

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

### "Faithful Sayings" Revelation 22:6-11

#### Introduction

1. The major divisions of the book are given in 1:19. There are two: 1) the things which have been seen (1), even the things which are (2); 2) the things which shall be hereafter (4-22).
2. Hence, chronologically, the outline for things has been expended. The millennium is over and eternity has been entered. Indeed, eternal details have been provided (21: 1-22:5).
3. The final verses of the book (22:6-21) form the concluding comments of John. They are an enforcement of what has been revealed concerning our Lord and future events. The comments in this section relate to the kind of revelation which has been provided. It is described in this way:

#### 1. The CERTAINTY of the revelation v. 6.

Two words are used in this connection: faithful and true. The former affirms that what has been stated will in fact take place. The latter notes that the statements are fact. In a day of relativism, this sort of absolute statement is rare! The same words are used elsewhere (3: 14; 19:9, 11; 21:5). John affirms, therefore, that what he has written can be counted upon completely! It is absolute.

#### 2. The URGENCY of the revelation vv. 6, 7.

The sent angel shows that this is the major thrust of their function: service. The service of the angel is to make clear to God's servants eschatological material. The words "must" and "shortly" demonstrate the necessity of the events and their immediacy. One item specifically noted is: "Behold, I come quickly." In terms of man's time schedule, the coming of our Lord is protracted, but with God and eternal schedules, it is "quickly." It should be noted that the word "holy" with prophets should probably be "spirits" of the prophets marking the aspect of inspiration for the prophets in their ministry. A comparison of 1:1 with this verse, however, shows that Christ is identified with the Lord God and that He (Christ) is the direct revealer to the prophets!

3. The ECSTACY of the revelation v. 7.

There are seven beatitudes of the Revelation (cf. 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 22:7, 14). Whereas many deny prophecy, God declares this book to be just that. It is a testimony to events which will take place, but for which there is no other proof but the Word of God Himself! Blessing comes to those who "keep" the sayings of the Book. This means that they have right attitudes and views of the purposes and providences of God as set forth in this entire book. Only a mad man would sneer at prophecy, but there are some of that sort in the world. We believers can afford to let them sneer when we have the benediction of God upon us for keeping the Word!

4. The FERVENCY of the revelation vv. 8, 9.

It is true that good men make mistakes. None is perfect, hence Moses broke the tables of the law. Peter had trouble getting the Gospel to the Gentiles. Here John worships an angel! In his prostration, he is corrected (v. 9). The angel states he is a fellow servant of John and of the prophets who are John's brethren. He also stands with those who keep God's Word, hence he is an unfallen angel. But the final word is: "worship God" (cf. 19:10). Worship of any other being or thing than God Himself is idolatry.

5. The ACTIVITY of the revelation vv. 10, 11.

God does not keep these matters secret. God declares these items are not to be sealed. The reason given is that the time is so near to fulfillment. That was written 2000 years ago. How much truer for us today! Furthermore, there is not likely to be much change in the hearts of some, but the message must nonetheless be preached. Four groups are listed: unjust, filthy, righteous, and holy. The message must go to all. The results are up to the Spirit of God. One thing is certain: the message of this book is not a dead letter item, but a legacy of God which is not to be neglected. Why? The time is near.

Conclusion The end is not yet, but the time is drawing near. It has been doing this for 2000 years (Rom. 13:11). Oh, may we take heed and affirmatively respond for His glory!