

Preparing for The End

Revelation 22:6-21; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 6-25-23

Introduction

We have two problems that the book of Revelation addresses:

- Misplaced Paradise: We suppose that paradise can be found in a fallen world.
- Mistaken Reality: We suppose that what we see is reality.

Theme of Revelation 22:6-21: The Return of Jesus Christ

- Be prepared for the return of Jesus. (6-11)
- Be prepared for a just judgment to come. (12-16)
- Be prepared by taking the water of life. (17-21)

1. Be prepared for the return of Jesus. (6-11)

What does the future hold?

⁶ And he said to me, “These words are faithful and true”; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.

- “These words are faithful and true” = Count on it, this is going to happen, be prepared!
- “God of the spirits of the prophets” = the same God who told you about the 1st coming of Christ has now told you about the 2nd coming of Christ
- “the things which must soon take place” = things that will begin to happen soon or the kinds of things that will begin to happen soon; not a reference to everything in the book including the return of Jesus

⁷ “And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”

- “I am coming quickly” = suddenly, unexpectedly in terms of day and hour
- “Blessed” = truly happy
- “heed” = respond appropriately to what you hear

⁸ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. ⁹ But he *said to me, “Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God.”

- “Worship God” = we are prone to worship the instrument of God and the instrument of His wonders and blessings

10 And he *said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

- “the time is near” = the beginning of the things talked about in this book
- In contrast to the book of Daniel which was to be sealed up (Daniel 12:4, 9).

11 Let the one who does wrong, still do wrong; and the one who is filthy, still be filthy; and let the one who is righteous, still practice righteousness; and the one who is holy, still keep himself holy.”

- God’s Word will be fulfilled no matter what men do or how men live, good or bad.
- Not an encouragement to do evil or to be indifferent to evil.
- But a warning to those who do evil and an encouragement to those who are righteous.

The Blessed Hope of the Return of Jesus!

1. The return of Jesus is certain. – 2 Peter 3:3-4
2. The return of Jesus is bodily. – Acts 1:11
3. The return of Jesus is public. – Matthew 24:29-31
4. The return of Jesus is expected. – Luke 21:28-33; 1 Thessalonians 5:4
5. The return of Jesus is sudden. – Matthew 24:36-44; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-2
6. The return of Jesus is the End. – 1 Corinthians 15:23-24
7. The return of Jesus is the Beginning. – Matthew 13:36-43

Having our eyes on the ‘blessed hope’:

- Says something about where our hope for happiness lies. – John 14:8
- Shapes how we live today. – 1 Peter 1:13-16; Matthew 25:1-13

2. Be prepared for the just judgement to come. (12-16)

Are things really that bad?

Parable of the 10 Minas - Luke 19:11-27

3. Be prepared by taking the water of life. (17-21)

Is there hope to escape a just judgment?

The Parable of the Wedding Feast – Matthew 22:1-14

Conclusion

Our Purpose: To *glorify and enjoy* God through *trust and love*.