

Revelation 22

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, and we are looking at the last chapter in the last book of the bible, Revelation chapter twenty-two, this is part forty-three of our series going through the book.

Verse one of chapter twenty-two, *'And he' the angel 'shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.'*

'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.

'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:'

When it says there's no more curse, if you go back to Genesis, right back at the beginning, the original sin brought a curse on the land, it wouldn't bring forth fruit except you struggled and, of course, it would also produce things like thorns and thistles, and that's why, of course, Jesus was given a crown of thorns when He was crucified. It meant that He was taking back the ownership of those things. And in this case, of course, He finally destroys them.

Verse four, *'And they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads.'*

'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.'

The first thing that God created was light, and here at the end of the bible we have light again.

'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.'

God always works through a man. He always sends a messenger, always sends an angel, always sends a prophet or teachers or pastors or whatever, to bring people to a personal relationship with Christ.

Verse seven, *'Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.'*

'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.'

'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.'

In my experience with churches, with people, there is only one person I've ever come across who was consistently pointing to Christ, and that is William Branham. We are to worship God and God alone. You may recall back in the time of Daniel, he interpreted a dream and the king Nebuchadnezzar built a statue to Daniel and he wanted everyone to worship him. But only Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego didn't. They refused. Even the rest of Israel did. But those three knew better than to worship a messenger instead of God.

Verse ten, *'And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.'*

'He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.'

The point is, it is only while we are alive that we can make a decision as to where we are going to spend eternity. When we die that is it. There is no changing it. There is no praying someone out of a hellish situation or whatever, it's over. It's only while we're alive that God can deal with us or we make our decision to either believe God or not. Here though it is God putting a line in the sand. The way men are, that's the way they're going to stay, from that point on.

Verse twelve, Jesus talking, *'And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be.'*

Now, I know a lot of people say 'Oh yes but that's works, that's not what Christ is on about'. Well, yes it is, up to a point. We are saved by faith in Christ. But even the bride is rewarded for what she has done or not. Go to One Corinthians chapter three verse eleven.

'For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

'Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

'Every man's work shall be made manifest: or made real, revealed, for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.'

Now, we are supposed to follow the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is represented as fire, and, in this case, if we do something that is not in line with the Holy Spirit, in other words try and build a kingdom with wood, hay, stubble, then the Holy Spirit will check those things and if they're not of Him they will burn. However, if we are led by God and only do what He wants, then what we do for Christ will be gold, silver, precious stones, and they are not damaged or destroyed by fire, or, again, by the Holy Spirit testing. It's all about motive and objective. What were we really trying to do? Were we trying to make money out of the message? Were we trying to gain popularity with people? Or attract women or men to us? Whatever. It's all revealed by the Holy Spirit.

Verse fourteen of One Corinthians chapter three, *'If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*

'If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.'

So it isn't anything to do with salvation. It's all to do with prizes, rewards for what we have done, what we are judged according to our works.

Verse thirteen back in Revelation chapter twenty-two, *'I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*

'Blessed are they that do His commandments,' God's commandments, of course, are to love God, to love our neighbour as ourselves, and finally Jesus's commandment to love as He loves us, *'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.*

'For without' or outside of it, it means 'are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.'

Notice it's not just the people we would condemn in church, the adulterers and murderers, but people who tell lies, finish in the lake of fire.

Verse sixteen, *'I Jesus have sent Mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches.'* Once again we have the messenger, God uses a man, *'I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.'*

That, of course, is Jesus Christ.

Verse seventeen, *'And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.'*

'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:

'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.'

'He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.'

'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.'

So ends the book of Revelation. I hope you have enjoyed this series. I've certainly enjoyed making it, and I hope it's been of a help to you and understanding.

But remember this, our understanding, this current understanding we have of this book of Revelation has come simply because God sent a messenger. All of Revelation tells is bringing together all of the bible, it's the completion. Right at the beginning of Genesis we start with a man and woman, a marriage situation. At the end of the bible we finish in the book of Revelation with a marriage of God and His bride. It's all a case of love. God loved His people so much that He gave His only begotten Son. He became man so that He could redeem us and make us one with Him again. It is all Jesus Christ. It is not a church. It is not a system. It is God Himself revealing Himself to His people, and if we are willing to turn our backs on everything except Him then we will be there.

This is Richard Oliver signing off. Thank you very much for reading.

May God bless you.