

**IF ANY MAN ADD TO ... OR TAKE
AWAY FROM
REVELATION 22:16-19**

Text: Rev 22:18-19

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¹⁸ For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

¹⁹ And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

Introduction:

It has been said that an individual's last words are often there most important words.

We have recorded for us the last words of God's book the bible.

Revelation is a book about Jesus. It is only fitting that as we come to the closing verses of the book, He has a personal word for all people of all ages.

Notice these closing words from the Lord some of which includes comments regarding His word.

1. HIS PERSONAL CONFIRMATION

Revelation 22:16

¹⁶ I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star.

There are a couple of things the Lord wants to nail down before the book is concluded. First, He:

A. Confirms His Prophecy

He first confirms that He is the sender of the book. He makes it very clear that he was the one who sent the angel “to testify unto you these things.” The angel had been a divine messenger, commissioned by the Lord Jesus Himself.

The word “testify” simply means a “witness.” It speaks of someone bearing record or giving their testimony. The Lord had sent him on a heavenly mission that we might be informed of what the future held.

Notice verse 6:

Revelation 22:6

⁶ And he said unto me, These sayings *are* faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

The prophecies of Revelation are true because they are the words of the Lord Jesus. They are as truthful as He is truthful. They are as reliable as He is reliable.

In case there is someone who may be skeptical or doubtful of the reality of what this book proclaims, the Lord is reminding us that He is the sender of this book, therefore every word in it is true.

The entire Bible is trustworthy and truthful. You can believe every word from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21. Every word in the Bible bears the authenticity of God. You never have to wonder if there is something in the Bible that is not reliable.

He not only confirms His Prophecy, but He also:

B. Confirms His Person

Revelation 22:16

¹⁶ I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star.

The reliability of His message is Who He is. The authority of His person gives authority to His prophecy.

He declares Himself to be both the “root” and “offspring” of David. As the “root” He is the ancestor of David. As the “offspring” He is the descendant of David. What seems to be a paradoxical statement is actually a

declaration of His deity. He is the God-man! In His deity He is the “root” or ancestor of David. In His humanity He is the “offspring” or descendant of David.

He also declares Himself to be the “bright and morning star.” In Biblical times, to call someone a star was to elevate and exalt that person. As the morning star announces the arrival of the day, so the Lord’s coming will announce the end of this world’s darkness and the dawn of His glorious kingdom.

2. HIS PERSONAL INVITATION

Revelation 22:17

¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Let’s notice these two occurrences of the word “Come.”

In the first we see:

A. A “Come” From Those Longing

The first “Come” is actually a prayer: “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come.”

The Lord had declared in verse 12, “Behold, I come quickly.” Now both the Holy Spirit and the bride say, “Come.”

The Holy Spirit is asking the Lord Jesus to come back and subdue His enemies and establish Himself as the King of kings and Lord of Lord's. The bride, all who are saved, echo that prayer and cry out, "Come."

It is much like John's reply to everything in verse 20, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." It is a "come" that expresses the longing of the Holy Spirit and the believer for the return of the Lord Jesus.

Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:8, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." There is a crown promised for those who love and long for His return.

Are there not times when you long for the return of the Lord Jesus? Are there not times when with John you pray, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus?" There are times when all long for His return. We all get weary of the burdens and battles of life. Praise God, one day the battle will be over.

There is not only the "Come" that is from those who are longing, but there is also:

B. A “Come For Those Lost

The second “Come” is seen in the words, “And let him that heareth say, Come.” In this “Come” a personal invitation is given by the Lord Himself for those who are not ready to join in with those who are calling out for the Lord to come. It is our Lord’s own personally invitation for the lost to come to Him.

The invitation continues in verse 17:

Revelation 22:17

¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

His offer is unlimited. It is an invitation to “whosoever.” It doesn’t matter what a person has done or who they are. They can come! They are invited to come.

Lastly, notice not only His personal confirmation and invitation, but also:

3. HIS PERSONAL ADMONITION

In His closing words the Lord has a very strong warning concerning His Word.

We read in verses 18-19:

Revelation 22:18-19

¹⁸ For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: ¹⁹ And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

Similar admonition is found elsewhere in the Scriptures.

Deuteronomy 4:2

² Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish *ought* from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Deuteronomy 12:32

³² What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Proverbs 30:5-6

⁵ Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him. ⁶ Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

This prohibition that the Lord gives in Revelation is one that applies to all Scripture. Let's look at this admonition closer by first noticing that Jesus has a word of admonition concerning:

A. Biblical Addition

In verse 18 He talks about adding to His word. No one is to add any new revelation to the Scriptures. This is a claim that the Scriptures are complete.

One of the things that bothers me about the Charismatic movement is the “revelations” people are supposed to be having. The Bible is God’s revelation. He does not give additional revelation. I can’t come along and say, “God is going to bless you with a big car and nice house,” unless I have such substantiated and verified by the Bible. All such revelations are merely fleshly and not Biblical.

God’s warning is that if one seeks to add the Bible, as some did Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy, and other false prophets have done in recent times, they will face divine vengeance. The warning is that God, “shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book” (Vs. 18).

B. Biblical Subtraction

To subtract from God’s Word is to be cut off from all God’s blessings—even salvation. Any revision of the Scriptures invokes God’s condemnation. His Word is to never be tampered with.

Some act as if it is a minor thing to add or take away from the Bible, but it is far from minor. It is an act that brings eternal wrath. The Bible is not something you play with, trifle with, or take lightly. It is the Word of God and God never tolerates a tampering with His Word.

Close:

After giving us His personal confirmation, invitation and admonition, John closes with these words in verses 20-21:

Revelation 22:20-21

²⁰ He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. ²¹ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

These verses remind us one final time that Jesus is coming again.

Until He comes, He will give grace to enable us to keep pressing on.

I close with the words of John, EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS!