

1 **A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

LESSON 73

2 **OPENING REMARKS**

- Our studies into biblical prophecies has brought our minds to our lives today and what is happening to the world round and about us
- Today we'll be finishing our study of the Book of Revelation
- We are in the 22nd chapter starting with verse 6
- This is Jesus speaking to John as he was caught up from the isle of Patmos in our stead to show us the future but it was as though John was there in the last days as we will actually be someday

3 **FAITHFUL AND TRUE**

Revelation 22:6-9

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

7 Behold, I come quickly. Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things.

9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

4 **A GREAT FAITH-BUILDER**

Revelation 22:10

10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

- The sayings of the prophecy of this Book are a sacred trust committed unto us until our Lord comes

- These prophecies today are one of the most powerful weapons in the hands of believers, why is this?
- They are not just for us alone, even though they are a great faith builder for us, because we can see them coming true
- The Scriptures tell us that you can know a true prophet by whether their words come true or not

5 **THIS WORD IS TRUTH**

- These Scriptures that we have studied for such a long time in this Book of Revelation of Jesus Christ certainly has built our faith
- Over the several years it has taken us to study this book we have certainly seen many things escalate and prophecies come true
- This is living proof that this Word is truth
- We know from studying the Scriptures and from history that from the beginning the Bible is history written before it happened, especially the books of Revelation, Daniel, and Isaiah
- The prophets who wrote these books wrote history before it ever happened

6 **MESSAGES FOR THEIR TIMES**

- We can look back and see it happened exactly as the prophecies said they would
- We need to know these prophecies, not only for our own good which is important, but we need to know them to use them for witnessing and proof that this Word of God is real
- God gave Moses, one of God's first prophets, the message for the children of Israel
- God gave the prophets, each in turn, a message for their day
- In those long years in the wilderness, God gave John the Baptist the message peculiarly suited to his day

7 **PROVEN BY THE WORD**

- Likewise, the apostles and their successors, the leaders of the Great Reformation, the evangelists and missionaries of all ages- all have received from God the particular message for their times

- How does this come about? How do we know these messages are from God?
- They are proven by the Word, prophets need never go outside of this Word of God
- It has already been written in advance
- The Word and the Holy Spirit bear witness to the message just like Scripture bears witness to Scripture
- The Word that we can read and know of assurity is exactly as God intended it to be

8 **MESSAGES FOR THE TIME**

- It is foolish for people to listen to other people telling us what the Bible means or does not mean
- God would never allow His Word to be changed
- God's Word is exactly the same as He intended it to be
- There have been a lot of translations of the Bible and untold numbers of books written aimed at helping us understand the Bible, but we don't need them
- The Word of God is self explanatory
- We can understand the messages of the time because they are within this Word of God: there is no message from God that is different from this Bible

9 **PECULIAR TO OUR TIME**

- Know that there are some religions that claim new revelations from God – there are no new revelations from God outside of this Bible, none!
- The Word of God tells us there is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9)
- The message(s) for the time in which we live is from the Word of God and it is brought out at the time that we are living in
- The Spirit reveals from the Word what is our time
- By this we can see and understand how God has a message for us today that is peculiar to our time

- What is God's message to us, His people, today?

10 **AN OPEN DOOR**

- We can look at history and see the messages that God had for those before us
- The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is for the dispensation of grace; that whole time period from His death on the cross to the Rapture
- Some suggestions of messages for our present day, peculiarly for our generation include: hold fast to the Name of Jesus and what we have, that He comes quickly, He sets before us an open door
- God has opened the door and is reaching out to mankind and He tells us to go and be witnesses and bring them to Him
- This is our greatest message and it is proven by His Word and by what is happening in the world today

11 **HIS SPECIAL MESSAGE**

- The message is that Jesus Christ is coming back soon: it is for our generation
- We don't know the day nor the hour of His return but we do know the season
- We just need to look round and about us; this is what prophecy is all about
- Aside from the DBR, the Gospel message being applied for our salvation, His message for us today is His soon coming back
- This is His special message for us today in the last days and it is in the last book of His Word; the Book of Revelation
- This message is: the time is at hand

12 **THE MESSAGES FOR OUR DAY**

Revelation 22:10

10 And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

Daniel 12:9

9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

- We can understand these prophecies because they are for us
- Biblical prophecies that are not for us are very difficult to understand as they are meant for certain times and certain places

13 **TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND**

- We are supposed to know and understand the prophecies of Revelation as they are for us
- His Word tells us to publish it, proclaim it, teach it, for in verse 7 He says "blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."
- You cannot keep them unless you know them
- We have to study it to understand it and then we can publish, proclaim, teach, and be witnesses of it
- This is why God has put an open door to mankind in our generation: it is for us today
- It is up to us to do whatever we have been called to do but we must know and understand this Word to do it

14 **TO WIELD THE SWORD**

- To know and proclaim this message is to wield the sword of the Spirit with the peculiar power of the mighty men of old
- The Word of God is not finished yet and won't be finished until these prophecies are fulfilled and He says "It is done."
- God does not change what He says (Numbers 23:19)
- This Bible is all we need and all we ever will need
- The following Scriptures are easy to understand but many people haven't even taken the time to read them or look into what they say

15 **NO MORE CHANGE**

Revelation 22:11-15

11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still : and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

16 **THE RAPTURE**

- We can see from verse 11 that Jesus is saying that at His Second Coming, or at the moment your life stops, there is no more change: you are what you are for eternity
- There is an air of finality about these words
- We are studying in the very last chapter of last book of the Bible
- In prophecy, where we are in time, the next prophecy to take place is the Rapture, when Jesus steps out in the clouds to take His church up to be with Him
- These are the saints, from the first martyr Stephen all the way to those who are still alive at His stepping out of the clouds, who will be caught up to meet Him

17 **THE PROPHETIC SEQUENCE**

- The Rapture is the next prophesied event
- It could be anytime but it is not a long time off
- Prophecy shows us we are at the end of our dispensation
- After the Rapture, immediately comes the 3-1/2 years of the Great Tribulation where those will have to shed their blood, lose their lives, for their salvation, mostly by not taking the mark of the beast
- The world then enters a 7-year period of judgement only: no mercy and no salvation for anyone
- This 7-year period has been mistaken by some to be the period of the Great Tribulation but this view takes only into account the Old

Testament prophecies in Daniel

18 **THE PROPHETIC SEQUENCE cont.**

- Daniel is talking to the Jews and his message is for his time
- The Jews will have this 7 years of judgement but the Tribulation time is not dealing with them
- The Tribulation deals with all nations, kindreds, tongues and people but not the Jews
- Daniel's time starts after the 3-1/2 years of the Great Tribulation
- The 7 years of judgement is two 3-1/2 year periods of judgement of the inhabitants of the earth who would not be saved or changed
- At the end of the 7 years judgement comes the Battle of Armageddon

19 **THE PROPHETIC SEQUENCE cont.**

- The armies gather on the Plain of Megiddo but the battle is actually fought in Jerusalem
- Satan gathers the armies of the world to battle because He knows it is time for Jesus to come back with His army and set foot on and take possession of the earth
- The Battle of Armageddon is where Jesus, by the Word of His mouth, destroys Satan's armies and puts him in chains for 1,000 years
- Then starts the 1,000 year reign of Jesus and His saints which is a time of perfect government on the earth

20 **THE PROPHETIC SEQUENCE cont.**

- At the end of the 1,000 years Satan is loosed for a short while, gathers those who would follow him, and they all together are cast into the lake of fire for eternity
- We then come to the time we have been recently studying where the Holy City, New Jerusalem, the home of the bride, comes down out of heaven and hangs over the redeemed earth
- Jesus is talking about this time in which we are to be in eternity; what we are in this life when we die or are raptured
- There will be no chance of change after this point in time

21 **WE MUST CHANGE IN THIS LIFE**

- We must do our changing right here
- At that time we will have reached a changeless state
- This will certainly be a new experience for us
- Throughout our whole existence change has been a controlling factor
- The new world we will be living in is the world of Him who changes not
- It is important that we understand this situation right now; because, if there is no change, we will have to spend eternity in the same condition as when we go into it

22 **THE TIME TO CHANGE**

- What we think does not matter at all
- What does matter is what the Word of God says: it is what we can live by or what we can die by
- Don't take a chance with your soul by leaning to your own understanding; it will not take you out of your sins
- If we are not satisfied with the state of our heart or mind according to the Word, or you are not growing in God as you should, right now is the time to change
- Your life cannot be changed once God makes His decision
- We must make a total commitment to truth

23 **ATTAIN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HOLINESS**

- It is impossible to serve God and serve your natural (mammon) (Matthew 6:24)
- It is in this life that we must attain righteousness and holiness that is necessary to spend the next life eternally in this beautiful holy city that God has prepared for us
- We must attain this righteousness and holiness without which, the Scriptures say, you will not see God (Hebrews 12:14)
- In verse 12 Jesus says "...I come quickly;" which does not mean immediately in this rendering

- This is talking about the manner of His coming not the time of His coming

24 **OUR REWARDS**

- All the Scriptures pertaining to this event say His appearing will be suddenly

Revelation 22:12

12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

- Our salvation is based on our faith but our rewards are based on our works that we do and we all have to work
- The suddenness of His coming will not allow time to change or repent, or build up rewards
- Rewards are built up over a lifetime of love, commitment, dedication, and obedience

25 **HE COMES SUDDENLY**

I Corinthians 15:52

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

I Thessalonians 5:2

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

- The parable of the 10 virgins where the 5 foolish virgins slept and let their oil get used up by the cares of this life and they were not ready when time came

26 **WE MUST STAY FULL**

- We all need to stay full by filling up with the Holy Ghost at God's filling station which is wherever you are on your knees before God
- The 5 foolish ones were sleeping when He came back meaning they were not aware of what was taking place
- When He came back they did not have enough power of the Holy

Ghost to take them up

- He took those who were ready, full of the Holy Ghost, and shut the door on the others
- When they came later and said "Lord let us in" He told them "I never knew you"
- Just receiving the Holy Ghost is not enough: you have to stay full of it

27 **BEING READY**

- When you stumble don't ever stay down
- If people realized that the time for rewards had come, they would rush out and do something
- If you knew you had 24 hours until His return, what would you do?
- What doth hinder us right now from doing those things that would better our chances of being caught away with Him?
- The 5 wise virgins are one of our best examples to follow
- There will be no such last minute opportunities given though, as He will come quickly

28 **BEING READY cont.**

- He will come suddenly and we will not have time to change, not even blink and eye

Matthew 25:1-5

1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

2 And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

3 They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

4 but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

5 While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

29 **BEING READY cont.**

Matthew 25:6-10

6 And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom

cometh; go ye out to meet him.

7 Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

8 And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

9 But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

10 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

30 **BEING READY cont.**

Matthew 25:11-13

11 Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

12 But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

13 Watch therefore; for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

I Corinthians 15:50

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

31 **BEING READY cont.**

I Corinthians 15:51-53

51 Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

- These Scriptures show us what He is talking about in Revelation chapter 22

32 **BLESSED ARE THEY....**

Revelation 22:14

14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

- We must be sure we keep His Word because without that we will not have rights to the tree of life or enter into the gates of this city
- We must not be hearers of the Word only, we must be doers of the Word (James 1:22)
- We must be like those who build their house on solid rock; that rock being Jesus Christ (Luke 6:48)

33 **CLOSING IT OUT**

Revelation 22:16-19

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.

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.

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:

34 **CLOSING IT OUT cont.**

Revelation 22:19-21

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.

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.

- In verse 16 we see Jesus pleading for His people to listen

- In verse 17 we see a double invitation

35 **A DOUBLE INVITATION**

- The first invitation is an invitation to Jesus Christ to come, now
- The next is an invitation to all who thirst, to come now while there is still time, and take freely of the water of life, that is the Holy Ghost, right now

John 4:10, 13

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

36 **THE TRUE WORSHIPPERS**

John 4:14, 23-24

14 but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

- You cannot worship God without knowing who He is; without having the truth of His Word
- You cannot worship God without having the Holy Spirit to worship with

37 **THE WELL OF LIVING WATER**

- God is a spirit and to worship Him is a spiritual worship
- We can pray until we can receive the Holy Spirit and God will give it to you

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.

- The Holy Spirit is this well of living water springing up that is a gift only from God, no man can give this to you

38 **UNIQUE TO REVELATION**

- This Book of Revelation is the only book that is specifically appointed to be read in in the churches, to be studied (Revelation chapter 1)
- It is the only book that contains a description of Jesus Christ
- It is also the only book that contains a word from Jesus after His ascension
- He said before He left "I go and prepare a place for you" (John 14:3) and after He had gone, He sent back this message telling us about this place
- Seven times in this book He repeats "He that hath an er let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches"

39 **SPIRITUAL HEARING**

- This is not natural hearing that He is talking about
- Will you listen with your soul, and your heart, and your whole being to what He is saying?
- Hear the word that He is speaking through this Word
- How sad it is that the particular Bible study of the Book of Revelation is not studied more, in fact the whole Word needs more study but especially this book
- The Book of Revelation can only be understood by the Spirit
- As we look at the closing of this book we need to listen to these beautiful words as there is such a tenderness in the closing verses

40 **GENTLY HE SPEAKS...**

- There is a tenderness for God's people and for those He is calling to become His
- One can almost hear the tears in His voice as He pleads with His

- people, His church, concerning His coming
- His church is not an organization or a denomination: He does not name them once in the Bible
 - His church is His people following His Word, filled with His Spirit, that have that Name of Jesus and they are living holy wherever they are in this world
 - Listen to these last verses with your spiritual ears, what God is trying to show us personally and how gently He speaks here

41 **GOD'S FINAL WORD**

Revelation 22:16-19

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.

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.

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:

42 **GOD'S FINAL WORD cont.**

Revelation 22:19-21

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.

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.

- We see here Jesus pleading with His people concerning His coming as He did with Israel at the end of His earthly ministry

43 **1ST CENTURY JERUSALEM GRAPHIC**

