

REVELATION

Final Encouragements

(Revelation 22:6-10)

Matthew 25:10-13: And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he answered, "Truly, I say to you, I do not know you." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Revelation 22:6-10: And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place." "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me,

but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book, Worship God." And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near."

Knowing that Christ will come again should motivate us to hear and keep what He has said.

1. The conclusion of Revelation is closely linked to the introduction.

- ❖ Revelation 1:1-3: The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

1. The conclusion of Revelation is closely linked to the introduction.

- ❖ Revelation 1:1-3 introduces four ideas that are repeated in Revelation 22.
- ❖ The whole book is designed to reveal Christ to us.
- ❖ God showed this to His servant John.
- ❖ It pronounces blessing on those who hear and keep it.
- ❖ The time is near.

2. The conclusion emphasizes that Revelation is trustworthy and true.

❖ Revelation 22:6: And he said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place.”

A. Revelation is one of the books that is most often rejected or ignored.

❖ Creation and the Flood in Genesis

❖ Miracles and resurrection in the Gospels

❖ Events of Revelation

2. The conclusion emphasizes that Revelation is trustworthy and true.

A. Revelation is one of the books that is most often rejected or ignored.

❖ Martin Luther: My spirit cannot accommodate itself to this book. There is one sufficient reason for the small esteem in which I hold it—that Christ is neither taught nor recognized.



2. The conclusion emphasizes that Revelation is trustworthy and true.

B. The truthfulness of Revelation rests in the character of God.

- ❖ The message comes from God.
- ❖ The Lord is sovereign over the prophets, so a true prophet will speak the truth from God.
- ❖ Revelation 21:5: And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

2. The conclusion emphasizes that Revelation is trustworthy and true.

C. Since Revelation is true, we should live by the truth of these promises.

- ❖ These events could take place in our lifetimes, but they could wait another 2,000 years.
- ❖ What should be our mindset as we wait?
- ❖ The heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 such as Abraham provide a good example of the right mindset.

Hebrews 11:13-16: These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

2. The conclusion emphasizes that Revelation is trustworthy and true.

C. Since Revelation is true, we should live by the truth of these promises.

❖ Acts 13:36-37: For David, **after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation**, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, but he whom God raised up did not see corruption.

3. God blesses those who follow what He says.

❖ Revelation 22:7: And behold, I am coming soon. **Blessed** is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.

A. We must hear and keep the words of Revelation.

❖ Revelation has seven different beatitudes (blessing statements).

❖ As James says, we must not be hearers *only*, but also doers.

3. God blesses those who follow what He says.

A. We must hear and keep the words of Revelation.

- ❖ God did not give us this information to satisfy our curiosity or to stimulate our intellect; He gave it to change our lives.
- ❖ Revelation 22:13: I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.
- ❖ Jesus is eternal and sovereign, and He is coming again. So how should we live?

3. God blesses those who follow what He says.

B. We should listen to Revelation because the time is near.

- ❖ In verse 7, Christ said He is coming soon.
- ❖ Revelation 22:10: And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.”
- ❖ These words were spoken nearly 2,000 years ago. How should we understand the idea of “soon”?



4. When we see what God will do, we should respond by worshipping Him.

A. John mistakenly began to worship the angel who showed him these things.

❖ Revelation 22:8-9: I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.”

4. When we see what God will do, we should respond by worshipping Him.

B. We should worship God for what He's said and what He will do.

- ❖ The angel corrected John, but told him to worship God.
- ❖ John was not wrong to worship; the *object* of his worship was wrong.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- We see the truthfulness of God's Word, so we can trust it and live by faith.
- We see the promise of blessing for those who follow what is written, so we must hear and obey God's Word.
- We should worship God in response to the things He said He will do.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- We are busy and easily distracted, but we must intentionally prepare to hear God's Word.
- We must be willing to submit to what God has said, even when it challenges us.
- Knowing that Christ will come again should motivate us to hear and keep what He has said.

NEXT TIME:

Revelation 22:11-16

- Final Warnings