revelation? If so, how?