

Title of Study: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”

Theme of Revelation: The majesty and glory of the warrior lamb, King Jesus, who is coming again to rule and reign forever.

Purpose: To encourage and give hope to the persecuted church and call the church to faithful obedience.

Title: “The Last Word”

Main idea: Live in anticipation of the coming of Jesus!

1. Final Words of Affirmation

- vs (16) “I, Jesus”
 - This is the only time Jesus uses this phrase.
 - It is used for emphasis to say this is not just anyone speaking. This is Jesus!
- vs (16) “sent my angel”
 - Revelation 1:1-2
- vs (16) “in the churches”
 - It wasn’t just the 7 letters to the churches but the whole book is for the churches.
- vs (16) “I am the root”
 - As with the root of David, He is the source and the origin of David.
 - He is an ancestor of David.
- vs (16) “offspring”
 - He is also a descendent of David which puts Him in line to be king.
- vs (16) “Bright and Morning Star”
 - Numbers 24:17
 - The immediate reference was to David but here is transferred to Jesus.
 - The star was a familiar symbol in Jewish writings for expected Davidic King.
 - “Morning Star” is a promise that tribulation will end and a new day will dawn.
- All of these terms add validity to the message and provide affirmation that the words of this prophecy are truth.

Application

- Revelation is Scripture and is therefore truth and is therefore profitable for us.
- It is important that we read it, study it, learn it, and live accordingly.

2. Final Words of Invitation

- vs (17) “the Spirit” “say come”
 - This is the Holy Spirit.
 - Why would the Spirit say “come” to Jesus?
 - For one thing the Spirit longs for Jesus to be glorified and evil to end.
 - But also, think of what the Spirit has endured.
 - He came into the world to convict the world of sin. He came to lead them to repentance, to wash them in regeneration.
 - He has been rejected. He has been blasphemed. He has been grieved.
- vs (17) “bride” “say come”
 - The church also invites Jesus to come back now.
 - 2 Timothy 4:8
 - Titus 2:11-13
 - The church has always longed for His coming.
 - We long for the day when “this corruption” puts on “incorruption”.
 - We long for the day when there will be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain.
 - The only reason we should ever want God to wait is so someone else can be saved.
 - The church invites Jesus to come.
- vs (17) “him who hears” “say come”
 - Those who hear the Spirit and the Bride should join in.
 - They will not join in unless they trust Jesus!
 - Those who hear the gospel and trust Christ will join in inviting Jesus to “come”.
- vs (17) “him who thirsts” “come”
 - This invitation is different. “Him who thirsts” is not inviting Jesus to come as was the case with the first 3 invitations. Jesus is inviting “him who thirsts” to come to Him.
- vs (17) “him who thirsts”
 - He further defines them.
 - vs (17) “whoever desires”
 - “let him take of the water of life freely”
 - So the invitation is to come to the living water that is Jesus.
 - John 4:4
 - John 4:13-14
 - vs (17) “whoever desires”
 - This whoever has a strong sense of their spiritual need for salvation.
 - John 7:37

“To my mind, the solemnity of this invitation lies partly in the fact that it is placed at the very end of the Bible and placed there because it is the sum and substance – the aim and objective of the whole Bible. It is like the point of the arrow and all the rest of the Bible is like the shaft and the feather on either side of it. We may say of the Scriptures what John said of his Gospel, “These are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. And that believing you might have life through His name.

Charles Spurgeon

Application

- How appropriate that the Bible concludes with one final invitation to trust Christ.
- Live and long for His coming.
- Continue to extend an invitation to all while it’s not too late.

3. Final Words of Warning

- vs (18) “adds to these things”
 - To the book of Revelation first but this principle would also apply to all of Scripture.
 - God’s revelation is complete. It is perfect. We should not add to it.
 - We don’t add our traditions or our personal thoughts on what He ought to have said.
- vs (18) “Add plagues”
 - This likely hyperbole indicating the severity and harshness of judgment for tampering with God’s Word.

“no true believer would ever deliberately tamper with Scripture. Those who know and love God will treat His Word with the utmost respect. They will say with the Psalmist “Oh how I love Your law! and “I delight in Your law”. That does not, of course, mean that believers will never make errors in judgment or mistakenly interpret Scripture incorrectly or inadequately. The Lord’s warning here is addressed to those who engage in deliberate falsification or misinterpretation of Scripture, those whom Paul denounces as peddlers of the Word of God (2 Corinthians 2:17).”

John McArthur

- vs (19) “takes away”
 - Just like adding to, taking away brings judgment.
- vs (19) “take away” “Book of Life”
 - We know this can’t mean he had salvation and lost it.
 - It can’t mean he had the promise of heaven and then lost it.
 - This likely interpretation is either they lose the opportunity for it or their tampering proves they don’t have it.

Application

- Revere God's Word.
- Make sure we don't teach things that are not part of God's Word as if they are.

4. Final Words of Assurance

- vs (20) "He who testifies"
 - This is Jesus (see vs 16)
- vs (20) "surely I am coming quickly"
 - vs (20) "Even so come"
 - One last time He assures us He is coming.
 - How appropriate that God promised a coming Savior in Genesis 3:15 and ends with the same in Revelation.
 - The Bible begins with the promise of Jesus coming in Genesis.
 - The OT prophesies of one to come.
 - The NT shows Him coming as Savior and pointing to His return as King.
 - He is coming!

Application

- The promise of His coming should assure us of what is to come, assure us that "He is not slack concerning His promise but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish".
- It should motivate us to live godly and share intentionally.

5. Final Words of Encouragement

- vs (21) "grace" "be with you all"
 - It is as if God is saying "I am coming quickly" and until I do grace will get you through.
 - The grace of His mercy, His love, His wisdom, His power, His Spirit, His Word....
 - Thank God for His grace!