

Revelation
A Wednesday Night Bible Study

Lesson #105
11/05/2008

"The Lord's Final Words: Part 2"
Revelation 22:7

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

The last lesson concluded with the following comments on the last phrase of verse six which reads: **"... 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."** So sudden and so swift will these events happen 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.

The two paragraphs above are simply copied and inserted into this lesson because there is no need to re-write them again. The little Greek words, **en tachos** (1722, 5034) are repeated again in verse seven when our Lord tells us that **"Behold, I come quickly."** Not only do these words appear the second time here in verse seven as a part of these closing words of our Lord, they are used two more times, in verses twelve and twenty. Four times the Lord tells us basically the same thing in this brief closing message to mankind! It is that important. Such an emphatic use by our Lord of any statement demands our attention. Having told us that the events revealed in His Revelation to us **"must shortly be done,"** i.e., happen rapidly once they begin, He then tells us four times **"Behold, I come quickly,"** rapidly, suddenly and without any warning. Even a cursory reading of what our Lord has to say to us in this final message should get every reader's attention and cause him to prepare himself for what is about to happen.

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.

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.

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

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Such an emphasis demands that we give serious consideration to this matter of time and eternity. Man lives in a world governed by time. He has a past, which contains his real-life experiences, and a future, which is always unknown, both as regards to its duration and its content. In addition, man lives in the present moment which is constantly changing and becoming a part of his past, so quick that no man can freeze his present. As soon as a man experiences the present moment it becomes a part of his past. Whatever actions he takes or decisions he makes, instantaneously are done and gone. Some of these actions and decisions can be changed and corrected, if wrong, as he moves from his present into his future moments.

Far too often man seems to think and act as if this process will continue, without changing its nature, as long as he wishes. However, no matter how long a person's history is and no matter how many times he has repeated this pattern of living as if there will always be a future, a moment of opportunity in which he can change and correct the errors of his past and present, Jesus is telling him that such is not the case. When God's Word tells us in verse six that **"the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show unto his servants the things which must shortly be done,"** He is not only telling us that the things He has revealed to us in **The Revelation of Jesus Christ** are to take place with rapid suddenness, but He is also warning that all of His dealings with man are about to come to a sudden conclusion.

For about six thousand years (the chronology of the Bible), ever since God drove Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, clothed in His garments of mercy which covered their sinfulness, God has been extending His grace and mercy to sinful man. The entire Bible is the story of God pouring out His grace and mercy upon undeserving man. The events described in the Revelation of Jesus Christ tell us how God brings all of that to a unchangeable final conclusion of judgment for sinners and blessing for those who accept His grace and mercy. The final chapter of man's history begins with the sudden rapture of the saints of God into His presence and away from this wicked world. The conclusion of this final chapter is the sudden appearance of the Lord as He asserts His sovereign authority over all of creation as described in Revelation nineteen. The particulars of His coming are adequately described for man as presented in Revelation nineteen and twenty.

With His repeated statement, **"I come quickly,"** He is telling all men that when this happens, it will happen so rapidly that no response can be made to His coming. There will not be enough time to say a word, point a finger, lift a hand, or make a decision. The speed of light, which travels at 186,000 feet per second, will seem slow compared to the quickness, the rapidity, the suddenness of our Lord's coming when it happens. Whatever

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has been decided will be that way for eternity — it will be frozen, fixed for ever and ever, unable to be altered or changed (22:11).

Over the years there have been many preachers and theologians who have not accepted as true that which we have set forth in the preceding statements. Some have not only held widely divergent views concerning these critical matters, but even views that a person who holds to the verbal, plenary inspiration of God's Holy Word can only describe as heretical. Even though many of these fervently believe that they are Christians, such may not be true, at least according to what the Lord says in a statement we have yet to study (22:18-19). In spite of the clear teachings of the Lord in His Word, there have always been skeptics and heretics, and God tells us that this is to be especially true in the last days. Peter wrote: **“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation”** (2 Peter 3:3-4).

Sadly, their unbelief and skepticism is a natural result of their own confused minds and the choices they make to reject what God tells them. Having rejected what God tells them about how He brought this world into existence and then judged it with a world-wide flood, they are unable to recognize the seriousness of what He tells them about His coming judgment: **“For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men”** (2 Peter 3:5-7). Their rejection of that which God says He has already done seems to make it impossible for them to believe Him when He tells them what He is going to do. They make these choices in spite of His warning of the dire consequences which result from not believing Him. Therefore, they condemn themselves to a destiny of the awfulness of an eternity in the lake of fire and brimstone, totally separated from Him and His blessings forever.

Are you ready right now for it to happen? If not, then you are acting the part of a fool if you delay doing whatever you need to do to make yourself ready. Whatever decision you need to make should be made right now if you are wise and take God seriously. Otherwise you are almost certain to be unprepared when the Lord comes suddenly to bring this life to His promised conclusion. Recognize that this is the most serious matter you have ever considered. The failure to act promptly now, while you can, is actually a choice to reject God's warning about what He is going to do.

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“... blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.”

This is the sixth in a series of seven beatitudes God gives to the saints in this blessed book. The previous five are as follows:

1. **“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand”** (Revelation 1:3).
2. **“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them”** (Revelation 14:13).
- 3 **“Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame”** (Revelation 16:15).
- 4 **“And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God”** (Revelation 19:9).
- 5 **“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years”** (Revelation 20:6).

The Greek word for **“keepeth”** tereo (5083) means **“to guard,” “to be a warden or guard over.”** The Greek word for **“sayings”** is logos (3056) which is overwhelmingly translated **“word.”** Taking the two statements together, and adding to them the third statement, it is apparent that the Lord's blessing is for those who **“guard,” “watch over,” “protect”** the particular, precise words He has given John which are recorded in this entire book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. In other words, God is affirming that He has dictated each and every word contained in this precious book of prophecy and that He has a blessing for those who treat it as something very holy and valuable, something worth standing up for and defending.

This sixth beatitude is very much like the first one. In that one God said He would bless those who **“read aloud, hear it being read, and guard”** each and every **“word,”** logos, which is in this book. With this sixth beatitude coming at the end, God does not need to again address the matter of reading and listening to the very **“words of this book,”** for a reader of this sixth beatitude has already done that. However, knowing the attacks that would come from Satan's followers upon the veracity of His **“words,”** God once again emphasizes that He will bless those who so value it that they will **“guard, protect, and defend”** it from the attacks of the enemy. Stand firm, do not be intimidated by the skeptics and unbelievers. Be faithful to the Lord and His holy Word for He has a wonderful blessing awaiting those who do.