

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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Mission Statement

This study of the Book of Revelation gives special attention to the testimony it provides concerning our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10; cp. 1:2), leading us to worship and serve Him in everything.

- I.** What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II.** What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- III.** What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).
 - I.** The Return of Jesus Christ (19:11–20:6)
 - J.** Events After the Thousand-Year Kingdom of Christ (20:7–21:8)
 - K.** The Holy City, the New Jerusalem (21:9–22:5)
 - L.** Epilogue (22:6–21)
 - 1. The Inspiration of This Book Established (22:6–7)
 - a. The message’s character: “faithful and true” (v. 6a; cf. 21:5).
 - b. The message’s author: “the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets” (v. 6b).
 - c. The message’s messenger: “sent His angel” (v. 6c).
 - d. The message’s recipients: “His bond-servants” (v. 6d).
 - e. The message’s content: “the things which must soon take place” (v. 6e; cf. 1:1, 3, 19).
 - f. The message’s promise (*Jesus speaks*): “behold, I am coming quickly” (v. 7a; cf. vv. 12, 20).
 - g. The message’s blessing (v. 7b; cf. 1:3).
 - 2. The Insignificance of John Exposed (22:8–9)
 - a. John’s awe and humility (v. 8).
 - b. The angel’s declaration and command (v. 9).
 - 3. The Instructions the Lord Jesus Christ Expounded (22:10–15)
 - a. Leave the book open (v. 10; cp. Dan 12:4, 9).
 - for God’s people to read and obey
 - because the time is near
 - b. When Jesus returns, there is no second opportunity (v. 11).
 - c. When Jesus returns, He will reward His servants (v. 12).
 - d. Jesus is the eternal God (v. 13; cf. 21:6).
 - e. The final beatitude of the book of Revelation (v. 14; cf. 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7).
 - f. The final destiny of unbelievers (v. 15).
 - 4. The Identification of the Lord Jesus Christ Emphasized (22:16).
 - a. He Himself sent the angelic messenger with His message for the churches.
 - b. He is the promised descendant of David who will reign as King (cp. 2 Sam 7:12–16).
 - c. He is “the bright morning star”—the exalted Ruler (cp. Num 24:17; 2 Pet 1:19; Rev 2:27–28).
 - 5. The Invitations Extended (22:17)
 - a. To Christ from the Spirit and the bride: “Come” (v. 17a).

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- b. To Christ from the hearers: “Come” (v. 17b).
- c. From Jesus Christ to sinners (v. 17c):
 - “let the one who is thirsty come” (cp. Neh 9:20; Pss 42:2; 63:1; Isa 49:10; John 4:14; 7:37; Rev 7:16; 21:6)
 - “let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost” (Isa 55:1)
- 6. The Injunction Regarding Divine Revelation Explained (22:18–19)
 - a. Do not add to it (v. 18).
 - b. Do not subtract from it (v. 19)
 - c. The implications of this injunction:
 - God’s people must preserve the Scriptures, God’s Word.
 - Same injunction announced in the Torah (Deut 4:2; 12:32), the Prophets (Jer 26:2), the Writings (Prov 30:6), and the New Testament (Rev 22:18–19).
 - Here the injunction is canonical and covenantal, not limited to this book nor to the interpretation of this book.
- 7. The Invocation Exclaimed (22:20–21)
 - a. Final promise: “Yes, I am coming quickly” (v. 20a).
 - b. Final prayer: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus” (v. 20b).
 - c. Final provision: “The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all” (v. 21a).
 - d. Final pronouncement: “Amen” (v. 21b).

Questions for Discussion

How should we respond to the prophecies in the book of Revelation?

Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- ▶ Jesus’s words are faithful and true.
- ▶ Jesus is the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets.
- ▶ Jesus sends angels to do His bidding.
- ▶ Jesus is coming soon.
- ▶ Jesus blesses those who obey the book of Revelation.
- ▶ Jesus will reward His servants when He returns.
- ▶ Jesus is the eternal God.
- ▶ Jesus is the promised Messiah from the line of David.
- ▶ Jesus is the prophetic bright Morning Star.
- ▶ Jesus invites sinners to come to Him for life.
- ▶ Jesus warns of judgment for anyone who alters His Word.
- ▶ Jesus grants grace to His saints.

Jesus “gives a thrice-repeated reminder of something which must never be forgotten; for it will give courage in the hour of battle, strength in the hour of weakness, and hope in the hour of despair. Let us hear Him as He speaks:

‘Behold, I come quickly’ (vs. 7)

‘Behold, I come quickly’ (vs. 12)

‘Surely, I come quickly’ (vs. 21)

Thus, in His last historic word from heaven, our Lord writes once more over the portals of the Church that ‘Blessed Hope’ under which she must live and labor during every moment of her existence upon the earth. And if we are wise in the simplicity of the Word of God, we shall respond in the words of the ‘beloved disciple,’ who heard and recorded the message:

‘Even so, come, Lord Jesus’ (vs. 20).”

— Alva J. McClain, *The Greatness of the Kingdom* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1968), 514–15