

Revelation 22:18-19 - A Warning and a Review

Intro - Today we are going to wrap up our study of Rev. with a warning and review. It has been a long, and hopefully profitable, journey of over 50 messages. Revelation teaches us a lot and reveals some amazing things about our Lord, us and our future. So it is fitting that it ends with a warning for us not to alter the message that John received. At times, in the book, it is so unbelievable that we are tempted to alter it to fit our sensibilities. We are to believe and not balk at what is revealed/learned in Revelation

THE WARNING

1. Rev. 22:18-19
 - a. A clear blessing began this book – Rev. 1:3 A clear warning ends this book
 - b. This book is not to be avoided but it is not to be altered
2. We honor God's Word by not altering it (don't embellish or diminish)
 - a. Deut. 4:2 Deut. 12:32 Prov. 30:5-6
3. Alterations will cost us
 - a. If we add, then God will add plagues to us - (there are a lot of plagues)
 - b. If we subtract, then God will take away our part in tree of life
 - i. Matt. 5:19 - least or great in kingdom (Deut. 29:19-21)
 - c. We will be tempted to alter this Book to fit our sensibilities - it seems unbelievable
 - i. This book can make us uncomfortable....it doesn't fit well in places
 - ii. If we alter we falter. The Book is to change us, we are not to change the Book
4. Faith is taking God at His word
 - a. Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, events of 1st Coming.....2nd Coming

THE RECAP

- Revelation has the reputation of being shrouded in mystery but it is an unveiling.
 - o We walk into the light of Revelation - it is a "light bulb moment"
 - o It reveals thing about: Our Lord Ourselves & our future
- The main theme of Revelation is about a Person (there is no one like Jesus)
 - o Chapter 1 reveals Him as God - titles- Alpha/Omega, Beginning/End, First and Last,
 - o Jesus is ruler of the kings of the earth Christ is in control and He is coming
 - o Door keeper of death and hell
 - o Beware of caricatures of Christ that don't resemble what is revealed here
- Chapters 2-3 give us a portrait of 7 churches (real churches)
 - o Jesus walks among churches and assesses them (mirror to see our profile in portraits)
 - o His main message is repentance and endurance
- In 4-5 John gets a vision of the throne room of Heaven - (there is worship and a Book)

- o No one is worthy to open book except the Lamb . Book has unfolding judgments
 - o Things happen on earth because decreed in heaven - come from nail scared hands
- Chapter 6 Jesus begins to open the seals and execute judgments
 - o 4 horsemen – conquering deception W/ Violence E/ Famine N/ Pestilence S (1/4)
 - o Great persecution against Christians - Great earthquakes/space quakes – wrath of Lamb
- Chapter 7 Judgment is held off while the saints are sealed
 - o 144000 Jewish men and great multitude from every tribe. (God knows/seals His people)
- Ch. 8-9 the prayers of the saints for justice are dramatically answered by Trumpet judgments
 - o 1/3 of: grass burned/sea water- blood/fresh water-bitter/ light..... 1/3 are struck
 - o 5 month plague of locust to torment without seal of God. 1/3 mankind killed by demons
 - o People refuse to repent just as in the days of the plagues on Egypt
- In ch. 16 more intensifying plagues Sores on those with MOB , all sea life dies, water to blood, sun scorches man, darkness, war, severe quakes and 100# hail - people curse God
- A couple of pairs of major players revealed in the last days - two are good and two are bad
 - o 2 Witnesses - divinely empowered prophets with miraculous powers - 1260 day ministry
 - o Beast and false prophet
 - Satanic empowered ruler- survived assassination - worshiped by image
 - Universal economic plan - mark on hand or head
 - Wars against saints and overpowers them for 42 months
- The church experiences sever persecution – needs patience Rev. 12:11; 13:9-10; 14:12-13
 - o Church is not absent in Revelation. Written to us, for us and to prepare us - Rev. 22:16
- Anti-Christ's reign is short lived an Jesus defeats him with the word of His mouth
 - o 2nd Coming happens in Chapter 19 – glorious and wages war Armageddon/birds
 - o Beast and False Prophet are thrown alive into the Lake of Fire (first people checked in?)
- In Chap. 20 we have the Millennium
 - o 1000 yrs where Satan in bound and kept from deceiving the nations
 - o The Saints are resurrected and reign on the earth - Utopia - kingdom come
 - o Satan released and a final rebellion at end - (shows mans internal corruption/rebellion)
- White Throne Judgments Judgment by the Books
 - o Recorded thoughts, words and deeds - not in Book in life thrown in lake of fire- 20:15
- After all this history takes place a new chapter will begin
 - o A new heavens and a new earth will be made. God makes all things new in chapter 21
 - The old order of things will pass away Rev. 21:4-5
 - o God will dwell with us. No more distance between us and our Creator
 - o New Jerusalem will descend 1500 mile square city Capital of Eternal estate
- The Bible begins with our first parents getting barred from Paradise because of sin
 - o Access to the tree of life was denied
 - o The Bible ends with the tree of life on either side of the water of life
 - Anyone who wishes let the take of the free gift of the water of life 22:17
- Revelation is an amazing prophecy about how things will end and how eternity will begin
 - o It almost sounds unbelievable - but don't add to are or take away from - just believe!