

Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #49 | Revelation 22:16-21 | The Call from the Lord

Revelation 22:16 | The Definite Red Letters

- Jesus Himself interrupts, saying, **I Jesus have sent my angel** (i.e.: *my messenger*).
- This is a reference to the angel that was John's "tour guide" through the future **Lord's day** (day of the Lord) – Revelation 1:10.
- Revelation chapters 2-3 are a direct word from the Lord himself to the churches. Beginning in Revelation 4, John has a "tour guide" sent personally by the Lord.
- The Lord gave testimony directly to the messengers of the churches, the angel gave testimony to John, who would communicate it to the churches.
- The revelation of chapters 4-22 is one of the last days, after the rapture has occurred.
 - A pre-tribulational premillennialist must conclude that if this message is to be testified **in the churches** (v. 16), then these **churches** are *future, post-rapture* churches. A message to non-existent churches would be irrational.
 - Such *churches* would be better described as *assemblies*, which is the literal translation of *ecclesia*.
- Could the fact that the Revelation is to be testified **in the churches** be an indication that the pre-tribulational rapture is an incorrect doctrine?
 - Certainly those who do not hold the position would say so.
 - Those who do hold the position will often claim that the message is to be proclaimed **in the churches** (such as ours) as a point of information. There is certainly benefit in doing so, but Revelation 1:3 says that the recipients of the book are to **keep those things which are written herein**. This requirement to the direct recipients makes impossible a direct application to churches in the age of grace.
- The Lord clearly proclaims His identity:
 - **The root and offspring of David** –
 - In Revelation 5:5 the **root of David** was introduced as the One worthy to open the book. Now He is seen victorious in the contents of the book.
 - In the Hebrew Scriptures (Is. 11:1, Zech. 6:12, etc.) the Messiah is shown as the offspring and the branch of David. Here the Lord claims to be both the **root** (source) and the **offspring** (fruit) of David. This is certainly a claim of divinity.
 - **The bright and morning star** –
 - The messenger to the church of Thyatira was told that he would be given the **morning star** if he was an overcomer (Rev. 2:28).

- Numbers 14:17 prophesied of a **Star out of Jacob**.
- This is the first time we have the phrase **bright and morning star**.
- Isaiah 14:12 speaks of the *Day Star* or **son of the morning**. This is largely interpreted as *morning star*, yet is a reference to Satan, not Jesus.
- The best conclusion: Satan disguises himself as the Lord. He was a *morning star*, but Jesus is the **bright and morning star**.
- Interpretations of this phrase as a reference to the rapture are not well-grounded.

Revelation 22:17-19 | The Possible Red Letters

- Verses 17-19 are not *red letter*, yet possibly should be. Does the Lord continue to speak, announcing the testimony of the **Spirit and the bride**?
- There is a three-fold invitation: **come!** This invitation stands to **whosoever will** (v. 17). The invitation appears to be to **every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book** (v. 18).
- The Lord gives a warning about adding or removing from **the words of the book of this prophecy** (v. 19).
 - The context seems to be specific toward the book that John would write.
 - By theological necessity, the warning about taking away must be directed to those living after the Age of Grace has concluded. In the Age of Grace, salvation is secure and free from the kind of threat that is included in this verse. The value of dispensationalism is that it harmonizes the Scriptures.

Revelation 22:20-21 | The Forward Looking Conclusion

- John now comes through to give some closing comments.
- The first is an announcement by the Lord: **Surely I come quickly** (v. 20).
 - This is the seventh announcement that He comes.
 - Revelation 1:8, 2:25, 3:11, 16:15, 22:7, 22:12, 22:20.
- To this announcement, John shouts **Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus**. One can sense the anticipation of John for the fulfillment of God's promises.
- The closing words are words of **grace**.
 - They are appropriate for this age in which we live (and in which Joh wrote).
 - They are also a reminder of the **grace of our Lord Jesus Christ** which has been shown in all dispensations, albeit in different manifestations.
 - We must be good stewards of **the manifold grace of God** (1 Pet. 4:10).