

A Study in the Book of Revelation – Lesson 22

This is our final lesson in the book of Revelation! Chapter 22 is the final chapter of not only Revelation, but that of the entire Word of God. It is the final written word from the Lord for mankind.

“Delights of the New Jerusalem” – Revelation 22:1-5

I like Dr. Ryrie’s designation for this passage.¹ The word “delight” in its noun form means “great pleasure.” The word in its verb form means “to please someone greatly.” Both applications are valid here. God certainly wants to delight those who will spend eternity with Him. Those believers in heaven will have great pleasure and blessing simply being there!

In 22:1, we see the see angel from 21:9 showing John more about the city. What he first sees in this passage is the “river of the water of life.” Its purity is evident in the description “clear as crystal.” Compare Zech. 14:8.

The river will flow from the throne of God and through the center of New Jerusalem. On either side of the river is the tree of _____. We cannot say that this is the same tree that was in Genesis 1-3, but we can say that it is the same in nature. See also Rev. 2:7.

The tree will yield fruit each month. It seems that the tree will produce a different kind of fruit each month. Is that not interesting! The leaves are for the “healing” of the nations. What does this mean? There is no need for healing as there will be no sickness in eternity. Walvoord provides this comment:

¹ Charles Caldwell Ryrie, Ryrie Study Bible: New American Standard Bible, 1995 Update, Expanded ed. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1995), 2044.

“The word “healing” (therapeian) can be understood as “health-giving.” The English “therapeutic” is derived from this Greek word. Even though there is no sickness in the eternal state, the tree’s fruit and leaves seem to contribute to the physical well-being of those in the eternal state.”²

The idea behind both the river and the tree is that they will be a source of continual blessing throughout eternity.

One of the most exciting things about eternity, in my opinion, is found in 22:3. “There will no longer be any curse.” This reality has been the expectation of believers since Genesis 3.

The _____ curse that Adam brought upon mankind (Rom. 5:12) and creation (Rom. 8:19-25) is declared to be gone! That is what we should be looking forward to the most! At this point, all that God wanted between Himself and man will be a reality.

The reality that God will be with mankind for eternity is message of this passage! Walvoord writes:

“Though the description of the city does not answer all questions concerning the eternal state, the revelation given to John describes a beautiful and glorious future for all who put their trust in the living God.”³

² John F. Walvoord, “Revelation,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 987.

³ *Ibid.*

The Final Word of Comfort – Revelation 22:6-17

Notice the repetition of the phrase “these words are faithful and true” (Rev. 21:5 – Jesus; Rev. 22:6 – one of the seven bowl judgment angels). This is either pointing back to the descriptive words about the _____ or it is referring to the words to follow.

What is comforting about these words? The last phrase of 22:6 gives an indication, “the things which must _____ take place.”

There is another repetitious phrase in this passage (22:7, 12, 20). This phrase is perhaps the most comforting. Jesus states three times, “I am coming quickly!”

John heard the prophetic words of Christ, as related by the angel. This prompted John to do something inappropriate, to bow down to an angel (22:8). The angel quickly corrected John (22:9). Why?

Compare Revelation 22:10-11 with Daniel 12:9. Daniel was told by one of the two angels (Dan. 12:5) to “seal up” his prophecy until the end of time. Here John is told to _____ seal up the prophecy, because the time is near.

22:11 has given some trouble to some interpreters. The fact that the time of the end of God’s plan for mankind is near is an indication of man’s lifestyle. For those who live sinfully, they will continue to live that way. For those who live righteously, they will also continue to live in their manner of life.

Prophecy _____ cause a person to reflect on how life is being lived. Does that happen like it should? Who do you think prophecy helps the most, saved or unsaved? What does 1 Thess. 4:18 teach us?

The Final Appeal – Revelation 22:12-17

Here are the final words of appeal for a response to who Jesus is for mankind. Notice that the _____ is not stated specifically (as it is in 1 Cor. 15:3-4). However, what is stated clearly?

There is a clear contrast between those who are saved in 22:14 and those who are unsaved in 22:15. In 22:16, Jesus gives His _____ seal of authority for the message. It came at His direction and under His authority.

Revelation 22:17 is John's reaction to Christ's words. It is declared in the repeated word, "Come!" This verb form in the Greek (and English for that matter) is an imperative! It is a command!

The Final Warning – Revelation 22:18-19

So many people try to make these verses something they are not. I like Walvoord's statement.

While on the one hand an invitation is extended to those who will listen, a word of warning is also given to those who reject the revelation of this final book of the Bible. A dual warning is given against adding to it or subtracting from it (cf. Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:6). How great will be the judgment of those who despise this book and relegate it to the mystical experiences of an old man, thereby denying that it is the inspired Word of God. Rejecting the Word of God is rejecting God Himself. And those who deny His promises of blessing and subtract from His truths

will receive His judgment and will have no part in the tree of life or access to the holy city (cf. Rev. 22:14).⁴

The Final Word – Revelation 22:20-21

The Lord Jesus Christ encourages every person who reads the book, that He is coming _____. The believer's response should certainly be:

“Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”

⁴ John F. Walvoord, “Revelation,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 989–990.