



– an uncluttered approach –

# SIMPLIFYING **REVELATION**

- Ch. 20 spoke of the judgment upon the devil & those associated with him.
- Ch. 21 revealed the glory of heaven and the blessing of being there.
- Now we've come to the close of the book – ch. 22, which serves to affirm the surety of the foregoing context (the glory of heaven & victory of God's people).

# FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF THE CITY



- 22:1-5 – further description of the city.
- **V 1** – a pure river of water of life.
  - Water is acknowledged throughout the Bible as refreshing and life giving.
  - This river is the ultimate source of life (coming from throne)!
- **V 2** – the tree of life.
  - Only mentioned 6x in the Bible.
  - 3x in Genesis 2-3
  - 3x in Revelation (2:7; 22:2, 14)
  - Note, Proverbs mentions “a tree of life” 4x, but these are not references to the tree of life, but metaphors for goodness.
  - The leaves are for the healing of the nations. Not physically & literally, since the nations no longer exist.

- For the comfort and goodness of residents of the eternal city, who come from all nations.
- **V 3** – the curse is gone.
  - Temptation & sin are destroyed.
  - Along with the curse that go with them. Death is no more.
- **V 4-5** – see God!
  - Many have wanted to see God as He is (Moses, Ex 33; Philip, Jn 14), but could not.
  - Some have been terrified at the idea of seeing God at all (Gideon, Jdg 6; Manoah, Jdg 13).
  - We shall see His face and reign with Him (v 4-5).

...things which must  
**shortly take place. (22:6)**

Behold, I am  
**coming quickly! (22:7)**

THESE WORDS ARE **FAITHFUL AND TRUE**

- 22:6-9 – the Lord’s promised coming...
- This statement affirms the surety of our hope, but also serves as a Segway to return to the beginning of the book...
- **22:6** is parallel to 1:1, 3.
  - “...*things which must shortly take place.*”
  - “...*the time is near.*”
  - **22:7** has a related statement, “...*I am coming quickly.*”
  - That the Lord is coming is emphasized – repeated in v 12 & v 20.
  - The whole NT is written in expectation of His coming (1 Cor 1:7; Php 3:20; Col 3:1-4; 1 Thes 1:10; Tit 2:13; etc.).
- The context of ch. 20-21 might lead us to believe this statement is about the final judgment.
  - Perhaps in the divine measure (2 Peter 3:8; Psalm 90:4), but 1900+ years does not equate to *shortly* or *quickly* in

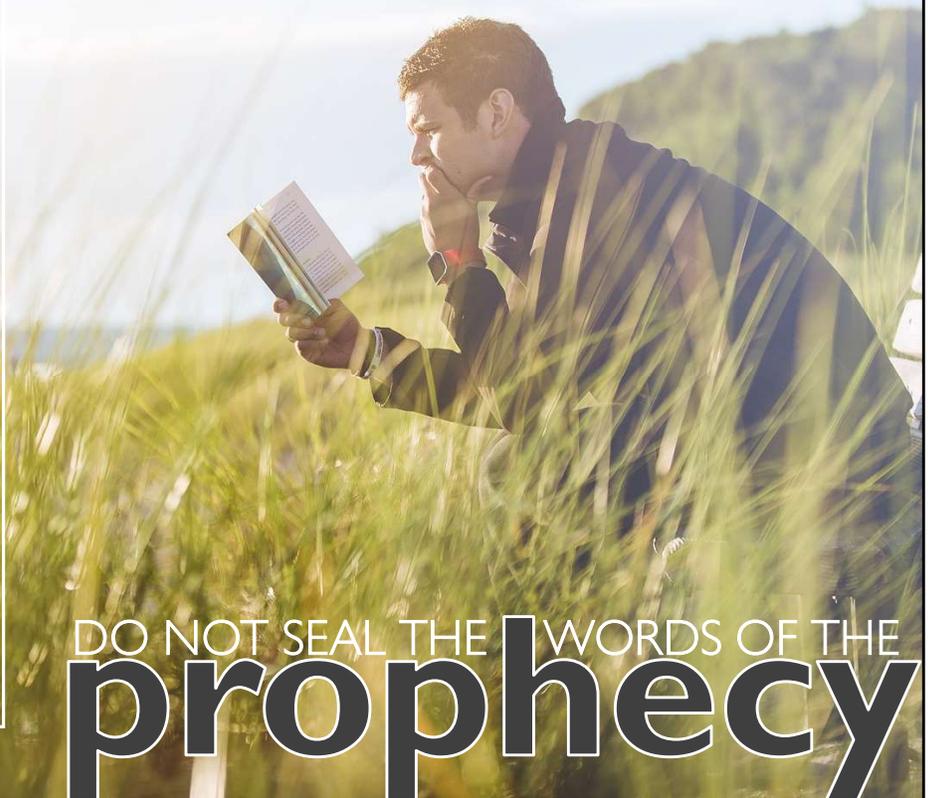
the temporal and finite mind.

- As we noted in ch. 1 (v 1, 3, 7), temporal judgments of the enemies of God's people are more likely in view.
- The Lord is always watching over His people, and no doubt there are occasions where He has stepped in with temporal judgments upon those who harm His people.
- John's reaction here is the same as we saw in 19:10 – he worshipped the messenger (22:8). Once again, he was warned not to do such (22:9). I say messenger rather than angel because of the individual's description of himself. (similar to Cornelius bowing before Peter – except of course this is in the midst of a vision of heavenly things).

*...seal up the vision...*  
(DANIEL 8:26)

*...shut up the words,  
and seal the book...*  
(DANIEL 12:4)

*...the words are  
closed up and sealed  
till the time of the  
end... (DANIEL 12:9)*



- 22:10-13 – don't seal up the prophecy.
- What does he mean by "seal up the book"?
  - The book was not to be shut up and set aside for future generations.
  - The content of the book was relevant for and would find fulfillment in his contemporary generation (NOTE – not everything, but many things).
- The contrasts with what Daniel was told about his prophecy (**DANIEL 8:26; 12:4, 9**).
  - Daniel was about 550 years removed from the time of the Messiah & 600 years away from the destruction of Jerusalem. He foretold both.
  - Given the use of parallel language used in Revelation 22, we should conclude that much of the prophecy would be fulfilled much less than 550 years from the time of

writing.

- Recall who the book was written to – the seven churches of Asia. These would see the fulfillment of the things written (except the final judgment)

DO NOT SEAL THE WORDS OF THE

# PROPHECY

He who is unjust, let him  
be unjust still; he who is  
filthy, let him be filthy still;

REV 22:11

he who is righteous, let him  
be righteous still; he who is  
holy, let him be holy still.

- What?? The inference is not that our conduct doesn't matter (it surely does!), but each one must determine what he will do, and in the end, will reap the reward for what is done (v 12).
  - If one seeks injustice and filthiness, condemnation will be the result...
  - If one seeks righteousness & holiness, glorification in heaven is the result.
  - Choose your course and walk it, but know that we reap what we have sown.
- V 12 – again, “I am coming quickly.” Final judgment? Perhaps. Temporal events & judgments, more likely.
- V 13 – the source of the warnings & promises – the LORD!

*the blessedness of*  
OBEDIENCE

...I am the Root and the  
Offspring of David, the  
Bright and Morning Star.  
(REVELATION 22:16)

...the Spirit and the bride say,  
'Come!' And let him who hears  
say, 'Come!' ... Even so, come,  
Lord Jesus! (REVELATION 22:17, 20)

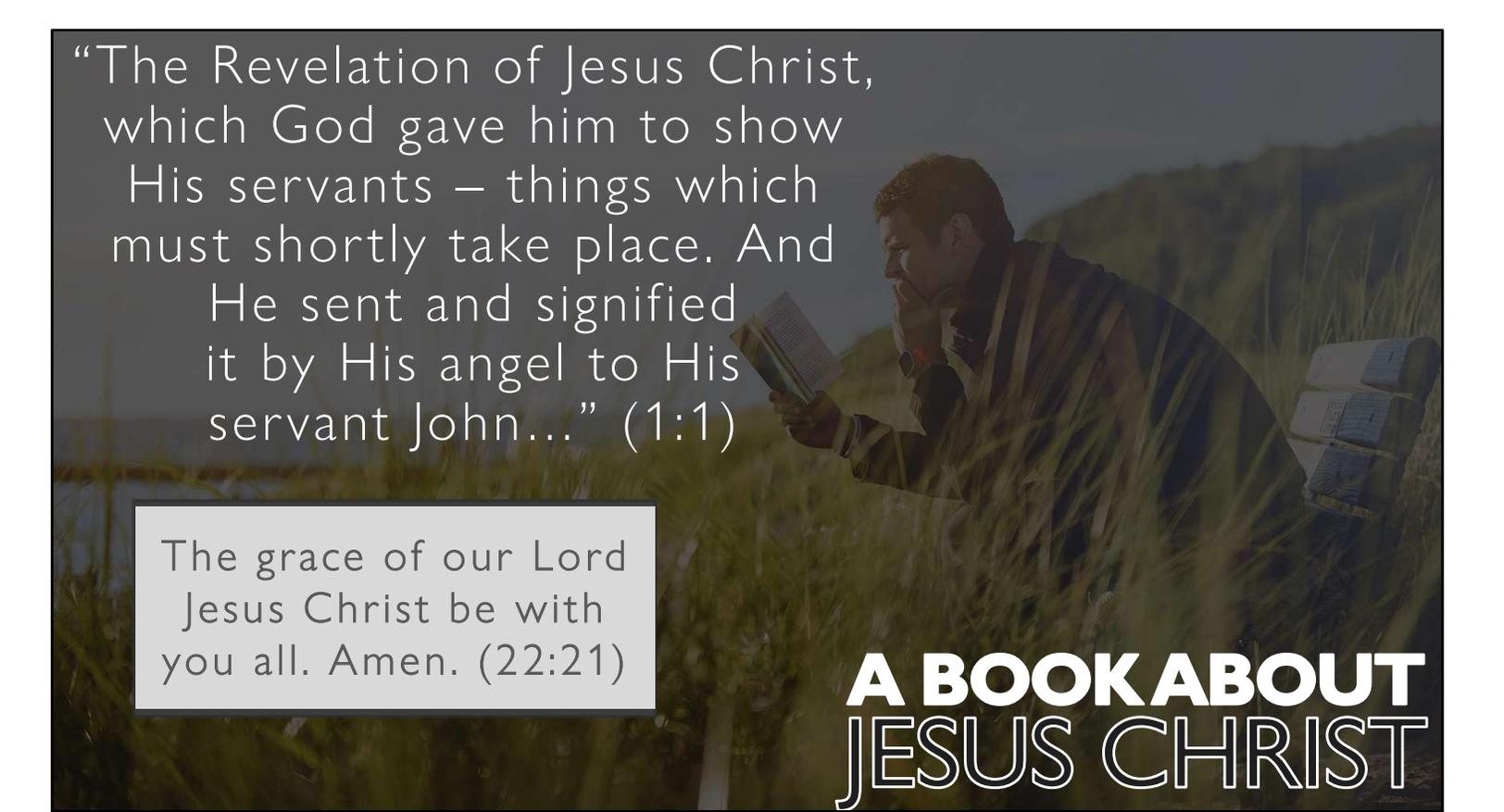
- 22:14-21 – blessed are those who do His commandments...
- V 14 – If we do His will, we will be blessed (both temporal and eternal).
- V 15 – In contrast, those who are outside are characterized by sin and will suffer the consequences (both temporal and eternal).
- **V 16** – This is the LORD speaking – *“I, Jesus...”*
  - He is the Alpha & Omega of v 13.
  - Now He gives more descriptions of Himself (recall ch. 1 was filled with descriptions)
  - *“The root and offspring of David”*
    - Rev 5:5, *“...the Root of David has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”*
    - 2 Sam 7:12, *“...I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his*

*kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.”*

- *“The Bright and Morning Star.”*
  - Rev 2:28, those who overcome were promised “...*the morning star...*”
  - Num 24:17, among the things Balaam prophesied concerning Israel, “...*I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob, a Scepter shall rise out of Israel...*”
  - It is an image of His glory. The morning star is visible in the east before the sun rises, it is declaring a new day. Jesus is the one who proclaims the eternal day.
- **V 17** – “Come!”
  - In verses 7 and 12, His coming was mentioned.
  - In response, the Spirit, the church and the apostle say “Come!”
  - God’s people want to see the salvation of the Lord.
  - We anticipate the final coming, but we also glory in seeing God working in our lives in the present time also.

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of life, from the holy city, and from the things that are written in this book. (22:18-19)

- V 18-19 – the book closes with a warning.
- Some take it to be for Revelation alone, some apply it to the entirety of the Bible.
- It is specifically about Revelation, but the general principle is found elsewhere in the Bible.
  - Deut 4:2, *“You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it...”*
  - Deut 12:32, *“Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.”*
  - Pr 30:6, *“Do not add to His words; lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.”*
- Our place is not to add or subtract – we are to obey.
- We need to have more respect for God’s word than to think we can alter it.

A man in a dark jacket is kneeling in a field of tall grass, reading a book. The background shows a hazy landscape with hills under a soft sky.

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ,  
which God gave him to show  
His servants – things which  
must shortly take place. And  
He sent and signified  
it by His angel to His  
servant John...” (1:1)

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

## A BOOK ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

- From start to finish this is a book about Jesus Christ and victory in Him.
- **1:1** – *“The Revelation of Jesus Christ...”*
- **22:21** – *“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...”*
- He is the focus of the book. If we have lost sight of that, we missed the point of the book.
- Ch. 1 – multiple descriptions of Him that would be used elsewhere in the book;
- Ch. 2-3 – He is the benefactor of His church.
- Ch. 4-5 – He is the Lamb of God, worthy of worship
- Ch. 6-7 – He is the conqueror of hearts who will wash away our sins & make us to stand in judgement
- Ch. 8-9 – He is the God who doesn’t want any to perish but seeks for all to come to repentance
- Ch. 10-11 – He is the protector of His people as they serve

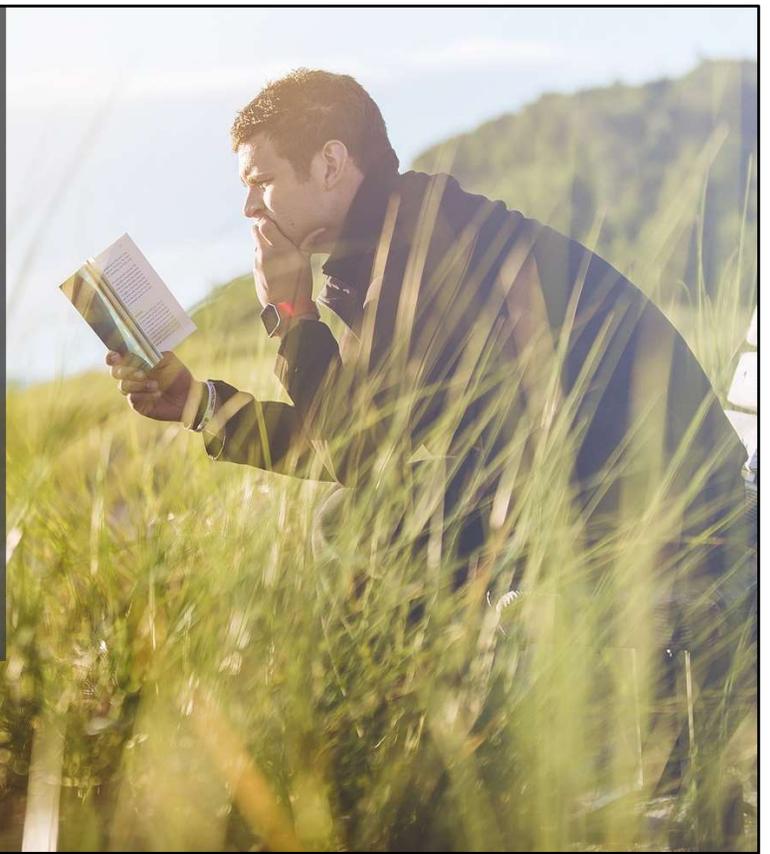
Him

- Ch. 12-13 – He is God who became flesh, who having died for us, returned to heaven.
- Ch. 14 – He is the redeemer of His people and the judge of the wicked
- Ch. 15-16 – He is more power than our enemy (7 bowls)
- Ch. 17-20 – He exercises judgment against the enemies of His people
- Ch. 21-22 – He will welcome the righteous into eternal life.

Next week...

❖ A single lesson  
overview of the  
Revelation

REVELATION 1-22



Next week – ch. 1-22 in a single lesson.