

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"I Come Quickly"

Revelation 22:12-15

### Introduction

1. Chronologically this section fits into the closing remarks of John following the great prophetic utterances (4:1-22:7). They are not extraneous words, but they support all that has been recorded.

2. The intensity of the entire book is pressed upon the reader. Nothing is to be neglected. Here are high priorities for the one who genuinely believes the Word. Already, the certainty of revelation has been given (v. 6), the urgency of it (vv. 6, 7), the ecstasy of it (v. 7), the fervency of it (vv. 8, 9), and the activity of it (vv. 10, 11). There is more--much more. Study!

1. The PERSON of the revelation vv. 13.

a. He is Alpha and Omega.

This affirms that He is the entirety of language. No symbol can be expressed without Him!

b. He is Beginning and End.

This affirms that all activities are included in Him. No action may be taken without Him!

c. He is First and Last.

This affirms that all persons are included in Him. No individual may be considered without Him.

NOTE: This verse is all encompassing. It reflects on earlier testimony of the book (1:8, 17; 21:6). He covers totality, eternity, and potentiality. He is ALL in ALL! With such completeness, all must respond to HIM.

2. The PROMISE of revelation v. 12.

a. His coming again.

Three times this same thought is expressed in this one chapter (vv. 7, 20). Except for one word, the phrase is the same in each instance. There is no mistake made. He is coming! The phases of His coming (rapture and revelation)

are not expanded here, but they are true. For the church today: He comes at the rapture quickly! For the nation Israel in tribulation: He comes quickly! While it may seem extended time for us, for an eternal God, the prospect of His return is imminent--always!

b. His reward provided.

The distinction between salvation and rewards is absolutely necessary. To confuse the two is disastrous. Salvation is entirely by grace. Rewards relate to faithful fulfillment of grace opportunities (2 John 8). There IS a time of reckoning (Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10). Too long have "grace-saved-believers" neglected responsibility of behavior! God help us in our ignorance. Too many have become specialists in accenting grace to the exclusion of God's expectations. This needs a radical change NOW!

3. The PREDICTION of revelation vv. 14, 15.

a. Concerning the saved.

The best rendering of the original omits the phrase concerning "doing His commandments." In any case, salvation is not grounded in works but grace! The better rendering is "they that have washed their robes...." This is obviously a reference to the saved. They are the same as noted elsewhere (John 1:12-13; 5:24; Rev. 7:14). This eliminates all legalistic grounds for salvation. The big issue for the saved is "access." Two items are mentioned: the tree of life (cf. 22:2) and the gates of the city (here). Hence, satisfaction and enjoyment are fully available to the saved forever!

b. Concerning the unsaved.

The big issue here is "exclusion." They are "outside" (cf. Matt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30). Various classes of people are mentioned as the definite article with each noun notes. These include: dogs (moral impurity), sorcerers (use of demons and satanology), whoremongers (fornicators or those who have chosen sexual sins), murderers (people who have chosen violence and killing), idolaters (those who have chosen the creature rather than the Creator), and finally those involved in practicing and loving falsehood (these shut out the truth). Such are the condemned (21:8).

Conclusion God's Word stands. It is serious to trifle with the truth. The choice is yours: heaven or hell! Where will you spend eternity: in or out? access or exclusion?