

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

Lesson #112  
2/11/09

**“The Lord's Final Words: Part 9”**  
**Revelation 22:18-21**

**Revelation 22:18 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:**

**Revelation 22:19 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.**

**Revelation 22:20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

**Revelation 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.**

Verse eighteen introduces a different emphasis because the last four verses, Revelation 22:18-21, apply to the entire Bible rather than just the last book in the Bible, the book of **The Revelation of Jesus Christ**.

In His final words to the church, Revelation 22:6-17, Jesus emphasized the holiness and integrity of His Revelation of Himself as presented in this special message to John: **“...*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 22:6). In the closing four verses which are before us in this lesson, Jesus stressed how important it is for all men to recognize the holiness and veracity of all of His words in all of His Bible.

In His final words to the church, in addition to emphasizing the holiness and veracity of the very words in this Revelation of Himself, Jesus had also emphasized the importance of obeying what He commanded: **“*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*”** (Revelation 22:14), an emphasis which is implied in the last four verses to all men.

When Jesus began the Revelation of Himself to John, He instructed John to write this revelation down **“in a book:”** **“... I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.”** Jesus closed that **“book”** with one final invitation to all by saying those **“who thirst, come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”** Recognizing that John had been told to **“write The Revelation down in a book,”** those who say that the last four verses apply only to this last book of the Bible may seem to have some basis for their position.

However, there is more Scriptural support for applying these statements to the entire Word of God, the whole Bible, including all that begins with the

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book of Genesis and concludes with the book of Revelation. As we shall see, both of these emphases appear frequently in the first portion of the Bible, the Pentateuch, which was considered by the Jews to be one book, the Torah, and included the five writings attributed to Moses. When one recognizes that both the first book of the Bible, (the Pentateuch), and the last (the book of Revelation) are closed with the same emphasis, he may see them as being **“book-ends of the same book,”** tying the entire Bible together into one unified book. These statements of God, found in these last verses refer to the entire Bible, bringing all of it under the umbrella of God's authority. Therefore, read and accept God's statements as pertaining to the entirety of His Holy Word.

**TWO WARNINGS:** God gives man two warnings; two clear, unambiguous, severe warnings — surely as clear, unambiguous and severe warnings as any found in His Holy Word — and they apply to every man in every age regarding the totality of His Word. The specificity and inclusiveness of what man is being warned about will be seen later in this lesson.

1. **“If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book”**
2. **“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.”**

The first thing that should be noticed is that no allowance is made for any man to modify, change, add to, or reject any portion, not even one **“jot or tittle”** (Matthew 5:18) according to Jesus' verification. In the passage just quoted, Jesus was speaking about the very words which are in the Old Testament. In the two verses at the end of the Bible we find the expression **“the words of the book of this prophecy.”** Please note two things of importance about this phrase: 1) **“Words”** refer to specific words uttered, spoken by God and not just to ideas God communicated and allowed man to express in his own **“words.”** 2) The word **“prophecy,”** is used here in the sense of its basic meaning **“that which God has spoken forth.”** Therefore, God's warning applies to changing, adding to, altering in any way, or rejecting the very **“words He has spoken forth through His prophets,”** applying to both that which is **“spoken forth through either verbal or written communication from Him.”** These warnings apply then to every detail in His entire Holy Bible.

Regarding the first portions of Genesis, many various viewpoints of individuals have been set forth, all modifying, changing, rejecting or substituting some other viewpoint in the place of what God tells us in His Bible. Though, in the light of these two warnings from God, it really does not matter what the motive was of the person refusing to accept God's **“prophecy”** written down

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by His human instrument, Moses. Such alternative theories and positions are baseless, extremely foolish and, as we can see from the Lord's warnings, very dangerous.

Some who offer up some of these viewpoints justify their actions on the basis of **“science.”** However, science, (the observations of man), is never complete and is constantly changing. Some who rely upon **“science”** say that Moses was not there and had no first-hand knowledge of the events described in the first part of Genesis, but had to rely upon various human sources. They are right in one little point — Moses was not there. Neither was the person who supposedly knows more than Moses about these things.

**However, while both Moses and the one who rejects the “prophesy” of God's Word was not there, GOD WAS THERE!** And, God often revealed eternal truths to Moses, even speaking directly to him many times, telling him precisely what to write. Therefore, such a person is not rejecting Moses, but God. In so doing, he puts himself in an extremely dangerous position according to what God says here at the conclusion of His **“book of prophesy,”** the Bible. To choose man's observations of nature and conclusions over the veracity and authority of God's Word is clearly a poor and unwise decision.

God often directly communicated with Moses in ways that were very direct and specific. Consider the following small sample of God's direct communication with Moses:

***“And the Lord said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them”*** (Exodus 24:12); ***“And the Lord spoke unto Moses, saying ...”*** (Exodus 25:1). These are only two examples of God speaking directly to Moses in a manner unlike He spoke to other men and many more could be cited. Then, in Exodus we are told a number of times that God gave to Moses the commandments which He Himself had personally and physically written with His own hand: ***“And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the 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).

It is clear that God communicated more directly with Moses in ways that were supernatural. Is it any wonder then that God told Moses exactly how He created this world? Surely not! Only a fool would dare to say that God did not know how He created this world and only the biggest of fools would dare say that God either could not tell Moses how He did this or else simply made up a fantasy which He told to Moses. In similar supernatural and direct personal ways He also spoke to others of His prophets, such as Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel, and told them precisely what to say and write.

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How God inspired His prophets to write precisely what He wanted written, is explained in the New Testament. In 2 Peter 1:20-21, through His servant Peter, God explains how He did this: **“...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.”** One way of paraphrasing this is to say, **“Not a single word of the Scripture originated with any man, is not his opinion or his view. Each prophecy was delivered through the instrumentation of the prophet supernaturally by God the Holy Spirit.”** Neither Moses, nor Isaiah, nor Jeremiah, nor Daniel, nor any other of God's prophets decided how they would say what God told them. They did not express their own, or any other man's opinions, nor even choose the words they wrote. Even the very words which they put on paper were chosen and dictated by God through them so that they would say and write precisely what God wanted said and written. The very words are the words of God and He clearly, and forcefully, emphasizes that great truth in these last statements.

**It has been pointed out that these two warnings from God are not new, but, in a sense, form the back cover of “God's book, the Bible.” An earlier form of these same warnings can be found in God's conclusion of His first book of the Bible, the Pentateuch.**

The first five books of our Bible, written by Moses, were known to the Old Testament Jew as one book, The Torah, and frequently called **“The Law.”** Jesus clearly and forcefully, verified that every single word of both **“The Law and the prophets”** would be fulfilled, even including the punctuation marks known as **“the jot and tittles”** (Matthew 5:18). The specificity and inclusiveness set forth by Jesus is consistent with what is found in Deuteronomy, the book that closes God's Pentateuch.

Consistent with the above reference from Matthew, it is not strange to find God speaking the following through Moses, just before his death and just before the Israelites entered the **“promised land:”** **“Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it;”** and **“What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it”** (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32).

These words from God to close out His first book in His Bible, the Torah, are almost identical to what we find in His final words here in Revelation twenty-two as He closes His entire Bible.

The first of the two warnings warns all men not to **“add unto these things,”** — **“the words of the prophesy of this book.”** The punishment for such is severe: **“God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.”** Again, like the previously cited references in Deuteronomy regarding **“not adding to”** or **“taking away from”** the words of God's commandments, we also find toward the end of the last book of the Pentateuch,

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Deuteronomy, the following concerning God's curses being put upon those who reject His Word and disobey Him. Introduced with the following statement in the twenty-eight chapter of Deuteronomy, and fully described in the verses that follow, is this warning from God: ***“But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee”*** (Deuteronomy 28:15). This is reemphasized later in the same passage: ***“If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD; Then the Lord will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance”*** (Deuteronomy 28:58-59). Likely, the warning in Revelation 22:18 about the plagues, includes all that is listed in Deuteronomy as well as the plagues listed in the Revelation of Jesus Christ. God's revelation is complete, finished. If any person says he has **“a new Word from God”** to add to what God has given to us in His Bible, then that person has violated God's warning here.

The second warning is even more terrifying: ***“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.”***

The reason for rejecting any portion of God's Word are immaterial, but God's warning is clear. Throughout His Word is found a consistent message about the holiness of His Word as well as a description of those who reject it. To the Israelites God said: ***“Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God ... And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart...The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven”*** (Deuteronomy 28:45; 29:18,19,20). Then, in Proverbs God said: **Every word of God is pure; Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar”** (Proverbs 30:5-6).

**God means what He says and He's “coming quickly” to enforce His Words. Be ready for His coming!** The Lord, as He said in His last letter, the letter to Laodicea, offers a solution to any who are in danger from His warnings: ***“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent”*** (Revelation 3:19). **Do it now before it's too late!**