

Lesson 38

Revelation 22:7-21 (NASB)

⁷ "And behold, **I am coming quickly**. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."

⁸ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, **I fell down to worship** at the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

⁹ But he **said* to me, "**Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.**"

¹⁰ And he **said* to me, "**Do not seal up** the words of the prophecy of this book, **for the time is near.**"

¹¹ "Let the one **who does wrong, still do wrong**; and the one **who is filthy, still be filthy**; and let the one **who is righteous, still practice righteousness**; and the one **who is holy, still keep himself holy.**"

¹² "Behold, **I am coming quickly**, and **My reward is with Me**, to render to every man according to what he has done.

¹³ "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

¹⁴ **Blessed are those who wash their robes**, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

¹⁶ "I, Jesus, **have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches**. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

¹⁷ **The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."** And let the one who hears say, "Come." **And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.**

¹⁸ **I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book;**

¹⁹ **and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.**

²⁰ **He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly."** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

1. THE CERTAINTY OF THE RETURN OF CHRIST ([22:6-7](#))

[22:6-7](#). Confirming both the truth and possibility of comprehending the prophecies previously given, the angel told John that the **words** of this book are **trustworthy and true**. The purpose of these communications is **not to bewilder and confuse but to reveal many of the things that must soon take place**.

This directly contradicts the point of view of many scholars that the Book of Revelation is an imponderable mystery for which no key is available today. **This book is the Word of God and not the vague imaginations of John**. In addition it is intended to describe future events. When taken in its literal, ordinary meaning, this is exactly what it does, even though much of Revelation is written in symbolic form. **The Word of God was not given to be obscure. It was given to be understood by those taught by the Spirit.**

The theme of Revelation is stated again in [verse 7](#): **Behold, I am coming soon!** (cf. [1:7](#); [22:12, 20](#)) Also He is coming quickly. The Greek word *tachy* may be translated "soon" (NIV) or "quickly" (NASB, ASV), and from the divine standpoint both are true. The coming of Christ is always soon from the standpoint of the saints' foreview of the future, and when it occurs, it will come suddenly or quickly. Accordingly a special blessing is pronounced on those who believe and heed the prophecy of the book. As stated earlier, this last book of the Bible, so neglected by the church and with its meanings confused by many expositors, **contains more promises of blessing than any other book of Scripture**. This reference to blessing is the sixth beatitude in the book (the seventh is in [v. 14](#)). The first blessing (in [1:3](#)) is similar to this one in [22:7](#).

2. THE WORSHIP BY JOHN ([22:8-9](#))

[22:8-9](#). As this tremendous revelation was given to John, he once again **fell down to worship... the angel**. **Again he was rebuked and reminded that angels should not be worshiped because, like the saints, they are fellow servants**. John was commanded to **worship** the Lord, not angels (cf. [19:10](#)).

3. THE COMMAND TO PROCLAIM THE PROPHECY OF THE BOOK ([22:10-11](#))

[22:10-11](#). Daniel was told that his prophecies would be "sealed until the time of the end" ([Dan. 12:9](#)). But John was told **not to seal up the words of** these prophecies. Again it should be emphasized that the viewpoint of some scholars that the Book of Revelation is an impenetrable puzzle is expressly contradicted by this and other passages. **Revelation, both via its plain statements and its symbols, is designed to reveal facts and events relating to the second coming of Christ**.

The exhortation which follows has puzzled some. Those who do **wrong** and are **vile** are encouraged to **continue** to do so, and those who do **right** and are **holy** are encouraged to **continue** to do so ([Rev. 22:11](#)). **The point here is not to condone what is evil, but to point out that if people do not heed this prophecy, they will continue in their wickedness**.

On the other hand those who do heed the prophecy will continue to do what is right. Relatively speaking, **the time** of the Lord's return **is near** and no major changes in mankind's conduct can be expected.

4. THE COMING JUDGMENT AND REWARD ([22:12](#))

[22:12](#). The words with which this verse begins: **Behold, I am coming soon!** are the same as those at the beginning of [verse 7](#). In connection with His return, which will be "soon" (cf. [vv. 7, 20](#)), **a reward is promised to His saints for what they have done for Christ**. The reference is to the judgment seat of Christ ([2 Cor. 5:10-11](#)). The final judgments of both the wicked and the righteous will be judgments of works. **This is the joyous expectation of those who are faithful and the fear of those who have not been faithful**.

5. THE ETERNAL CHRIST ([22:13](#))

[22:13](#). Once again Christ is described as **the Alpha and the Omega** (first and last letters of the Gr. alphabet), **the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End**. Christ is before all Creation and He will continue to exist after the present creation is destroyed. **He is the Eternal One** (cf. [1:4](#), [8](#), [17](#); [2:8](#); [21:6](#)).

6. THE COMING BLESSING AND JUDGMENT ([22:14-15](#))

[22:14-15](#). The last of the seven beatitudes of Revelation is bestowed on the saints, **those who wash their robes**. They have access to the New Jerusalem and its **tree of life** (cf. [v. 19](#)). The other six beatitudes are in [1:3](#); [14:13](#); [16:15](#); [19:9](#); [20:6](#); [22:7](#). In the manuscripts followed by the KJV, the expression "those who wash their robes" is translated "that do His commandments." In both cases the words accurately describe the righteous.

By contrast, judgment is pronounced on those who are unsaved (**dogs** refers to people; cf. [Phil. 3:2](#)): **those who practice magic arts** (cf. [Rev. 9:21](#); [18:23](#); [21:8](#)), **the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood**. As in the similar description of the unsaved in [21:8](#), [27](#), the wicked works which characterize the unsaved are described. Though some saints have been guilty of these same practices, they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb and are acceptable to God. But those who refuse to come to the Lord receive the just reward for their sins. Though the world is excessively wicked, God will bring every sin into judgment. And the time for Christ's return may be drawing near, when this will be effected.

7. THE INVITATION OF THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE ([22:16-17](#))

[22:16-17](#). The entire Book of Revelation was delivered by Christ through His **angel** and is **for the churches**. Christ described Himself as **the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star**. Historically Christ comes from David ([Matt. 1:1](#); cf. [Isa. 11:11](#); [Rev. 5:5](#)). Prophetically His coming is like the morning star, the beginning of a bright new day. The Holy **Spirit** joined with **the bride**, the church, in extending an invitation to all who heed. Those who hear are encouraged to respond and also to extend the invitation to others. The wonderful promise is given that all those who are **thirsty** may **come** and will receive God's **free gift**.

This is the wonderful invitation extended to every generation up to the coming of Christ. Those who recognize their need and realize that Christ is the provider of salvation are exhorted to come while there is yet time before the judgment falls and it is too late. As the Scriptures make clear, the gift of eternal life (here called **the water of life**; cf. [22:1](#); [John 7:37-39](#)) is free. It has been paid for by the death of Christ on the cross and is extended to all who are willing to receive it in simple faith.

8. THE FINAL WARNING ([22:18-19](#))

[22:18-19](#). 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](#)).

9. THE FINAL PRAYER AND PROMISE ([22:20-21](#))

[22:20-21](#). One further word of testimony was then given: **Yes, I am coming soon** (cf. [vv. 7, 12](#)). To this John replied in a brief prayer, **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

With this tremendous revelation completed, a final word of benediction was pronounced. **The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.** This expression, so common in other New Testament books, brings this final word from God to an end. For those who believe that Christ in His first coming provided salvation, there is the wonderful promise of His coming again to bring full and final deliverance. As the book began by introducing a revelation of Jesus Christ so it ends with the same thought that He is coming again.

Probably no other book of Scripture more sharply contrasts the blessed lot of the saints with the fearful future of those who are lost. No other book of the Bible is more explicit in its description of judgment on the one hand and the saints' eternal bliss on the other. What a tragedy that so many pass by this book and fail to fathom its wonderful truths, thereby impoverishing their knowledge and hope in Christ Jesus. God's people who understand and appreciate these wonderful promises can join with John in his prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus."

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

Open it

1. What nicknames did you or your friends have when you were growing up?

My dad always called me Hot Shot

2. What is your most memorable "returning home" experience?

When we took our Daughter to see her Grandparents

Explore it

3. What promise did Christ make? What Blessing? ([22:7](#))

"And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book."

4. How did the revelations John saw affect him? ([22:8](#))

⁸ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things.

5. What command was given to John by his angelic assistant? ([22:9](#))

⁹ But he *said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God."

6. Why was John commanded not to seal up the prophecies of his book? ([22:10](#))

¹⁰ And he *said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near."

7. What additional instructions did the angel give? ([22:11](#))

"Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy."

8. When Jesus comes, what will He bring with Him? ([22:12](#))

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done."

9. Who will be entitled to citizenship in the new Jerusalem? ([22:14](#))

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city."

10. What is the consequence of living a life of disobedience to God, no matter what it involves? ([22:15](#))

¹⁵ Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying."

11. What was Jesus' method for getting His message to us? ([22:16](#))

"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

12. What invitation is given by the Spirit and the bride? ([22:17](#))

¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost."

13. What warning did John give? ([22:18-19](#))

I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book;

¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book."

14. What do we know for sure about Christ's return? ([22:20](#))

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

15. How did John bless his readers? ([22:21](#))

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

Get it

16. How might you react if you were to see an angel?

Same as John, fall to my knees and honor him

17. What do you think is the point of the angel telling everyone to continue doing what they are doing, whether good or bad?

Angels are Gods messengers, they only say what God has said to them

18. What is involved in responding to God's invitation to come to Him?

We must accept Chris as our Saviour and Lord

Apply it

19. What can you "continue to do right" this week?

Continue with study and prayer

20. How could you bless others this week with the way you greet or say good-bye to them?

May God bless you, smile on you, lead you, etc.