



REVELATION

Session 10

November 14th, 2021

“Epilogue”

Revelation 22:6-21

BIG IDEA

Blessed is the one who reads and remembers and reflects upon the message of this Book of Revelation. For whatever we believe about this story will impact our lives.

BIBLE CONVERSATION / GENERAL INFO

Every book has an opening, middle, and end. Not all, but many books also have a prologue and epilogue. Revelation has all five of these. We saw the prologue in Chapter One which told us what the whole of Revelation is all about. Now, here at the very end, we see the epilogue which reminds us of what we have seen and what is most important for us to remember. These two special sections of the book tie together and shine a light on the parts of the whole which should linger in our minds the most. So, in a real sense, if you remember nothing else, at least remember Chapter 22:6-21.

All through this series, we have made the case to keep the main thing the main thing. And the main thing is Jesus: not Satan, not destruction, not Armageddon. Revelation is more about worship than destruction and chaos. Remember, it has more worship and songs of praise in it than all the rest of the NT put together. It is more about the beginning of eternal worship and joy than about the end of the world. Yet, it is funny how so many of us are so quick to forget this. Let's not be deceived by our own fears surrounding the current state of the world- Christ has overcome the world. Let's not be led astray by our own curiosity for puzzles and codes and hidden answers, for He came to bring understanding not confusion. God is a God of light and truth, not chaos or confusion. “Surely the sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to His servants and prophets.” (Amos 3:7)

Our God takes great delight in inviting people to come and be satisfied in Him, his blessings, and great promises soon to come. Time and time again He extends His offer to all of us. No matter where you come from, no matter who you are, no matter the severity of your sins and failures, He holds out His bloodied hands to those who will accept Him as their Lord and savior. “For anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Joel 2:32 and Romans 10:13) And here at the very end of Revelation, at the very end of the Bible, God, one last time, invites people to come to Him and be saved.

From the first moment sin entered history through Adam and Eve and all throughout our sinful and broken history, God has been on a rescue mission. Our God is a saving God pursuing His wayward and lost children. It's therefore not surprising that His word ends with a final invitation to sinners to "come, whoever wishes, and take the free gift of the water of life." (Revelation 22:17) So, will you accept His invitation? Will you come and be washed clean?

Read Revelation 22:6-21

Question #1 What parts of the epilogue (Revelation 22:6-21) match the prologue (Revelation 1:1-8)? What repeated statements do you see?

Question #2 List out what major things are talked about in the epilogue. What does this tell you the whole of Revelation was about? What is not mentioned?

Hint* #1) 22:8-9 #2) 22:13 and 22:16 #3) 22:14 and 22:17 #4) 22:11 and 22:15

SERMON OVERVIEW

We have just about made it. Good job! We are finally at the end of Revelation. But don't let up just yet, for what you believe about the end directs your life. Just like how the end of the Bible - Revelation itself - directs our lives here and now, so too does the end of Revelation direct our thinking about the rest of the book which we have just gone through. Here, at the end, we are given a few points that are important for us to reflect upon.

Number 1: *Build your life on a trustworthy future.* God has promised us a future we can look forward to. He has promised to do great things. So, trust Him. Rely upon Him because of who He is. These are not promises made by a friend or coworker but by a perfect and sovereign God.

Number 2: *Faithfully tell others what God has revealed.* We are told to not seal up the prophecy of this book - Revelation 22:10. Remember, we are the church. We are the lampstands. We are to walk with God in peace and uprightness and help turn many from sin. (Malachi 2:6)

Number 3: *Run the race of life with rewards in mind.* Christ has promised us rewards that He will give to us for the work we do in this life. So, it matters what you do. It matters what you say. Salvation is freely given; it is not a reward. But what will you do with that gift He gave you?

Number 4: *Remember Jesus is the main thing.* Just in case anyone missed it, Revelation again reminds us that it is all about Him. Everything points to Him. He is the Alpha and Omega. The beginning and the end. The King of kings and Lord of lords who sits on the eternal throne.

Number 5: *Be faithful in the church - the hope of the world.* Many people today see the church as just another thing to spend your time in. Many see it as another thing to consume or be entertained by. Many see it as irrelevant. But the church is so much more than that. "It is Christ's Bride with the mission of spreading His gospel and message throughout the world!"

Number 6: *Invite others to know about the invitation of God.* The Spirit and the Bride say *come*. When we go out and share Jesus and the gospel with others, we can have confidence knowing that God's spirit has already been working on them long before we get there. People are dying of spiritual thirst. They long for answers. They beg for healing and relief and we, of all the people in the world, have those answers. We have that peace. We know the Healer. If we don't go, who will? If the salt loses its saltiness, what good is it?

If the whole world had cancer and you had the only cure, what would you do with it? For the whole world is slowly dying of another kind of cancer and we *have* the cure.

Question #3 What is your life built on? What are you going to build your life on?

Hint* What is the main thing in your life right now? What would someone else say is the main thing in your life if you asked them? What would God say is the main thing in your life if He were standing in front of you? Would we say He is your priority?

Question #4 If the whole world had cancer and you had the only cure, what would you do with it? How relentless would you be? The whole world is dying of a kind of cancer...

OPTIONAL EXERCISE

Option 1	Option 2
Video Lesson In session 1, we watched the Bible Project video on Revelation Pt.1. Now let's watch Pt.2 (11 min.)	Further Group Questions: What is one way you bring your life into greater alignment with God's Word as you

https://www.briarcliff.church/revelation/	<p>anticipate His second coming and final judgment?</p> <p>In what ways do we unintentionally take away or add to the scriptures?</p> <p>When was the first time you remember hearing the invitation and call of God? How did you respond? Share your story with others.</p>
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PRAYER

Intentionally Specific Prayer for This Week: Pray for your lost family and friends by name. Pray that God gets their attention through whatever means necessary. Pray for the strength and confidence to share His invitation with others.

Next Session: Overall Summary

SCRIPTURE MASH

Therefore, “wait for me” declares the Lord... I have decided to assemble the nations, to gather the kingdoms and to pour out my wrath on them- all my fierce anger... But I will leave the meek and humble- all who trust in the name of the Lord... The Lord your God is mighty to save. He will delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing...at that time He will gather you and bring you home. (Zephaniah 3:8-20) The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and His name is the only name. (Zechariah 14:9) So, give careful thought to your ways. (Haggai 1:5,7) For God has promised to shake the heavens and the earth and all the nations. (Haggai 2:6) This is what the Lord your God requires of you; to act justly and love mercy and walk humbly with your God. (Micha 6:8) To let justice flow like on like a river, righteousness like a never-ending stream. (Amos 5:24) Show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress others, nor think evil of them in your heart (Zechariah 7:9) but to rend your hearts (Joel 2:13) and rejoice greatly! (Habakkuk 3:16-18) Shout O daughter of Jerusalem! (Zechariah 8:9) Seek the Lord and live. (Amos 5:5-6,5:14) Even now! Declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart...Return to the Lord your God for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love and He relents from sending calamity. (Joel 2:13) He pardons sin and forgives transgressions and will have compassion on us! (Micha 7:18-19) The Lord is Good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust Him. (Nahum 1:7) He will stand and shepherd His flock but will also take vengeance in anger and wrath upon those that have not obeyed Him. (Micha 5:4, 5:15)

