

## Revelation 22:6-9 - Closing Considerations

Intro – The Bible is an amazing book (library). It deals with: Origins, creation, the human condition and Gods intervention...where we came from, the NOW, and also where we are going. Past/Present/Future. Rev. is the culmination of God's Word about the future. In it we are shown how history will end up. A mind blowing aspect of scripture is that it contains predictive prophecy. (Unique religious book)

As we find ourselves in this closing section of scripture there are some considerations for us to contemplate. Today I want us to think about 3 important questions that we can glean from our text. The way we live our lives is determined by how we answer these questions.

1. Is God's Book Believable? Or are these written things too far out there and unbelievable?
2. Is Christ coming back? It has been a long time since He said, "I go to...I will come back..."
3. Are we prone to error? Do we trust ourselves or are we humble and contrite?

### IS GOD'S BOOK BELIEVABLE?

- Rev. 22:6 John had just been shown the new heavens and new earth - New Jerusalem
  - o Is this too good to be true?
- The angel affirms the trustworthiness of the Revelation 22:6
  - o God graciously addresses our weakness and skepticism - 21:5 19:9
    - Revelation is not hyperbole, exaggeration or fanciful make-believe
      - It is often preached or presented that way (warning – 22:18-19)
    - Gods book is not make-believe. God's Book is to be believed
- Notice the progression of thought in 22:6
  - o These words are trustworthy.
    - The Book of Rev. is a trustworthy description of future events a eternal destiny
  - o God inspired the prophets
    - The Book of Revelation is inspired of God just like the other books of scripture
  - o Angel sent to show what must soon take place (future) Rev. 1:1
    - You can bank on the Book of Revelation. Count on it happening
- The doctrine of Inspiration is essential
  - o Means more than the Bible is "inspirational". Inspiration = God breathed - 2 Tim. 3:16
  - o The words of scripture are the Words of God God "exhaled "them"
    - 2 Peter 1:21 "David, speaking by the Spirit said... - Matt. 22:43
  - o Inspiration = true God cannot lie (Titus 1:2) His word does not lie
    - Prov. 30:5 Ps. 19:7-10 John 10:35 Matt. 24:35
- The way you live your life is determined by whether you see God's word as believable
  - o Noah lived different than culture around him. Abraham
  - o Satan tempts us with, "did God really say?" answer with "it is written"

## IS CHRIST COMING BACK?

- Revelation 22:7
  - o 3 times in this last chapter Jesus reminds us that He is coming (22:7, 12, 20)
  - o The 2<sup>nd</sup> coming is the blessed hope of the Christian Titus 2:13
  - o Jesus promised (John 14:3; Matt. 25:31) - and the church has been waiting..... Titus 2:13
  - o But it has been a long time since Jesus said “ I go to prepare...and I am coming back
- We need to beware lest the Blessed Hope turns into a skeptical “nope”
  - o We are to KEEP the words of this prophecy
    - Guard it and hold it close. We are to protect our HOPE (hope chest)
    - There is a time to keep and a time to throw away. Eccles. 3:6
      - Don’t throw away your hope in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming
- Many will throw away this hope towards the end
  - o 2 Peter 3:3-4, 8
  - o Do we live in the expectation of Jesus coming back? (Heb. 9:28)
- The way you live your life is determined by your confidence in Christ’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming
  - o 1 John 3:2-3 “those who have this hope in Him purify themselves, just as He is pure”
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## ARE WE PRONE TO ERROR?

22:8-9 seems like strange (or at least a surprising) inclusion for the conclusion of this book

1] John is overwhelmed with the information. 2] John falls down to worship the angel who showed him these things. 3] the angel rebukes John and admonishes him to keep the words and worship God

1. If John was prone to this error then we are as well (especially about the topic of end times)
  - a. Jesus often warned about deception when talking about last things
    - i. Matt. 24:4-5, 11-12, 24-25
  - b. The failing of people in scripture should be a mirror for us to see ourselves in
  - c. “Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love....”
2. We are never more right than when we are convinced that we could be wrong
  - a. Prov. 28:26 - “Those who trust in themselves are fools”
3. The way you live your life will be determined by your conviction of question, “am I prone to error?”
  - a. Humility and contrition or dogmatism, stubbornness and pride
  - b. Tread softly when it comes to your own opinion but stand firm on the Word of God
4. Keep the words of God
  - a. We do err not knowing the scripture nor the power of God Matt. 22:29
5. Worship God...alone
  - a. Don’t make an error with whom you worship