

LESSON 12

FINAL ADMONITIONS

THE RIVER AND THE TREE OF LIFE (22:1–5)

To this point, John had been permitted to see the city from afar. In 22:1–5, he was apparently invited inside for a glimpse of what God has in store for His children.

1. How do verses 1 through 5 fulfill the three basic needs for life?
2. How could the tree of life have been “on either side of the river” (22:2)?
3. What does the phrase “twelve kinds of fruit” signify in verse 2?
4. In what sense will Christians be healed in heaven?
5. What is significant about the statement “His bond-servants will serve Him” in verse 3?
6. What does verse 4 mean when it says that “His name will be on their foreheads”?

WORDS WHICH ARE FAITHFUL AND TRUE (22:6, 7)

This brief section begins with the angel telling John, “These words are faithful and true.” Jesus has already been characterized as “faithful and true” (3:14; 19:11); it is natural for His Word to share these characteristics.

7. In what ways is the angel’s statement in verse 6 significant?
8. What thoughts from Revelation 22 reflect the opening words of the book?

JOHN AND THE ANGEL (22:8, 9)

John wanted his readers to be sure of the authenticity of what he wrote. Thus God reminds the reader that the Book of Revelation is not, as some think, an assortment of thoughts from uninspired sources; it comes from *Him*.

9. How might John's action in verse 8 differ from his similar action in 19:10?
10. What tradition in church history does verse 9 condemn?

"DO NOT SEAL UP THE SCROLL" (22:10, 11)

Verse 7 emphasized the need for obedience (see vv. 14, 15), but *when* should we obey the Lord? The answer to that question is suggested in verses 10 and 11, verses which contain peculiar language.

11. Why did the Lord tell wrongdoers to continue in their evil ways (22:11)?
12. What is the message of verse 11?

"I AM COMING QUICKLY" (22:12–15)

Revelation begins and ends with emphasis on grace (1:4; 22:21), but the book has also put great stress on obedience, on deeds, and on the kind of life we are to lead (2:2; 14:13; 20:12).

13. What does the Greek word translated "reward" in verse 12 mean?
14. Of what significance is the phrase "those who wash their robes" in verse 14?
15. What does the term "dogs" refer to in 22:15?

THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE'S INVITATION (22:16, 17)

In the first chapter John addressed "the seven churches that are in Asia" (1:4; see 1:11). In the last chapter the Lord told John, "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches." Again, God emphasized the importance of the local congregation. He reminded Christians that the book as a whole was designed to help and strengthen local churches.

16. What does calling Jesus "the bright morning star" (22:16) suggest about Him?

17. To whom are the “comes” in verse 17 addressed?

TESTIMONY TO THE MESSAGE (22:18–21)

Since the Bible is from God, we should respect it. Nowhere is this thought expressed more emphatically than in the powerful words found in verses 18 and 19.

18. Why does the Book of Revelation close with such ominous threats?

19. Where in Scripture can thoughts similar to verse 19 be found?

20. What is the significance of the word translated “Come, Lord Jesus” in verse 20?