

The Last Message of the Bible

Revelation 22:6-21

The last message (or messages) of the Bible are just concluding remarks made by the angel and the Lord Jesus to John that bring to an end the revelations he received, as well as a conclusion to the Bible.

The final message begins with the phrase, "These sayings are faithful and true" (vs. 6). This is to point to the truth that what has been said and what is about to be said is all absolutely faithful and absolutely true – in other words, nothing can change it, and nothing can prevent it from happening.

I. THE RETURN OF THE LORD – VS. 6-7A

A. Vs. 6 mentions things "that must shortly be done"

1. This refers to both the rapture of the Lord and His return at the end of the Tribulation
2. The events of the book of Revelation are to be seen as fast approaching – and even in John's day they were to be taken as imminent
3. We don't know when Jesus is coming back so we are to be ready

B. Vs. 7 mentions that Jesus is recorded as once again saying "I come quickly" – this is said three times in this passage and once earlier in the book

Revelation 22:12

¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward

is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Revelation 22:20

²⁰ He which testifieth these things saith, **Surely I come quickly.** Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Revelation 3:11

¹¹ **Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.**

II. OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD – vs. 7B, 12-14

A. Obedience makes us happy – vs. 7b

B. Obedience will be rewarded – vs. 12 – this is at the Judgment Seat of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:10

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

C. Obedience is unto the Lord – vs. 13

1. The statements here at the end of the Revelation are the same as at the beginning – 1:8
2. It's because of who Jesus is that makes Him deserving of our obedience

D. Obedience makes a way for us to go to heaven – vs. 14 – that is, obedience to the gospel message – not keeping a set of rules

III. WORSHIPPING GOD – vs. 8-9

A. John was so taken by what he had seen in all of these visions that he became overwhelmed and fell down and began to worship the angel that was speaking to him this last vision

B. The angel's response was simple – don't worship him – "Worship God"

C. Our worship is not to be to a person, or a group, or a church, or a nation – our worship is to be reserved solely for God

Exodus 34:14

¹⁴ For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

John 4:22-24

²² Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

²³ But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

²⁴ God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

IV. THE POSITION OF THE UNSAVED – vs. 10-11, 15

A. "Unjust still," "filthy still" – vs. 11 – the indication here is that at the end of time, at the Great White Throne, when the guilty stand before God that they will remain unjust and filthy forever – "still"

Proverbs 1:24-33

24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

B. "Without" – vs. 15 – their position in relation to heaven – "without," never able to enter in

V. FINAL MESSAGE OF INVITATION – VS. 16-17

A. This message is not to be taken as an invitation at the end of time but rather is seen as the final message of invitation for the lost to come to Christ now – before the end comes – which is approaching quickly

B. In this last invitation in the Bible the principle of who can be saved is one final time mentioned – “whosoever will” – vs. 17

John 4:14

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

VI. WARNING FOR THOSE THAT WOULD CHANGE THE TEACHINGS OF REVELATION – VS. 18-19

A. Much debate has been raged over the ages as to whether these verses are speaking of the entire Bible or just the book of Revelation

B. Considering the terms used (“heareth the words of the prophecy of this book,” “the words of the book of this prophecy”) it needs to be understood that the book of Revelation is in view

C. That does not mean that this warning should not be considered with the rest of the Bible, but it is of vital importance that people believe what Revelation says or what they believe regarding the rest of the Bible will be of little importance

D. Although these verses are dealing with the Book of Revelation in particular, there are other warnings throughout the Bible for tampering with the Bible

Deuteronomy 4:2

2 Ye shall not add unto the word which I

command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Deuteronomy 12:32

³² What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Proverbs 30:5-6

⁵ Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

⁶ Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Matthew 15:6-9

⁶ And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

⁷ Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

⁸ This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

⁹ But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

VII. THE BIBLE ENDS WITH GRACE – VS. 20-21

A. It began in perfection and ends in grace

B. Grace brings perfection full circle and what God intended for creation at the beginning will be what He ends with – perfection because of grace

Conclusion: Simply put, "Are you ready if the Lord should come?"