

1) Continuing toward our conclusion, we begin in 22:12 – Jesus is speaking to John.

Rev 22:12-15 (NIV)

- 1) Jesus begins by saying again that he is coming soon.
- 2) He adds here that he is bringing his reward with him.
- 3) An in-depth discussion of rewards could almost be a study in itself.
- 4) The LABC I think, really adds a perspective and focus to this topic:

“Although all God's people will be saved and will enjoy the reward of eternity with him, a number of rewards seem to be given to individuals, according to what they have done. God will look at each individual's heart; thus, it may be that a quiet saint praying daily beside her bed will receive even greater reward than a flamboyant, well-known preacher. It may be that the woman who used her gifts to the fullest extent will be rewarded more greatly than the one who believed but was too afraid to reach her potential. God will not bestow his rewards in ways that we humans might. Each believer's job is to serve God to his or her fullest potential with a heart that is right with him.”

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- 5) One of the hardest concepts for us to grasp here is that no matter what our reward or the rewards of others we will be grateful and satisfied.
- 6) No regrets for not having done more.
- 7) No jealousy of others for what reward they received.
- 8) Nothing bad will beset us because of the rewards we and others receive.
- 9) Jesus continues by pronouncing the seventh and final beatitude of the Revelation. (v. 7; 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6.)

"Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

- 10) He is simply saying blessed are those who seek to purify themselves from a sinful way of life.
- 11) I think, to say it another way, **blessed are those who live for Christ and do everything in their power to live as God wants them to.**
- 12) God has given us a clear picture of what He wants of us – how He wants us to live.
 - a) At the same time and in the same place, He has given us a clear picture of what happens when we ignore or shun His requirements for us.
 - b) We also know that no matter how badly we mess up, He has provided redemption and a path to being what He wants.

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- c) Again, our job is to love Him and do all in our power to live for Him
- d) Part of that is “washing our robes” – confessing our sins and repenting of them.

13) In this blessing, Jesus keeps his promise to the saints in his letter to the Ephesians back in chapter 2 of this book.

Rev 2:7 (NIV)

14) Entrance into the city of course equates entry into heaven and eternal life with the Lord.

15) He continues with another one of those statements that, if taken literally, would make one think He is saying the evil is outside the “City” (heaven).

15) Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

16) However, we know that at this point, all those whom he describes here are really in the lake of fire along with the devil, and all that are his.

17) Simply put, He is saying that there are those that have missed out and will not be in heaven.

- 1) We now reach the final remarks of this wonderful Revelation of the completion of God’s plan.
- 2) And who is more appropriate to speak them than Christ himself.

Rev 22:16-19 (NIV)

3) Jesus first makes clear that he is responsible for ultimately showing John the visions and that he and he alone has the credentials to do so.

4) As we think back over the entire book, we can also so see this as an unequivocal statement of the trinity – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are involved in completion of God’s plan.

5) He then, being back in and speaking to those of John’s time and forward to today and beyond until the end does come, he offers another encouraging word of promise – the door is still open and anyone who wants can still enter.

6) Those who desire can still have access to the tree of life.

7) Then, He adds some sobering words regarding the book.

8) Basically do not add or take away from the words that are given here.

9) If we allow our minds to proceed back thru the study, I think we can all see where there are opportunities to add, subtract, or otherwise change what is actually written.

- a) As we said from the beginning of the study, there are many ways to approach the overall study of this book.
- b) Some approaches require making assumptions about events in history.
- c) Some require making assumptions about what things mean in the actual words of the book itself.

- d) All approaches require making assumptions about the times we see unfold within its pages.
 - e) Bottom line is, given our understanding of the apocryphal nature of the book, it being prophesy, and simply the study in itself, some assumptions must be made.
 - f) However, I personally do not feel that the assumptions we make because of our understandings or lack thereof are really additions or subtractions.
 - g) All that being said, there may be a fine line between assumptions and additions or subtractions.
 - h) The key most likely is why we make the assumptions we do –
 - (1) Is it for understanding? **OR**
 - (2) Is it an attempt to make the text say what we really want it to say?
 - ii) The latter would obviously be the addition/subtraction mode.
 - iii) Then, there is the idea of “binding” – it is one thing to have an opinion as to what a passage may mean or refer to specifically.
 - iv) However, if we make that opinion – a matter of salvation if you will – then we are definitely in the column of “adding or subtracting.”
- 10) One of the reasons why I feel that the futurist approach to the study is *perhaps* best is because it is I think less prone to assumptions than perhaps other approaches.
- 11) The bottom line of this is simply as you proceed from this study and think about the book and its message, keep in mind that what is here is for our edification and knowledge.
- a) It is prophesy – it is not an unsolvable mystery.
 - b) It is not a detective story.
 - c) It is God’s revealing of how His plan completes.
 - d) And, ultimately, as we have said numerous times, WE WIN!
- 12) If we keep these things in mind, perhaps, it will be easier to stay away from studies and teachings that do add to or take away from the “words of the prophesy.”

Rev 22:20 (NIV)

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

NIV