

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"I Come to Reward"

Revelation 22:12

Introduction

1. The Holy Spirit has recorded God's outline of prophetic events (1:19). The unfolding of events is patently chronological – right up to the last chapter (22:5).

2. Following these graphic descriptions of things to come, specific exhortations and critical statements are made. The Revelation is declared to be "faithful and true" (22:6, 7), exhorts to "worship God" (22:8, 9), explicates "imminence" and "permanence" (22:10, 11).

3. Although written about 90-95 A.D., John avers that the events are, in God's plan, veritable actions for which to be prepared. Consider these promises boldly stated:

1. PROMISE #1 – His Coming

a. It demands attention: "Behold" (ἰδοὺ idou). This demonstrative particle is used frequently in Scripture. It gives veracity to bid the hearer/reader to what is said: "see! lo!" (cf. 1:7; 9:12; 11:14; 16:15; 22:7).

b. It affirms manifestation "I am coming" (ἔρχομαι erchomai). Here is a present tense active verb. 2000 years ago the Lord Himself said "I am coming." He did not say when, but He did say I will be there! Being in the active voice, the Lord (subject) is doing the action. As present tense, it conveys a general truth (gnomic present) and is futuristic, adding vividness to the assertion. Wow!

c. It teaches anticipation "quickly" (ταχύ tachy). This adverb expresses the Lord' s coming speedily and without delay (cf. vv. 7, 12, 20). Some may complain this thought is incorrect, but God' s timetable is in accord with eternity! Thinking of it that way, His coming is not long away!

2. PROMISE #2 – His Reward

a. It has remuneration "reward" (μισθός misthos). This noun clearly means dues paid for work, wages, rewards and punishments. The force of this term surely anticipates a recompense. It is used both positively (John 4:36) and negatively (2 Pet. 2:13).

b. It has personalization "my" (μου mou). The text is recording what the Lord has specifically promised on His own. The reward does not drag in a third party, but comes directly from the Lord Jesus Christ.

c. It has association "with me" (μετ' ἐμοῦ met' emou). The whole issue of rewards has connections with the Lord. His "coming" is linked to rewards and His Person.

3. PROMISE #3 – His Giving

a. It has compensation "to give" (ἀποδοῦναι apodounai). Linguistically the thought is "to give from." Hence the Lord assures that out of His store something will be given, whether good or bad. The use of the preposition "from" (ἀπό απο) notes there is giving and consideration of source.

b. It has specification "every man" (ἐκάστῳ ἐκαστο). This adjective is used here as a substantive indicating "individually, everyone of many." No one in the billions on earth – in time and space – is exempt. This overpowers our finite minds, but not that of an omniscient and omnipotent God.

c. It has conformation "according as" (ὡς hos or κατά kata). The idea of equivalence relating to quality is the sense.

d. It has evaluation "his work" (ἔργον αὐτοῦ ergon autou). While this measure has disturbed some, it is evident that the "work" is the product of faith (cf. James 2:14-26). Salvation is alone by grace through faith, but it necessarily is exhibited by works (Eph. 2:8, 9). This is nothing less than Bible doctrine. Faith which does not demonstrate a changed life is hardly the new creation of Scripture (2 Cor. 5:17).

Note: The immediate context for this verse (cf. vv. 11, 14) makes it unalterably clear that there are some who will be repaid evil for evil. Others will be repaid good for good. This is the consistent testimony of the Bible.

Consider what evil doers can expect: John 3:16; Rom. 6:21, 23; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:5, 6; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Heb. 10:31; Rev. 19:13; 21:8.

Consider what good doers can expect John 3:16; Rom. 6:22, 23; 14:1-15:3; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 2 Cor. 5:9-11; Gal. 5:22, 23; Rev. 21:7; 22:1-5.

Consider what crowns are available for believers. a. Crown for soul winning 1 Thess. 2:19, 20. b. Crown for discipline 1 Cor. 9:24-27. c. Crown for endurance under testing James 1:12. d. Crown for lovers of the Lord' s coming 2 Tim. 4:8. e. Crown for faithful pastors 1 Pet. 5:1-4.

Conclusion The Lord is surely coming. We know because the Bible records His promise. His coming will include His report-card for every person who ever lived. A day of final reckoning is promised. It is ours to believe it, act on it, and expect it with joy. So be it, beloved.