

International Bible Lessons Commentary

Revelation 22:1-7

King James Version

International Bible Lessons

Sunday, November 20, 2016

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

The **International Bible Lesson** (*Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series*) for **Sunday, November 20, 2016**, is from **Revelation 22:1-7**. [Including **Revelation 22:8-10** below] **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** follow the verse-by-verse *International Bible Lesson Commentary*. **Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further** discusses *Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further* to help with class preparation and in conducting class discussion: these hints are available on the **International Bible Lessons Commentary** website along with the *International Bible Lesson* that you may want to read to your class as part of your Bible study. If you are a Bible student or teacher, you can discuss each week's commentary and lesson at the **International Bible Lesson Forum**.

International Bible Lesson Commentary

Revelation 22:1-7

(Revelation 22:1) And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well that He could give her living water, “a spring of water gushing up to eternal life” (John 4: 7, 14). Jesus told His disciples that He was “the life” (John 14:6). One throne is present in heaven for God and the Lamb (Jesus, the Son of God), and life giving water flows from God and the Lamb, just as Jesus said to the woman and to His disciples. No one can live long without water, and we depend totally on God for life, both physical and spiritual. The water that God gives is pure as clear crystal, so the water God gives is perfect for helping us maintain our spiritual health and eternal life.

(Revelation 22:2) In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

If we picture this scene in our minds, the river is in the middle of the city and it runs through the trunk of the tree of life and the saints are permitted to eat of its fruit. The tree provides a variety of fruit in an orderly, regular, and dependable sequence to provide food for life and leaves for healing. All of our basic needs are provided by God. God gives us the opportunity and responsibility to drink of the water He provides; eat of the fruit He provides, and heal

our diseases by the leaves He provides. If we do not use what God has so richly bestowed upon us we will be thirsty, hungry, and spiritually ill.

(Revelation 22:3) And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:

Those who want nothing to do with the believer's way of life will not be forced to live with them, and believers will not be forced to live with those who despise their way of life by the way they live. God has prepared a place for believers and a place for those who reject God and the way of life God offers to all (Jesus said He was the way: John 14:6). God promises in the Revelation that believers will no longer suffer from the words, works, and persecution of unbelievers. As we focus our attention on God and the blessings He offers us by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, we feel inspired to love and worship God more and more.

(Revelation 22:4) And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

If we follow Jesus, we will see the face of God, and the face of Jesus, who now lives within the heart of every believer. Jesus said, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). Jesus will write His name on our foreheads because we belong to Him, and we rejoice in the knowledge of that fact. Everyone will see the name of

Jesus whenever they look upon one another. The name Jesus means “God is Salvation,” and the name on our foreheads will proclaim that truth to all forever. The salvation of each person does and will depend on Jesus each “moment” of eternity to the praise of His Name.

(Revelation 22:5) And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

In this world, night is needed for rest and the renewal of our minds and bodies. In the heavenly city, with our renewed spiritual minds and later with our resurrected bodies, we will not need night. Night might also symbolize darkness and the fears that sometimes accompany spending time in darkness: there will be no more darkness or fear. No evil ones will be at work in the night, and no sins or evil deeds can be done under the cover of darkness, for all will be in God’s light and God will rule over all in the light of His truth.

(Revelation 22:6) And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

The words of the Lord God are trustworthy and true, and God so watched over His angels and His prophets in the Bible that what He revealed through them and what the

biblical writers recorded can be trusted and is without error. Jesus ushered in the last days with His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension to heaven. In the light of eternity, the redemption He promised of heaven and earth will soon take place.

(Revelation 22:7) Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Jesus is coming soon, and these days of trial and trouble may indicate He is coming very soon, within the lifetime of this generation. We can focus on and rejoice in this hope in our days of difficulty, as we pass through various ordeals. We can be happy and rejoice if we trust in and obey the words of Jesus as He spoke to the seven churches. Jesus challenges each person to conquer (in many cases, “to conquer themselves” through loving, trusting, and obeying Jesus as their Lord and Savior).

Revelation 22:8-10

(Revelation 22:8) 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 shewed me these things.

Throughout most of the Bible, the angels are so glorious and mighty they inspired human worship, as in the case of John here, but God’s angels always told those who would worship them to worship God. What the angel revealed,

John both saw and heard, and the content of the revelation John received inspired John's worship of the true God.

(Revelation 22:9) Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

Both the angels of God and the apostles rejected the worship of men. Satan wanted Jesus to worship him and Satan wants people to worship him today. Demons create idols for people to worship instead of worshiping God. Those who are the true servants of God, who keep (or obey) the words of the Bible, worship God only and tell others to worship God only. The entire New Testament encourages the worship of God the Father and Jesus, the Son of God (the Lamb on the throne). The Holy Spirit helps us worship the true God rightly.

(Revelation 22:10) And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

After Daniel received a vision, he was told, "The vision of the evenings and mornings that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future" (Daniel 8:26). The distant future referred to the coming of Jesus Christ. John was told to do the opposite so everyone between his day and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ could read the revelation he received and study the

mysteries it revealed. As the Book of Revelation discloses, the time had come for opening seals and revealing mysteries, and Jesus was worthy to open the seals because He had fulfilled God's purpose of redeeming His people through Him: "And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation'" (Revelation 5:9). These people make up the Christian nations and kings that will enter the Holy City after it descends as described in Revelation 21. Likewise, John is told not to seal up his scroll (book), but to make it available for believers and unbelievers to read in order for them to be encouraged or warned before Christ came again. "The time is near" that was revealed to John came nearer after Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. "The time is near" for all who believe in Christ Jesus, for Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (John 14:1-3). The Christians who have gone to heaven when Jesus came for them have joined together in the Holy City, the Bride of Christ, that will descend from heaven as John described in Revelation 21. The time of Jesus' coming was nearer for all of the apostles who died a martyr's death than it was for the Apostle John. The time of Jesus' Second

Coming is nearer for us than it was for the Apostle John. All those who say they follow Jesus Christ need to be prepared for His coming whenever and however He comes.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. Read John 4:10 and Revelation 22:1. What did Jesus say He would give to the woman that He will give to everyone on the new earth? Why is this gift important?
2. Read Genesis 3:22-24 and Revelation 22:2. How does the old earth differ from the new earth?
3. Read Revelation 22:1-2. What facts might the two different gifts from God symbolize on the new earth?
4. Read Genesis 3:14-19 and Revelation 22:3-4. What are some of the benefits that believers in Jesus Christ will enjoy on the new earth?
5. What do these verses in the Book of Revelation teach us about the words of God and the Bible.

Begin or close your class by reading the short weekly
International Bible Lesson.

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