

REVELATION 22:7,12,20

INTRODUCTION

The Book of Revelation is a mystery to many. This last book of the Bible leaves many in a prophetic quandary. I believe this is because they miss the point. The point is explained in the title given the book in most Bibles: The Revelation of Jesus Christ.

Note the “I am” statements in chapter 1.

- Verse 8: “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End ... who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”
- Verse 11: “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last.”
- Verse 17: “I am the First and the Last.”
- Verse 18: “I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.”

In each of the messages to the seven churches in chapters 2–3, Jesus identifies himself.

- As the One “who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lamp stands” (Revelation 2:1).
- As the One who is “the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life” (verse 8).
- As the One “who has the sharp two-edged sword” (verse 12).
- As the “Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass” (verse 18).
- As “He who has the seven Spirit of God and the seven stars” (Revelation 3:1).
- As “He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens” (verse 7).
- As the “Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God” (verse 14).

The point is this. In the Book of Revelation, Jesus discloses what He believes we will need to know about Him as we approach the end of time. He views, with His prophetic eye, all the events leading up to the “noises, thunderings, and lightnings,” earthquakes, such as humankind has never seen that will certainly be a sign of the end of the world as we know it (Revelation 16:18). And with His superior knowledge, He determines what we need to know about Him and His plan to get us through to the place where “there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying” (Revelation 21:4).

Jesus’ emphasis is clear: “I am coming” (Revelation 22:7,12,20).

I. He is coming with a blessing (Revelation 22:7).

- a. He will bless those who are accounted as “overcomers” when they stand before Him (Revelation 20:6).
 - To the overcomer He will give the tree of life (Revelation 2:7).
 - To the overcomer He will give hidden manna and a new name (Revelation 2:17).
 - To the overcomer He will give power over the nations (Revelation 2:26).
 - To the overcomer He will give a new set of white clothing signifying his purity (Revelation 3:5).
 - To the overcomer He will give enduring power. He will make the overcomer like a pillar in the temple. The overcomer will have a new name showing God’s ownership (Revelation 3:12).
 - To the overcomer He will give the privilege of sitting with Christ on His throne (Revelation 3:21).

II. He is coming with judgment (Revelation 22:12).

- a. The Book of Life will be open (Revelation 20:12). Everyone will be judged as to whether his name is found in the Book of Life.

b. Every believer will give an account of the works done after coming to faith in Christ (1 Corinthians 3:13; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

- The trial of believers' works will be by fire.
- The key question in the judgment of believers' works will be for whose glory the works were done (1 Corinthians 1:29–31).

c. Every person who has rejected faith in Christ will be judged "according to his works" (Revelation 20:12,13).

III. The Great Vanishing Act

- No one knows when it will happen, but it WILL happen
- Something like this
 - A shout and a trumpet blasé
 - A global event
 - The dead come back to life
 - Physical transformation
 - Mass catastrophe
 - Questions without answers
 - Economic chaos
 - Anything but the truth

IV. What to Know About Those Who Go

- I Thessalonians 4:13-17 - worried about dying before Christ
 - I Corinthians 15:50-53 - what happens when a Christian dies
 - The Anatomy of the Resurrection Body - Philippians 3:21
1. His body had a human shape.
 2. He retained His individual identity - Mary recognized His voice
 3. His body was solid
 4. He ate food
 5. His body could dematerialize

V. Sad to Say, Some Will Stay

- Rapture only for Christians
- There may be a chance to respond after the rapture.
- Problem: the only religious experts left on the earth will be the ones who were too foolish to believe God's plan in the first place.
- One thing for certain, tough times ahead of them.

VI. When

- Don't know when: Acts 1:7
 - Don't worry about when: I Thessalonians 5:1-2
 - What is the hold up? God operates on a different time continuum: II Peter 3:8-10
 - Pre-trib - rapture starts is all
1. Rapture will happen first so that Christians can escape the horrors of the tribulation: Rev. 3:10, I Thessalonians 5:9
 2. Jesus suggested that we pray to escape: Luke 21:36
 3. No mention of the church during the tribulation

4. Christians are specifically told to expect the rapture: I Corinthians 15, I Thessalonians 4-5, Titus 2, II Peter 3

VII. He is certainly coming — soon (Revelation 22:20).

This promise of His sure and soon return can be understood in four ways.

- a. It is a promise to believers.
 - Death soon shall pass.
 - The enemy of our souls shall soon be eternally defeated.
 - Our victory is sure — confirmed by the risen Lord & the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- b. It is a warning to unbelievers.
 - Judgment is sure.
 - Eternity is long.
- c. It is an alert to the lukewarm believer.
 - Stop playing games with God's truth.
 - Set your spiritual house in order.
- d. It is a prayer for the church to continually pray.
 - It brings from us a rousing amen.
 - It causes us to pray, Now is the time, Lord Jesus.

Conclusion:

- [As to what remains] henceforth there is laid up for me the [victor's] crown of righteousness [for being right with God and doing right], which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me and recompense me on that [great] day--and not to me only, but also to all those who have loved and yearned for and welcomed His appearing (His return). II Timothy 4:8 AMP
- 1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions;[a] if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.[b] 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. John 14:1-3

Revelation 22:7,12, 20

7 “Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”

12 “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

20 He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Revelation 20:12

And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God,[a] and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

I Corinthians 3:13

each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.

II Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

I Corinthians 1:29-31

29 that no flesh should glory in His presence. 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— 31 that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”

I Thessalonians 4:13-17

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.[a]

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

I Corinthians 15:50-53

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Philippians 3:21

who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Acts 1:7

And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

I Thessalonians 5:1-2

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.

II Peter 3:8-10

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us,[a] not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Revelation 3:10

Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

I Thessalonians 5:9

For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Luke 21:36

Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy[a] to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.