

International Bible Lessons Commentary

Revelation 22:11-21

New American Standard Bible

International Bible Lessons

Sunday, November 27, 2016

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The [International Bible Lesson](#) (*Uniform Sunday School Lessons Series*) for **Sunday, November 27, 2016**, is from **Revelation 22:11-21**. **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 22:11-21

(Revelation 22:11) “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.”

There will come a time when the character and eternal destiny of a person has been decided. That time will come before death or before the second coming of Jesus Christ. A vile person, one who has chosen to revile the truth of God and has refused to repent and turn to Jesus Christ in faith and worse, will continue to live a vile life forever. By the grace of God, those who have consecrated themselves to doing right as their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has taught them will continue to love and serve Christ forever.

(Revelation 22:12) “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

Jesus Christ continued to speak to John and He wanted His words and promises recorded for everyone to read throughout history before His second coming. Jesus Christ has promised rewards to His faithful followers. He has an inheritance for each believer, and some of His gifts will be related to every believer's individual work. These

rewards are in addition to the gift of eternal life, which is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Eternal life is a free gift of God which believers receive by faith. The Bible proclaims the importance of each individual when Jesus declared He will give rewards to each person according to what they have done rather than simply give everyone the same gifts without regard to their works of faith, their unique personality and interests. Most importantly, the reward that Jesus brings with Him is the Bride of Christ, the Church, those believers who have died before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, those Jesus came and took to heaven between the deaths of the first and last Christian to die before His coming again, those He will reward on the new earth in the Holy City.

(Revelation 22:13) “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

Jesus concluded His revelation as He began it. Jesus is the true God who sits on the throne of God with His Father (see Revelation 1:8). Jesus is the Beginning and the End (as the Son of God, Jesus is eternal and infinite). In this verse, Jesus said essentially the same thing using three different sets of words. Jesus was before creation began and He will bring the old earth to pass and create the new earth and the new heavens.

(Revelation 22:14) Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

Blessed (or happy) are those who have accepted the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ in their behalf (have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb). Happy are those who have accepted forgiveness and cleansing from sin through the power of Jesus' death and resurrection. As holy people continuing to be holy through faith in Jesus, they have a right to the tree of life that Adam and Eve forfeited for themselves and their descendants because of their rebellion against God. True believers in Jesus Christ can come into the presence of God and the Lamb of God that sits upon the throne in the Holy City.

(Revelation 22:15) Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

The people listed here are those who have been separated from the presence of God forever. They remain vile forever. They will not be allowed into the presence of God and His loved ones (those who love God because He first loved them). These people do not have access to the new earth and the new heavens or the Holy City. They love and practice all that is contrary to the Way, the Truth, and the Life – Jesus Christ the Lord. They would not want to be with God's people, who would not want to be with them either.

(Revelation 22:16) “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

After declaring that He is God, the Alpha and Omega, Jesus declared that He is also the fully human Person who came as the foretold Messiah and Redeemer. Jesus wanted (and still wants) all churches to know and proclaim the facts about Himself for all to believe and come to saving faith. Jesus was from (and the Creator of) the tribe of Judah, the Root of David. He was the promised descendant of David (the Messiah). The bright Morning Star is the brightest star in the sky before a new day; the Book of Revelation foretells the beginning of a new day when Jesus Christ comes again and creates a new earth and new heavens. Jesus exists from Beginning to End, and almost 2000 years ago He came from heaven to earth to save God’s people. He will come from heaven to earth again, and Jesus revealed these truths to John and to us in the Book of Revelation.

(Revelation 22:17) The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

Jesus spoke the words of God to John; words that are trustworthy and true. Even as God the Father gave His Son to the world to save all who believe in Him, so the Church (the Bride of Christ) and the Holy Spirit with the Church will extend the gospel message (the good news) to all tribes and nations before Jesus Christ comes again (see John 3:16). God’s great offer of salvation is good news for all who feel trapped in vile behavior and want to escape, and only Jesus Christ and the Spirit through the Word of God (the Truth of the Bible) can save those who trust in Jesus Christ from continuing as slaves to sin forever. God offers everyone the free gift of the water of life, and they can choose to accept and drink that water or refuse it. Some will drink the water of life eagerly, and others will refuse because they prefer to remain vile.

(Revelation 22:18) I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book;

The Bible gives numerous warnings to people so they will choose not to live godless lives, but far more numerous are the free offers of salvation from sin and the gift of eternal life for those who will accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The words of warning here can justifiably be extended to the entire Bible. Jesus warns against adding any words (or books) to the Bible, whether one supposes they are “helping God” or because they love and practice falsehood (see Revelation 22:15). God promises consequences follow choices. The Church believes that for good and sufficient reasons

the Holy Spirit through Church leaders set the limits of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and no books or words should be added or deleted from the Bible.

(Revelation 22:19) and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

For hundreds, if not thousands, of years, those who have loved falsehood or have thought that they could improve God's words (the Bible) have taken some teachings and words away from the Scriptures. Those who take away God's words, perhaps because they want to lead people away from God or because they find the truth uncomfortable, will not be allowed into the presence of God and God's people. Even today, some who feel spiritually dead may not know or be willing to accept the fact that they have added to or taken away from the words and teachings of the Bible (or have been deceived by some who have done this). Altering the Bible can also be done through false teaching or denying some truths in the Bible that are eternal and intended for all times and places.

(Revelation 22:20) He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Jesus added His testimony or witness at the end of the book that could be acceptable in a court of law (people testify in court) and to any believer in the words John recorded in the Book of Revelation. The entire book points to the second coming of Jesus Christ when the disciplinary effects of the Fall of man will be removed because they will not be needed by those who will live holy forever. We are encouraged to pray for Jesus to come soon as John did when he said "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

(Revelation 22:21) The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

The entire Book of Revelation is also a letter to the Church (see the letters to the seven churches in Revelation 1-3). John closed the book or letter in ways similar to the ways other New Testament letters were concluded. God through the Lord Jesus Christ manifests His love and grace: when Jesus came to save God's people from their sins, when Jesus helps God's people daily, and when the Bride of Christ (God's people) proclaim the saving message of Jesus Christ that God might be glorified and many come to saving faith in Jesus Christ. "Amen" can be interpreted as "So be it!) May God's grace and peace be with God's people forever. Come, Lord Jesus.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What warning or hope do people receive from Revelation 22:11?
2. How does Revelation 22:12 encourage you?
3. What are three names or descriptions of God that Jesus applied to himself in Revelation 22:13?
4. How did Jesus describe or reveal His human nature?
5. What will happen to the person who adds to the scroll (the Bible) or takes away from it (the Bible)?

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