

**Revelation**  
**A Wednesday Night Bible Study**

Lesson #104  
10/29/2008

**"The Lord's Final Words: Part 1"**  
**Revelation 22:6**

**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 show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.**

With the words **"And he said unto me"** John identifies the one speaking to him as the same angel identified in 21:9. At least three times God gave a very important assignment to this angel. The first of these times was when this angel was one of those who carried out God's horrific final judgment upon this wicked world at the close of the **Tribulation Period**. Then, he had poured one of **"the seven vials full of the last seven plagues"** as described in Revelation 15:1-17:18.

Possibly, this assignment was a time of great sorrow, even for those angels who had observed the wicked rebellion of man against God over the centuries. Knowing the heart of God, as surely the angels must, he and the others would have known that God never wanted to destroy anyone, even those who flaunted their rebellion against His holiness. This angel would have known what God meant as He told Ezekiel to warn the rebellious: **"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"** (Ezekiel 33:11).

Repeatedly God had his preachers and prophets convey the message that His desire was to pour out His mercy and grace upon wicked men rather than judgment. Of this Paul wrote to Timothy to make sure he understood what God wanted to happen: **"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth"** (1 Timothy 2:4). Peter, when writing about how strongly God desired for man to accept His offer of redemption before it was too late, said: **"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"** (2 Peter 3:9). God is such a God of love and grace that it is slanderous for any preacher or theologian to even imply, much less proclaim, that God has predetermined that some could not be saved rather than wanting even the most wicked of men to be saved.

The next time this angel was specifically identified was in 21:9 when he had a far different assignment from God; an assignment, not of judgment, but one of great joy. John tells us: **"And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife."** This angel, who had been one of those faithfully carrying out God's final judgments during the Tribulation Period, then had the joyful assignment of showing John a view of God's glorious eternal heaven.

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

**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.**

**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:**

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

**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 forever and ever.**

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Now, this same angel has another assignment, a final assignment, one that is extremely serious and somber, particularly for anyone who has failed to accept the words of God as being true when he delivers God's final message to mankind.

**“And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true ...”**

One may wonder why the eternal, holy God who cannot lie even needs to make such a statement — surely, man knows that God always tells the truth. If He were to lie or deceive about even one thing, He would no longer be a holy, righteous God. And yet, every age of mankind has known those who seem to think that God has either not been able to say what He wants to say or has been less than truthful in what He has said.

Indeed, the arrogance of man is astounding. Sometimes, under the cover of “scholarship” men attempt to subject the eternal, omnipotent, omniscient God to the same paltry earthly standards by which one man measures the words and works of other men. Such is seemingly done without any awareness on the part of such men that those standards were not devised by men to measure and verify the words and works of God, but of men. God's Words are different from the words of men, both in essence and in form of delivery.

Repeatedly, God tells us why His Word is different from man's words. In 2 Peter 1:20-21 God tells us: **“Knowing this first, that *no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*”** Stating what God tells us in a slightly different way, we see that God says when He gave His Word through various prophets, whether they were spoken or written, the words were not chosen by the prophets, but were the actual Words of God, selected and dictated by Him to and through those men. When those men spoke and wrote the words, each of the words of the Bible, those were God's own words, and not something that men chose to use.

God commented on this through Paul's writing to Timothy: ***“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”*** (2 Timothy 3:16). This was not something new for God's men. Jeremiah tells us that ***“...the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth”*** (Jeremiah 1:9).

When God gave the Ten Commandments and other laws to Moses on Mt. Sinai, He made sure that what Moses carried on those tablets of stone were exactly what He wanted to tell man. When Moses came down from

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the mountain he carried *“... two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written. And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables”* (Exodus 32:15-16). Furthermore, God Himself wrote those words on the tablets of stone with His own finger: *“And the Lord delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them was written according to all the words, which the Lord spoke with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly”* (Deuteronomy 9:10). To emphasize the fact that the Words He had given to Moses were His Words, not the words of man and not to be changed, God told Moses to warn the people: *“Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you”* (Deuteronomy 4:2).

Yes, Moses, Jeremiah, Peter and Paul, and each of the other prophets, were fallible men, easily capable of errors when they were not functioning under the control and direct inspiration of God, but the Words that they spoke and wrote, which we have in the Bible, were God's very own Words. Though the men often did make mistakes, just like other men, when God used them to transmit His Words, He so inspired and directed them that He eliminated any possibility that there would be any mistakes. When the angel tells John that **“These sayings (words) are faithful and true,”** what he says is really no different from what God says about the rest of His Holy Word. While in this statement the angel was likely referring to the Words dictated to John for the Revelation of Jesus Christ, it was consistent with all of what God has proclaimed through His messengers. Of course, such is to be expected for we have already been told that one of the names of the Lord is **“Faithful and True”** (Revelation 19:11). It is interesting to note that these Words, presented at the very first part of our Lord's final Words to man, are then reemphasized at the last of this final Word in verses 18-19. There God not only emphasizes their importance, but He also issues a stern warning to any man who fails to accept the truthfulness of what He says, here and elsewhere in His holy Word.

Perhaps we need to remind ourselves that God is eternal in nature, He is outside of time. While man has a past, a present and a future, with God, there is no past or future. Everything is always in the present tense. It is as if, from God's viewpoint, our future is already completed. He sees our future as a thing of reality as surely as our past is history to us. When He gave a prophet words to speak or write describing something yet to happen in man's future, it was already historical reality to Him, accomplished fact. What we

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call predictive could be called **“relating reality”** when it comes from God. Of Himself, He said to Isaiah: **“To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them. Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure”** (Isaiah 40:25; 42:9; 46:10). Earlier in this lesson we pondered why God would even need to verify the integrity of His Words. Having considered just a few of His affirmations from throughout His holy Word, it seems to be arrogantly foolish for any man to question or doubt the truthfulness of what God says to us.

Then the angel told John: **“and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.”**

The phrase **“the things which must shortly be done”** repeats a serious warning from God at the very beginning of this Revelation of Jesus Christ: **“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John”** (Revelation 1:1). **“Shortly be done”** and **“shortly come to pass”** are both translations of the same Greek words: **en tachos** (1722, 5034). The expression implies “swiftness, quickness, speed.” God is telling His servants, the saints, that when the events described to John begin to happen, they will occur with swiftness, suddenness, and finality.

When the **Tribulation Period** is introduced by the rapture of the saints, it will happen **“in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye”** (1 Corinthians 15:52). Following that will come the most horrible seven years of tribulation to ever befall this wicked world. Those who are not raptured and are left here on this earth to enter that time of judgment will experience a hell on earth which will be only a suggestive prelude to their eternity in the **“lake of fire burning with brimstone.”** The happening of these events will be so sudden and so swift that it will be impossible for any person to react and change anything. What each person has chosen will be that one's destiny for eternity! When Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 15:52 for **“moment”** he used the Greek word **atomos** (823), the smallest measurement of time known in that day. If it were being written today, perhaps he would say “nanosecond.”

God is telling us that, decisions and preparations must be made beforehand. At the **“moment”** of happening, everyone's eternal destiny will be sealed, fixed, never to be changed. While Paul wrote to the Corinthians, it is surely even more true today: **“...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”** (2 Corinthians 6:2).