

Book of Revelation

32. The Final Promise!



Revelation 22

Introduction

At last we come to the end of the book of Revelation! It has been a long journey. John has finished writing down his visions, and now concludes with some final warnings, and reminders of God's promises. Although this book was written to the seven churches in Asia Minor at that time, it has applied to every generation since then, and will do until Jesus returns. Let's look at these final warnings and promises.

Scripture Reading: Revelation 22:7 - 21



Today many are receiving visions and dreams, and we sometimes question whether they are from God or not. What can you learn from these verses that will help us to know whether a vision or dream is from God? Revelation 22:6, 8-9, 20
Also see Matthew 7:15-16, 24 and 1 John 4:1-2

- (1. *It was given by an angel, and we know this angel was from God as he refused to receive worship, but told John to worship God.*)
- (2. *It was John who received this. Jesus said you would recognize who was true and false by his fruit. John's life bore the fruit of love and obedience, and so we can be confident that this vision is from God.*)
- (3. *Jesus Himself confirmed that he had sent the angel, and that he is coming.*)

As we have learnt, in the last days there will be an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, accompanied by dreams or visions. We need to learn how to discern what is from God and what is not. Does the dream or vision agree with what is revealed in God's word? Is the person who received the vision walking in love and obedience to God? Does the Holy Spirit bear witness that this is from God? We then need the Holy Spirit to reveal the meaning to us just as he did for Daniel in Daniel 2:27, 28

A Final Warning



What do you think John meant when he warned people not to add or take from the words of the prophecy? Revelation 22:18-19. In what ways are we in danger of doing this?
Also see Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32

(This means more than just adding new verses to the Bible, or taking them out, although it certainly means this. The religious leaders in Jesus' day added many of their own rules to God's word. Some churches today have taken out scriptures they don't agree with! But we need to be careful not to 'water down' the truths of the word of God, and obey only those that suit us.)

A Final Promise



God's heart is to bless his children. Just as Jesus spoke of those who are blessed while He was on earth in Matthew 6, so He gives words of blessing to the church in the book of

Revelation. Who are the ones who will be blessed and what is promised to them?
Revelation 16:15, 22:7 and 22:14

- (1. *The one who stays awake and is dressed will be ready when Jesus returns.*
- (2. *The one who keeps the words written in the book of Revelation and all of God's word.*
- (3. *The one who has been cleansed by the blood and can enter into the New Jerusalem.*)



Jesus often repeated important statements and there is one statement He repeats 3 times in these verses. See 7, 12, 20. The book then closes with the words, "Come, Lord Jesus." This expression in Greek is '*maranatha*', and was a frequent prayer of the early church. Can you genuinely say right now, "Come, Lord Jesus", or would you rather He did not come yet? Why, or why not? Discuss and consider what changes God needs to make in you so that you too can say, "Come, Lord Jesus."



While we await His coming, there is an invitation He is offering. Read v17. The words of this invitation are similar to others Jesus spoke while on earth. Can you remember some of them? Share from your experience how you are learning to respond to this invitation.

Conclusion

Many of us have heard the phrase: "Jesus is coming soon." Although these words were written nearly 2000 years ago, the Holy Spirit is speaking today in an unprecedented way, reminding us that the time is very near. Time has nearly run out! Let's respond again to Jesus' invitation to 'come', and let's warn others and invite them to come too.