

Revelation 22 – The Last Message of the Bible

By Holly Effiom

VV1-5

What does John notice first, at the beginning of this chapter?

How is it possible for God and Jesus to be in the same throne?

Whose servants will be serving Whom?

Looking at Rev 3:21, explain the thrones and how it's possible for Jesus to have His own throne and be in His Father's throne.

Why is the living water significant? Now, explain what Jesus was saying to the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4:5-42.

What kind of trees were on either side of the river? Why are they unique?

When did Adam and Eve lose access to the tree of life? Is this the curse that is mentioned?

What is significant about the tree of life?

Were Adam and Eve prohibited from eating from the tree of life when they were first placed in the garden?

What else was a consequence of the curse? V4

Why isn't any kind of light needed?

How long will God and the Lamb reign?

Where is the Holy Spirit?

LESSON: In our study of Revelation, God has shown us a deeper understanding of "thrones":

- There are many thrones;
- Jesus has His own throne and is also in God's throne – perhaps our common understanding of a throne as a big beautiful chair is wrong;
- To occupy a throne, you have to take the path Jesus took, hence the judges are from among those who suffered and died for their faith in Jesus Christ;
- The judges during the millennial reign of Christ sit upon thrones based upon their testimony of Jesus Christ – their "throne" is an extension of Jesus' own throne, which God Almighty gave Him;
- All thrones are from God.

Consider a "throne" to represent the concept of "dominion". All dominion is from God, which brings us back to: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Gen 1.

My understanding was that the creation story ended in Genesis. Now, I know that creation does not end until Rev 21:6, when God announces that "...It is done..." He will have accomplished all He had set out to do in the earth.

Question: where is the Holy Spirit?

VV6-9

Which angel is it that God sent to John?

What was the message that this angel gave?

What was John's reaction to these words?

Was John being rebellious to the words of the angel in Rev 19:10?

Is it possible that Rev 19:10 and Rev 22:8 are one and the same event taking place? We proposed that Rev 19:11 was going back to the second coming of Jesus Christ, which chronologically was first discussed in Rev 14.

There are 3 important messages to the church just in this section of scripture. What are they?

LESSON: I believe that Rev 22:8 and 19:10 are one and the same event after the massive download of information from every perspective between Rev 19:11 to 22:5.

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The 3 important messages of these verses are:

1. Jesus is coming quickly – make sure you are about *His* business!
2. Blessed are those who are doers of the word of God, not just hearers!
3. Do not bow down to ANY created thing; worship God alone!

V10

What exactly is the angel saying to John in this verse?

How is this different from the previous instructions Rev 10:4; Dan 8:26; 12:4, 9, 13?

What does this mean for the church?

LESSON: In Rev 10:11, John is instructed to prophesy *again*. What does that mean? When had he prophesied before? If we view John in Revelation as representative of the church, then the question becomes, when had the church prophesied before... hadn't the church always prophesied before the world?

In Matt 24:9-12, Jesus, in response to the disciples' questions regarding the end times, describes what will be happening in the world and especially in the church. And Paul, in Acts 20:29-30 and 2 Thes 2:3-12, warns about what will occur in the church after he is gone; the pattern being the rise of opportunists in the absence of strong leadership, that will wear down the church's effectiveness – a wearing down of the saints (per Daniel). Paul even describes in greater detail in 2 Tim 3:1-9 the character and personality that will be pervasive in the world, especially in the church.

But in Rev 10:11 God makes it clear that He will use the church again, and in Rev 11:3 we see Him *empowering* His churches to preach what it *knows* to be true. The visions Daniel had for the time of the end can now be unsealed, and it will now be *understood*. This knowledge is power!

The end is NOW! Hallelujah!

VV11-13

Is John saying to give up on the sinner during this time of the end? What does he mean then when saying "...he that is filthy, let him be filthy still.."?

What about for him that is holy? What does this mean?

What does Jesus mean when he says His reward is with him? How will He be dispensing His rewards?

Why does Jesus keep repeating that He is the Alpha and Omega...?

LESSON: This is such an interesting section of scripture. There's a similarly stated concept in Daniel 12:10, "...but the wicked shall do wickedly and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand."

In our study of this book, we know that God is preparing a great supper – the marriage supper of the Lamb – in which the blood which will be shed is that of the deserving of condemnation. No one who is innocent will by any means be destroyed in this battle, by accident or otherwise. God will personally be doing battle with those who have chosen their course – it will be their blood that is shed.

I believe that this section of scripture is describing the character of the people of the time: they will be so steeped in their wickedness and filthiness and injustice because that is the course they have chosen – neither the righteous nor holy will convince them otherwise. The righteous and the holy will focus on being righteous and holy. And, those who choose to follow God until the very end will receive their reward directly from Jesus. He has given His word and there is none above Him to change His word – He is the Alpha and Omega. Amen!

VV14-16

What is it to have a right to something? What's a good example of the concept?

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What must be done to have a “right” to the tree of life?
Do those who have the testimony of Jesus Christ “...do his commandments...”?
When Adam and Eve were cast from the garden, did they lose their right to the tree of life; or did they lose their *understanding* of their “right” to the tree of life?
How do those who do his commandments get into the city?
Who are the gates of the city?
How do you know that you are not in the city?
Who did Jesus send to give His message?
To whom is He speaking... idolaters, murderers, liars, sorcerers?

LESSON: When Rev 21 describes the gates and foundations of the city, it isn't just a pretty picture that is being presented, the *way* to the tree of life is being given to us. God has given us the right to the tree of life – the hard work has already been done – we have to *understand* our right and get up and enter via the gates to the city to take hold of life with both hands and never let it go. To do otherwise is to cast our lot with those *outside* the city.

VV17-19

Who is it encouraging us on this walk of faith?
Who is it that hears the encouragement? Who is it that hungers and thirst after things greater than things the world offers?
What are the Spirit and Bride encouraging hearers to do?
What will happen to those who add any words to this book?
What will happen to those who take away any words of this book?
Why such hard punishments?

LESSON: The message of the Spirit and the bride (the church), to whosoever will, is: *Choose life!*

VV20-21

What is John's final message?
What does John mean when he says “Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus”?
What is John's heart toward his audience?