

THE SEAL OF AUTHORITY

Introduction:

1. "The curtain has fallen on history and time – both are swallowed up in eternity" (Homer Hailey).
2. As a conclusion to the great vision experienced by John, the record is sealed with the authority of deity.
3. John, the angel, and Jesus Himself all testify to the truth of this book.
4. Final admonitions are given and the book – and the Bible – draws to a close.

I. Factual Address

(22:6-16)

- A. The angel speaks, bearing witness on behalf of God to the truth of the message that has been revealed to John.
  1. And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place" (ESV).
  2. This principle has been established throughout the book (1:5; 3:7, 14; 6:10; 15:3; 16:7; 19:9, 11; 21:5).
- B. This book is just as inspired as any writing of God's other prophets (Deuteronomy 18:18; Luke 1:70; 1 Peter 1:11; 2 Peter 1:21).
- C. Note that these things "must shortly be done" or "happen quickly" (LITV).
- D. In fact, the Lord calls all to attention with the statement: "Behold, I am coming quickly" (cf. 3:11; 22:12, 20).
- E. The blessed man is the one who keeps the word of God – including the book of Revelation (cf. 1:3; 16:15).
- F. John adds his testimony that he both saw and heard the things which he has written in the book (cf. John 19:35).
- G. Again, John was warned against worshipping angels and was admonished, "Worship God" (cf. 19:10).
- H. He was told that the writing was not to be sealed up because the time was near or at hand (cf. 5:1; 10:4; Daniel 8:26).
- I. Men are divided into two categories: evil (unjust and filthy) or good (righteous and holy).
  1. The choices one makes in life determine which category he inhabits (cf. John 3:18-20).
  2. "Thoughts create actions. Actions create habits. Habits create character" (Matthew Kelly).
  3. Those who practice evil will persist in wrongdoing until it becomes their way of life (cf. 2 Timothy 3:13).
  4. Those who practice righteousness will persist in doing good until it becomes their way of life (cf. Matthew 5:6; 2 Corinthians 7:1).
  5. There is no standing still!
- J. The Lord will reward all according to their own choices and actions.
- K. The blessed man is the one who obeys the commands of God and, by so doing, washes his robe in the blood of Jesus (ASV).
  1. He will have access to a home in Heaven.
  2. He will have authority over the tree of life.

## The Book of Revelation

Lesson Thirty-Three

Revelation 22:6-21

- L. Those who are righteous and holy will enter Heaven; those who are unjust and filthy will be excluded.
  - M. Lastly, Jesus gives His testimony to the truth of the words written by John.
  - N. He identified Himself as the offspring of David (2 Samuel 7:12ff; Isaiah 11:1, 10) and the bright morning star (Numbers 24:17).
- II. Final Admonitions (22:17-19)
- A. The great invitation to salvation is offered to all.
    - 1. By the Holy Spirit through the Word of God
    - 2. By the church through the preaching of the Gospel
    - 3. By the obedient through personal evangelism
  - B. All are warned against adding to or taking from the Word of God.
    - 1. This was true of the Old Testament Law (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:5ff).
    - 2. This was also true of the Gospel (Galatians 1:6-9).
    - 3. Thus, the book of Revelation is also inspired Scripture.
  - C. To come to Jesus for salvation, one must hear and obey His Word.
- III. Faithful Anticipation (22:20-21)
- A. The true author of the book of Revelation is Jesus.
  - B. He testified: "Surely, I come quickly."
    - 1. This may be in answer to the Spirit and the bride in verse 17.
    - 2. It is not His coming in final judgment, but in judgment on Rome.
    - 3. Jesus always responds to the needs of His disciples.
  - C. John added his agreement, stating: "Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."
  - D. Those who wait for the Lord's return do so in His grace.
  - E. Thus, the Bible ends: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."
  - F. To this, one can only add the word of John: "Amen."