

## Revelation 22:6-21 Epilogue, Words of Comfort

### Verse 6

*These words are faithful and true* – The angel confirms that the revelation John has recorded is true!

*The Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets* – The message, though through men, has its source in God (2 Peter 1:20-21). It is faithful and true!

*Sent His angel to show to His bondservants the things that must shortly take place* – Jesus' revelation, revealed to John, is intended to be understood.

### Verse 7

*And behold, I am coming quickly* – The idea is that Christ's return is always imminent.

*Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book* – Seven blessings (beatitudes) are promised to the readers of this book. This is the sixth blessing with the final blessing to come shortly. It is ironical, in view of the promised blessings, that the book of Revelation is so neglected today.

### Verses 8-9

*And I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things* - John's record is from an eye-witness account!

*And I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel* – John reacted in the same way in 19:10.

*I am a fellow servant* – Angels are ministering spirits.

*Worship God* – We should always worship God, not His servants. As we grasp this revelation our proper response should be to worship God and the Lamb!

### Verses 10-11

*Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, the time is near* – People need to be aware of the imminent return of Christ.

*Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong...* The warning is that if the prophecies of this book are rejected, and with them the gospel message, then there is no other message that will move men away from their wickedness.

*Let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness* - The idea is the same. Those who receive the message and live by it demonstrate a permanent change in character. The point is that when that day arrives it will be too late to change. The warning is for unbelievers and believers to heed the message *today*!

### Verse 12

*Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done* – Literally, “*according to his work*.” Work is singular and refers to the person's life on earth. All people will be judged based on how they live their lives. Believers at the judgment seat of Christ, unbelievers at the great white throne.

### Verse 13

*I am the alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end* – Three titles that confirm that Jesus both *can* and *will* fulfill His promises.

*Alpha and the Omega* – His eternity and sovereignty

*The first and the last* – The cause and goal of history

*The beginning and the end* – He begins and finishes what He starts (19:6, Hebrews 12:2).

### Verse 14

*Blessed are those who wash their robes* – The variant reading (KJV) is “*Those who do His commandments*.” Those who favor this reading refer back to the rewards of verse 12. The first reading would stress all believers, the latter, faithful believers.

*That they may have the right to the tree of life* – Eternal life (those who wash their robes) or enjoyment of that life (those who do his commandments, i.e., 2:7).

*And may enter by the gates into the city* – This may refer to all believers or only to those who were overcomers. Others will be able to enter the city but perhaps not by the main gates. Some believe that this may refer to a victory parade.

### Verse 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* – *Dogs* is a metaphor for men of low character. They are outside because they are in the lake of fire (21:8, 21:27).

### Verse 16

*I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things* - This is the only occurrence of the combination “*I, Jesus*.” Jesus uses it to stress His role in producing this book.

*For the churches* – This is the first mention of the church since chapter three. The message of the book of Revelation is for the church to prepare us for the coming age. How we live *now* matters!

*I am the root and the offspring of David* – Jesus was an ancestor (root) of David and also an offspring (descendent of David). Note Isaiah 14:6 where a child is *born* but a son is *given*. Jesus fulfills all the Messianic prophecies of David's offspring.

*The bright morning star* – Balaam prophesied in Numbers 24:17, “*...A star shall come forth from Jacob, and a scepter shall rise from Israel...*”

### Verse 17

*The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.”* – The Holy Spirit and the church appeal to Jesus to come back.

*And let the one who hears say, “Come.”* – All who hear the words of this book.

*And let the one who is thirsty come* – Now the appeal is to everyone, especially unbelievers.

*Let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost* – Jesus made the similar offer to the woman at the well in John 4:10, 14. Isaiah speaks of God's free mercies in Isaiah 55:1, “*Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come buy wine and milk without money and without cost.*”

### Verses 18-19

*The words of the prophecy of this book* - The book of Revelation.

*Adds...takes away from the words* – Adding to God's Word invites God's judgment. Perverting God's Word by taking away its message will result in loss of access to the *tree of life* and to the *holy city*. No access for the unbeliever and loss of reward for the believer.

### Verse 20

*He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.”* – From the divine point of view, the second coming of Jesus is near (2 Peter 3:8-9).

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus* – John's response is to pray for Jesus's return. He longed to be caught up with Jesus at the rapture (1 Thess. 5:13-17). Do you long for His coming? There is a crown of righteousness promised to all who have loved His appearing (2 Tim. 4:8).

### Verse 21

*The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.* – This benediction is John's prayer that all readers and hearers of this book will respond properly. The book begins with grace (1:4) and ends with grace. In the midst of the terrible judgments to come God is always offering the free gift of eternal life to all who will believe.

Five last things in chapter 22: 1) The last invitation (17). 2) The last warning (18-19). 3) The last promise (20). 4) The last prayer (20). 5) The last provision.