

Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #48 | Revelation 22:3-16 | The Final Future Message

Revelation 22:3-5 | Final Words About The Coming Paradise

- Finally: **no more curse!**
 - There was *no more devil* for most of the millennium. But the devil is not our number 1 problem.
 - The curse is found in Genesis 3:14-19, and includes:
 - The curse on the serpent: crawling upon his belly and eating dust. The curse on the serpent is a mixture between the *creature* and the *one who possessed the creature*.
 - The curse on the woman: an enmity between her and the serpent, and between his seed and her seed. Her seed will crush the serpent's head (Gen. 3:15). This took place when Satan was cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10), and the removal of the curse does not come until after this point. In addition, the woman is cursed with sorrow concerning the conception of children and a subjection to her husband. Some of Genesis 3:16 likely has prophetic meaning beyond the physical meaning.
 - The curse on the man: the curse on the ground in his task of providing, as well as a return to dust.
 - Note that *even without sin or satan* in our lives, none of us are free from the curse. The world will live under its effect until Revelation 22:3 is fulfilled after the millennium.
- Both the Father and the Son will dwell on the *paradise earth*, and both will be served by **his servants** (v. 3). These servants will have **his name written on their foreheads** (v. 4), and thus be sealed perfectly, just as the 144,000 were in Revelation 14:1.
- We are reminded that there is **no night** (v. 5) in the New Jerusalem. Now we learn that there will also be **no candle** (v. 5). For this to be accurate, there would need to be the glory of God shining in every "nook and cranny" of the New Jerusalem.
- The servants of God will **reign forever and ever** (v. 5). Daniel 7:18 and 27 sheds some light on the identity of the servants.

Revelation 22:6-9 | The time is short: Worship God

- In verse 6, the angel of verse 1 begins to wrap up the revelation. John is reminded that **these things are faithful and true**.
- It was God's will to reveal **the things which must shortly be done** (v. 6).
 - God does not want the last days to be a mystery.
 - It is the **Lord God of the Holy Prophets** that made this revelation. This is a testimony to the credibility of the message.

- The word **shortly** (v. 6) is *tachos*, which is a word that speaks of the speed of movement. The end-times are not thousands of years, but they will be a few *quick* years.
- The Lord reminds John that **I come quickly** (v. 7).
- There is a blessing for the one that **keepeth** the prophecy of the book (v. 7). We should be reminded that *you and I* are not in the pages of this prophecy (for we are not in a prophetic age). The blessing of verse 7 is the same as the promised blessings for those who endure to the end.
- John (no doubt filled with awe), fell down to worship the angel, who chastised him for doing so, and gave him a clear instruction: **worship God** (v. 9). Even in our non-prophetic day, it is easy to be so enamored with something *other than God*, even when those things are *godly*. We must keep our focus on God Himself.

Revelation 22:10-16 | A Works Based Salvation

- John was told to **seal not** the prophetic information, because **the time is at hand** (v. 10).
 - When **the time is at hand**, the information should be proclaimed, not sealed up.
 - In Daniel 12:4, Daniel was told to shut up his prophecy **to the time of the end**. That is because there was much to happen, including the dispensation of grace, before Daniel's prophecy would be fulfilled.
 - By the time the Revelation begins, this dispensation is over and the **time is at hand**.
- Verse 11 gives solid indication that, apart from the Jewish people, there will be no "end times revival."
 - Because there is no "whosoever will" offer, and because there is a spirit of delusion, the world *is what it is*, save for the Jewish people turning to Christ through their pain.
 - We do not live in the time of verse 11, nor have any people of the dispensations past. There has always been a time to *repent* (in dispensations past) or to *receive* (in the current dispensation). Verse 11 is thus describing a unique and future time. Today we are **ambassadors for Christ** (2 Cor. 5:20).
- With the spiritual condition of mankind now a fixed matter, the Lord comes to **give every man according to his work** (v. 12).
- The direct application of the book of Revelation comes to **the churches** (v. 16). However, the message is **do his commandments** in order to **enter in through the gates of the city** (v. 14). This is a works-based message. The only way to reconcile this with the church of today (grace-age believers) is to *divide* the church today from the "churches" (assemblies) of Revelation.
- The age of grace offers salvation **not of works** (Eph. 2:8-9), but the future age will offer salvation by doing **his commandments** (v. 14).