

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"Faithful and True Sayings"

Revelation 22:6, 7

Review

1. The general outline of the book is given (1:19): a) The things which have been seen (1:10-18), even the things which are (chapters 2 and 3). b) The things which shall be hereafter (4:1-22:5).
2. Chronologically, the events of the book have been expended. The early local churches have been described (2, 3), the throne of God (4), the Lamb and His title-deed to the universe (5), the fearful Tribulation period (6-19:10), Christ's second advent to the earth (19:11-21), the establishment of the Millennium (20:1-6), the closing events before eternity (20:7-15), eternity (21:1-22:5).
3. In the light of these events, what can be said? The text of Scripture provides five salient statements about the revelation of all recorded. Here they are:

1. The CERTAINTY of the revelation v. 6

It is the angel previously mentioned who speaks (cf. 15:1-8; 21:9, 15). His message is to John (unto me). These "sayings" rehearse the opening words of the book which state (1:1):

- (a) The ultimate source is God the Father
- (b) The mediate source is God the Son
- (c) The immediate source is His angel
- (d) The final source is John

The clear and obvious conclusion to the "sayings" is that they are:

a. Faithful (πιστοὶ pistoi)

This includes the notion of persuasion and conviction. It refers to what is worthy of trust. Christ is called the "faithful witness" (1:5). Here it is a reference to a record which can be relied upon, hence utter reliability!

b. True (ἀληθῖνοι alethinoi)

What an amazing word this is. The sayings not only express all what they pretend to be in name and semblance, but the real nature corresponding thereto. It is like pure gold as opposed to adulterated metal. Hence the sayings are not fictitious or imaginary (cf. John 15:1; 1 Thess. 1:9).

2. The FIDELITY of the revelation v. 6

This is because of:

a. The LORD God

The reference here is probably to God the Father. He is the ultimate Source of the sayings (cf. 1:8). The attributive position of Lord with God supports this.

b. The Prophets

The TR (Textus Receptus, basis of KJV) reads "holy prophets." Some other texts suggest "spirits" of the prophets. The meaning, however is clear that the prophets, by the Holy Spirit, were the vehicles of prophecy. Surely O.T. prophecy is dynamically in concert with the sayings of Revelation. It is frequently quoted. (cf. 7:1-7).

c. The Angel (His)

While the angel is important, the fact is He is "His" angel, hence related to the LORD God in a unique way.

Note: These three buttress the thought of fidelity to the "sayings."

3. The EXPLICABILITY of the revelation v. 6

a. How?

The verb "show" (δείξει deixai) is aorist thus indicating an historical event. It conveys the idea of exposing to the eyes (cf. 4:1). No mistake can be considered about the openness of this book. It is not a secret, but explicated.

b. Whom?

How precious that the Lord's servants (δούλοις doulois) are the recipients of the "sayings." Believers are free, but in fact only free to be "His servants." Precious bondage (cf. 1:1).

c. What?

How perfectly specific is what is necessary to be done (γενέσθαι genesthai). This aorist passive infinitive assures that God will do it. There is no idea of speculation or chance. The Almighty God will see to it!

4. The PREDICATBILITY of the revelation v. 7

This is indicated by:

a. An Exclamation v. 7

"Behold" (ἰδοὺ idou) is a demonstrative participle from the verb to see. It denotes "see!", "lo!" or "behold!" Obviously it is employed to get attention, so here.

b. An Extrapolation v. 7

This is where the present tense verb is significant. No one knows when He will come, but He is coming! No wonder we believe in "imminency" of the Lord's return. So we will sing, pray, work, and wait. "Perhaps today!"

c. An Expectation v. 7

Added to the above comments, the word "quickly" (ταχύ tachy) accents immediacy. As far as man is concerned, the event has been protracted, but in reference to God, it is "quickly." Scripture teaches the Lord is at the door (James 5:8, 9).

5. The FELICITY of the revelation v. 7

There are seven beatitudes in this book (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 22:7, 14) and this is one of them. This beatitude is:

a. Something Constant

The present tense verb (τηρῶν teron) signifies to attend to carefully. To guard those who are slovenly about Scripture really do not qualify for this beatitude. The idea of observance is surely included here (cf. 22:9).

b. Something Precise

"The words of the prophecies of this book" speak of the Book of Revelation primarily. It is this book which is to be prized, treasured, and acted upon. God spare us from tampering with this specific book so as to prevent its meaning. Rather, allow it to be a profit.

Conclusion Here are five words to remember about the "sayings" (revelation) incorporated in this single Book: its certainty, fidelity, explicability, predictability, and felicity. While there is no merit to memorize select terms, there is profit in allowing God's Word to be treasured. Do you and I view this Bible as a precious prize of infinite grace? Stop and think, beloved friend. Some day your heart will be asking – what did I ever do with the Bible!?