

Chapter 22:

Verses 1-5 explain the restoration of Eden in the Holy City of Jerusalem. Everything we need will be provided by God and the Lamb. Death and sin will be no more. God and Jesus will be in Jerusalem and will be served by the servants of God. I do believe there will be groups of individuals based on rewards that were given as described in the Bible. We will all have jobs and will serve God. There will be no more night as the glory of God will provide light. God will reign for eternity.

In verse 6 the angel reminds John that these words are trustworthy and true. God who inspired the prophets sent His angel to show His servants these events that must take place. In verse 7 Jesus reminds us that he is coming soon. Blessed are those who heed, or keep, the words of this prophecy. They will be blessed as they will receive the rewards described in the book of Revelation.

Verses 8-9 explain how John in his excitement of these things fell down and worshipped at the feet of the messenger that showed him these events. That angel reminded John that he is a fellow servant of God and that John is to only worship God. Verse 10 is instruction to John not to seal up the words of Revelation that was given to him because the time is near.

Verse 11 can be a little confusing and there are different interpretations of it. One interpretation is that it means the remaining time is too short to make any big changes, so people should continue doing and being what they are. I don't agree with that, and I definitely don't like that interpretation. Throughout the Bible we read that the power of the Holy Spirit allows us to change and become more Christ-like, why would the Bible now state that we should just give up and keep doing what we are doing? In Chapters 2 and 3 we have Jesus speaking to the 7 Churches and providing specific instruction on changes that are needed to be an overcomer. I don't understand what verse 11 is trying to say. It is something I will continue to study and meditate on.

Verse 12 is Jesus reminding us he is coming soon. His reward for us is with Him. Jesus will give to each person according to what they have done. Keep in mind; salvation is free and a gift when we accept Jesus and truly believe in Him. Jesus is telling us He will give to each person according to what they have done. That means our rewards in heaven are based on what we have done. Our obedience to Him and the fruit that we produced will lead to our place in heaven with Him and the Father.

Verse 13 is Jesus stating that He is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Jesus is reminding us these statements are coming from Him. Verses 14-15 speaks blessings to those who have washed their robes in righteousness and have earned the right to be in the Holy City of Jerusalem. Those who are not found righteous, will not have that right. Verse 16 is Jesus stating that He sent His angel to give this testimony to the "churches" or religious congregation; the body of believers. While a person could argue that the book of Revelation is for all people, I would argue that it is specifically directed towards Christian believers and that Christian believers specifically fall into 7 categories as represented by the 7 Churches of Asia.

Verse 17 is the Spirit, bride of Christ, the one who hears, (he who has ears, let him hear), the one who is thirsty and who wishes, all say “come” and take the free gift of the water of life which is Christ Jesus. Versus 18 and 19 are warnings not to add or remove anything from the words written in Revelation. This is a very important warning that I referenced early in this study. With prophecy it is easy to want to explain what you believe something means. It is important however to validate scripture with scripture and let the Holy Spirit minister to you. There are things in Revelation we are not going to know until the time has come, and when it does, it will serve as evidence based on our understanding of the word. We will be blessed because we can take comfort in knowing the events that are going to unfold are all a part of God’s perfect plan and eternity is right around the corner.

Verse 20 is Jesus stating that he is coming soon and verse 21 is a statement of the grace of the Lord being with all of God’s people. Amen!