

## **Revelation 22:6-11 – A Book of Truth and Blessing**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: This is a sermon of encouragement on why you are to daily look to God's Word so you can enjoy his blessings.

Our headings are: **Reliability of the God's Word**, and **Response to the God's Word**.

Our goals are: That **you will see God's love for his people whom he redeemed in Christ, how he was present to comfort them in their troubles, and how he encouraged them to faithful covenant living.**

### **Reliability of God's Word**

6 Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

1. The **angel reconfirmed the Words he spoke** to John were faithful and true except that he now pointed to the source of the faithful and true words: Jesus Christ.

Revelation 3:14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

2. The angel reconfirmed what Christ himself - that faithful and true witness- said. So the way the book began and the way it ended was the same: giving the assurance that God's Words were faithful true and could be trusted.

Revelation 1: 4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

3. The angel also confirmed what **John wrote similarly in one of this earlier letters.**

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— 2 the life was manifested 证实, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—

4. The angel confirmed his words by appealing back to **what the prophets said.** How does he do this?

The angel does this by equating his faithful and true words with established Holy Scriptures. Just as no one doubted Moses' or Elijah's words, so no one should doubt the words he was speaking. Neither John nor his hearers had the right to doubt his words.

5. **The angel added weight further to his assertions (that the words he spoke were faithful and true) by pointing out to the nearness** of the fulfillment of what he was saying. In other words, the readers won't have to have faith in these promises for long. They would see them come to reality. Chilton: Revelation was like a memo, not a distant prophecy, but of something that would shortly happen. You see this urgency as you read other parts of Revelation as well. Eg.

Revelation 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Revelation 3: 11 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

The ones who pierced the Lord would still be alive when he returned in judgment. This was not a generic statement that the Jews in general would see Jesus at the end of the earth. It is true that the Jews would also see Jesus, but the context doesn't allow for that meaning here.

**6. This reassurance that the angel gave to John would have also reinforced what the suffering Christians** might have read in other letters from other Apostles before this time. When you read some of the other letters (epistles) you can see the expectation of the writers of the New Testament who constantly talked about the nearness of Christ's coming.

James 5:8 You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

2Peter 3:12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

1John 2:18 Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.

Hebrews 10:37 "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry等候.

2Thessalonians 2: 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by his appearing and his coming.

These Bible writers were not deceived or confused, as some scholars argue. They did not think that the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final coming of Christ was near. Rather, these authors were speaking under Divine inspiration that God's promises would soon come to pass, that Israel would be destroyed, and a new covenant people would be established.

**7. Why are these words confirmed and reconfirmed and reaffirmed by the angels, Christ, and his Apostles?** It is as if the Lord anticipated that there would be people who might say: "Well, there is so much trouble in the world now, and persecution is everywhere, so God must be speaking of some distant future event. He couldn't possibly be saying that he is coming in judgment soon and he certainly would not be stopping the Jewish hierarchy 掌权者 and the Roman government." So these words of reassurance (when joined also with what other Apostles and Christ) would have strengthened the faith of the new Christians. Many reputable testimonies confirmed truth.

8. So this is why this is a New Year's message! You are living in the time of spread of the church. This is an irrevocable destiny 注定. But you are also living at a time of a suffering church. There is physical suffering in other countries but there is also suffering here in North America. One illustration: I believe Christians, especially our young people, are psychologically 心理上 and spiritually being persecuted. They are pressured to act like the world and believe like the world by their teachers and their peers. They are also bombarded 轰击 with deceptive advertisements everywhere and they feel pressured to lust for earthly things. So you might not be falsely imprisoned, or beaten on your backs, but persecution is nonetheless real. You therefore need the reassurance that only God's Words are faithful and true. Follow them and live a fulfilled life. Avoid them and die an aggravating death – where the conscience does not die but accuses forever.

### **Response to God's Word**

8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

**1. Worship:** When John was assured and reassured multiple times of God's promise to preserve and expand his church and that his troubles were only temporary, what was his response? Wasn't it to worship...properly worship the one who was well able to give him these assurances? And that is exactly what John attempted to do... The problem with John's response was that his worship was not directed to the right source. Maybe he was just struck with awe at the great love and promises of God through the angel to a greatly suffering church. Nevertheless, he was wrong to worship the angel. The Bible teaches that men would judge angels...and therefore angels were not to be objects of worship. Angels work for the protection of God's children. Further, man was not to worship anyone or anything other than God.

10 And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.

**2. Speak Words of comfort to others who were suffering.** Since there was great worry among the churches about their very survival, the angel warned John not to "to seal up the words." They were words of comfort and hope. The church would not only survive, but it would thrive 兴旺. Revelation was not a hidden secret, but truth to be revealed to the benefits of the saints. That is why it is called revelation and not "concealation 隐藏" of Jesus Christ. On the contrary to John's Revelation, Daniel was told to conceal the words of his book because they would come true later – at the time of the end of the Jewish order – 500 years later. But John is told to reveal the truth because the time was right at hand. (See how ridiculous it is when people see Revelation as some distant occurrence? They have to take plain language and make it complicated with twists and turns.) John's day was the end of times – the end of the Jewish order.

Daniel 12: 4 "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

See the beauty of how Scripture explains Scripture?

11 "He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

**3. Live Differently from the world:** The angel concluded with this remarkable warning to live differently from the world because the Bride of Christ was different. One man said that man had to have “epistemological 认识论的 self-consciousness 自我意识.” Be aware of how you are to live. So this was not a command to live however you wish – that is a sin. No, this was a warning...a warning that judgment was coming and that if you want to live however you want to live, that you will promptly reap the harvest of your behavior – good or bad.

**4. Live in obedience to the Words.** You see this back in Verse 7.

7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Specifically, Christians were not to fear the temporary problem but face the fire of the foes, and obey the Word of God...knowing that Christian triumphalism 必胜信念 was the center of God's promise.

### **Conclusion:**

Revelation, like the rest of Scriptures, is part of God's love letter to his church. It is reliable and trustworthy. God is able to do what he desires to do for his Bride. The Bride then must be comforted when she goes through difficult times in her life. The Bride must rejoice when things go well. And whether things are bad or good, the Bride must worship the one who rescued her from darkness and established her in the light. And the Bride must work – work at sharing the message of hope to the world – telling the world that Jehovah God is the one true God of heaven and earth.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: As we conclude these Lord's Day services, let me ask you:

1. Do you trust the Lord's Words...that they are really true... and that if you (and all men) obey them faithfully...your life will please the Lord? Or do you see God's Words as merely a religious text that you read from time to time to fulfill some general sense of spirituality?

2. If God's Words are truly reliable, as the Bible says, then do you worship him like you really ought to? Do you let God's Words comfort you when you have deep darkness...and struggles of every kind in your home? Does God Words cause you to live differently from the world?

3. Do you pray: (Matthew 6:10) "Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven."? Do you really believe this? If you do, you will live in a way that will make this happen – not cowardly but with courage and patience. Your side will win. Truth will triumph. Christ will be glorified.

Finally, if you have never thought of the significance of God's Words, think about it today. God's Words contain the only way to be saved from your sins...sins that will otherwise land you in hell. Look to God's Words and learn the Jesus died for the sins of the world. Whoever believes that he lived and died for him will inherit eternal life.