

What follows represents the unedited lecture notes of Pastor Merritt's teaching of The Book of the Revelation. Please feel free to reproduce all or part for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. The teachings of the Revelation represent a compilation of things learned from such men as Col. R. B. Thieme, Lewis Sperry Chafer, Charles Ryrie, Arnold Fruchtenbaum, John Walvoord, Hal Lindsay, Dwight Pentecost, along with an exegesis of the Greek and Hebrew texts.

Introduction

1. Many expositors have developed various theories designed to explain a seeming contradiction found in Rev 22:18 and 19 as over against the *Doctrine of Eternal Security*.

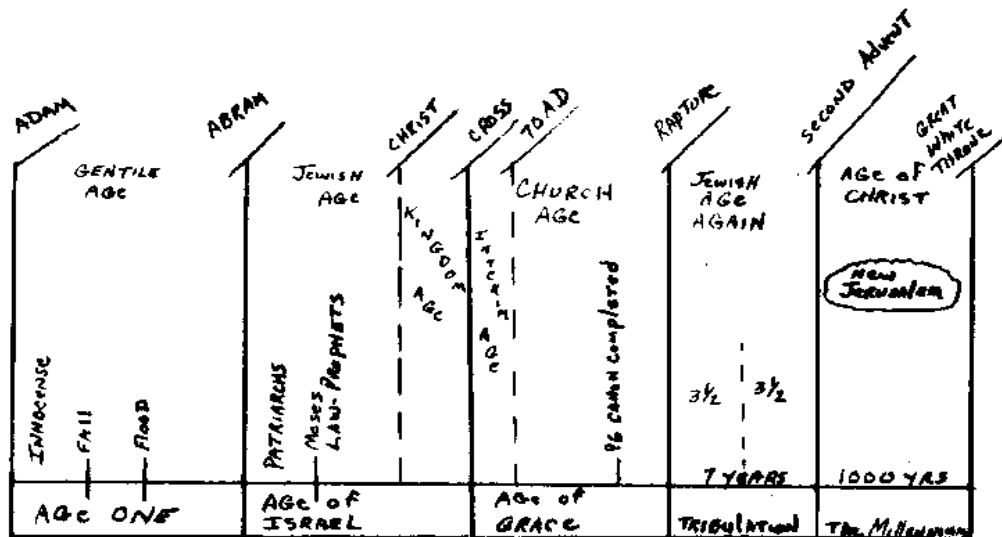
NIV

Rev 22:18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.

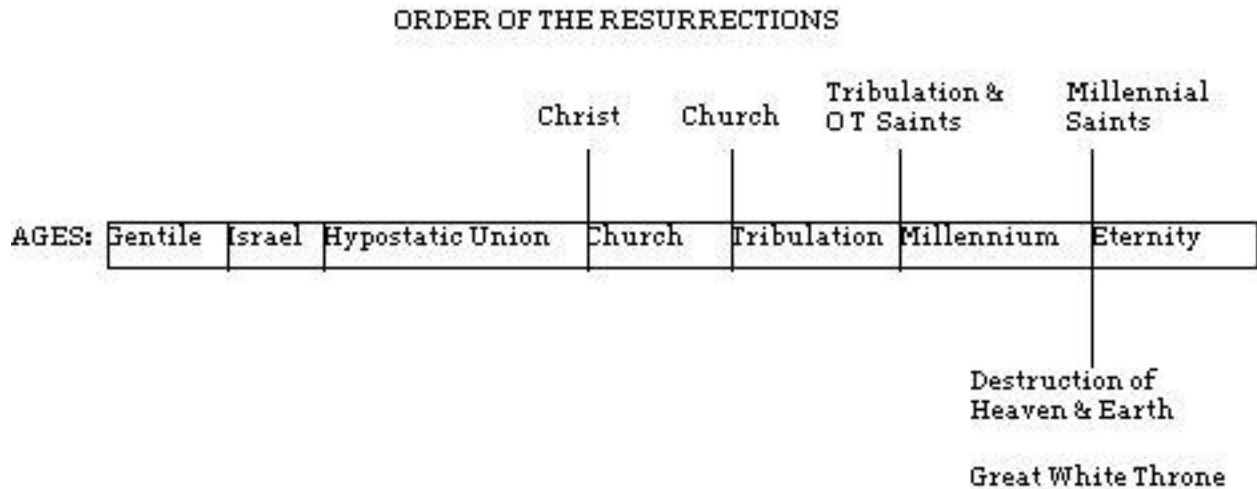
Rev 22:19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

2. In my study of how best to explain Rev 22:18 and 19 I found the best starting point to be a careful analysis of the outline of Revelation Chapters twenty-one and twenty-two and a careful review of three earlier studied dispensation charts. Examples:

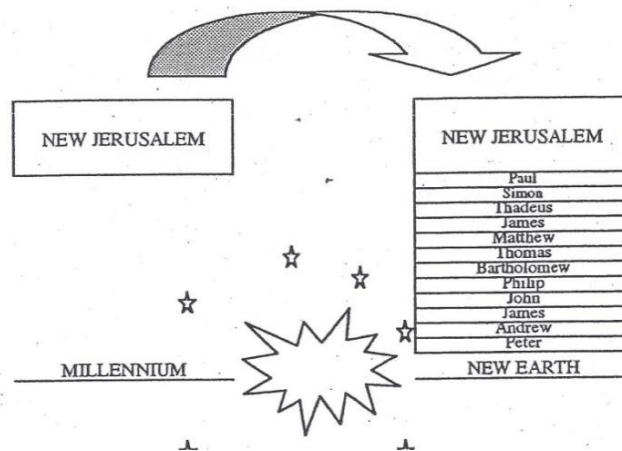
The Regular Dispensation Chart



The Order of the Resurrection Chart



The New Jerusalem Chart



3. How all of this will help explain that there is no contradiction of that found in Revelation twenty-two and the *Doctrine of Eternal Security*, will be developed later when we exegete Rev 22:18-19.

4. I want to review some of that learned last week and then begin new material on page four with an analysis of Rev 22:17.

5. When time expired last week we had just completed a study of Rev 22:13-16.

Expanded Translation

Rev 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

Rev 22:14 Blessed and happy are those who by faith alone in Christ alone have washed their robes, and thus may eat from the tree of life and enter into the city.

Rev 22:15 Outside the city are the dogs, those who practice the occult, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices lies and deceit.

Rev 22:16 I, Jesus, have sent my angel Gabriel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

Principles

1. Fruchtenbaum has written in his book *The Footsteps of the Messiah*, "Jesus Himself affirms that it was He who sent the angel to reveal all the things found in the Book of the Revelation so that John could deliver these things to the churches. It is the same Jesus who, in His humanity, is the root and the offspring of David, but as to His deity, He is the *Shekinah* Glory, as seen in the brightness ... of the light of the morning star.

2. In verse sixteen the term "I Jesus" is used. Joseph A. Seiss in his book *The Apocalypse* writes of the phrase "I Jesus":

"Thus, the very God of all inspiration, and of all inspired men, reiterates and affirms the highest authority for all that is herein written."

3. Christ is also called "the root and offspring of David" in Isa 11:1 and "the bright and morning star" in Num 24:17 and Rev 2:28.

Isa 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

Num 24:17 I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.

Rev 2:28 I will also give him the morning star.

4. Christ, as the morning star, heralds the coming day in His role as the One who comes for the church at the rapture.

5. Now for new material and the invitation of the Spirit and the Bride.

THE INVITATION OF THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE

KJV

Rev 22:17 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.

NIV

Rev 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

Principles

1. As the Book of The Revelation comes toward its close, a special invitation is given by the Spirit and the bride.

1.1 This refers to the Holy Spirit and the church. John is now reverting to the relevance and practical meaning of his prophecy.

2. In the light of the prophetic word, the invitation to all is given: "Come." The threefold invitation is then enforced, addressed first to the one that hears, then to the one who is thirsty, then to anyone who will. For all willing to accept the invitation, there is an offer of the water of life without cost. A similar invitation is extended in Isaiah 55:1.

Isa 55:1 "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

3. The invitation to come is an urgent command, for the day will arrive when it is too late to come. Now is the day of grace. The hour of judgment is impending. Before moving to Rev 22:18-20 I want to give you an expanded translation of verse seventeen.

Expanded Translation

Rev 22:17 The Holy Spirit and the Raptured Church say, "Come!" Let him who hears say, "Come!" All who are thirsty, let those who are ready come and take the free gift of salvation - the water of life.

4. Now let's see what we can learn from verses eighteen, nineteen and twenty. Keep in mind verses eighteen and nineteen are the verses that scare many Christians.

KJV

Rev 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:

Rev 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.

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

NIV

Rev 22:18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.

Rev 22:19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

Rev 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Principles

1. The urgency of the final command is supported by the solemn testimony of Christ Himself in verse eighteen concerning the sacred character of the prophecy which has been given. A believer living in Eternity Future in a resurrection body cannot sin and thus it is impossible to add or subtract from that written in the Book of the Revelation. So who could this nefarious sinner be?

Rev 22:18 I, Christ warn ... If anyone adds anything to the words of this Book of The Revelation, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.

2. A warning is extended if any man adds to these things, God will inflict upon him the plagues in the book, and if any man takes away from the prophecy of the book, God will take away his part out of the book of life and the wonderful promises in this book.

3. Though frequently in the Bible there are other warnings against tampering with the Word of God, this is among the most solemn. No one can dare add to the Word of God except in blatant unbelief and denial that the Word is indeed God's own message to man. When and who this person is must be answered.

4. Likewise, no one should dare take away from the words of the Book, since to do so is to deny the inspiration of the Word of God. What a solemn warning this is to critics who have tampered with this book and other portions of Scripture in arrogant self-confidence. Again, the question begs to be answered who can do this?

5. I think it best to start with who cannot do this? As earlier noted, a saint in Eternity Future cannot in a resurrection body add or detract truths found in the Book of the Revelation; he is therefore beyond suspicion.

5.1 Raptured saints in a resurrection body living in the Millennium are also beyond suspicion but **an unbeliever living in the Millennium** is more than a person of interest—he is our prime suspect.

6. An unbeliever living in the Millennium is a culprit who is not beyond being one of Satan’s followers who will charge the Millennial Temple in an attempt to overthrow Christ and destroy the many promises found “in the words of the book of His prophecy.”

7. The evil followers of Satan who follow the Dragon in his final and futile rebellion will most likely assume that they are equipped intellectually and spiritually to determine what is true and what is not true in the Word of God. Though not stated in detail, the point of these two verses is that a child of God living in either the Millennium or Eternity Future in a resurrection body will obey God.

8. Fruchtenbaum warns, “To use these verses, however, as a proof that a child of God once saved and born into the family of God can lose his salvation is, of course, applying this passage out of context.” This passage assumes that a child of God will not tamper with these scriptures because of the context—eternity future in the New Heaven and New Earth. See Rev 22:14 for the context.

Rev 22:14 "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

8.1 A child of God living with Christ in the New Jerusalem would find it impossible to sin thus impossible to add or subtract from the Word of God. We will be perfect! Clearly an unbeliever in the Millenium will be capable of full scale rebellion against Christ and His precious Word.

8.2 Those who add to what is written will receive the plagues of the Book of Revelation; For those who subtract from the words of the book will not dwell in the New Jerusalem nor partake of the fruit of the Tree of Life. Both those who would add and those who would subtract do so as evidence of their unsaved status.”

9. The above cited warnings in their context specifically refer to the Book of Revelation, but also it would seem they include adding or subtracting from the Bible as a whole. The Bible as a whole is complete only with the Book of Revelation. Once the last Apostle died, no further inspired books would be written. (See Pastor Merritt’s study book entitled *Canonicity* and Col. R. B. Thieme’s book entitled *Canonicity*)

10. Although the child of God may not comprehend the meaning of the entire Bible, he will recognize in it a declaration of his hope and that which has been assured to him in grace by his salvation in Christ.

11. Our positional perfection is a direct result of our acceptance of the promise found in the book of the Revelation: reward and victory in eternity future because of faith alone in Christ alone. After our translation into eternity future, it of course, becomes an impossibility to do that "warned of" in Rev 22:18 and 19.

12. Unbelievers don't believe in the reward and victory that comes for those who exercise faith alone in Christ alone therefore effectively they are taking away from the great theme of the book of the Revelation - and thus are the recipients of the curse of damnation.

13. The final testimony of the book found in verse twenty is yet another repetition of the promise of Christ's soon return: "Surely I come quickly." When the One who exists from all eternity states, "Behold, I come quickly," it means that from the divine point of view, end-time events are impending. The announcement "I come quickly" in Rev 22:20 is therefore buttressed before and after by words used to emphasize the certainty of it.

14. With the word **Amen**, however, John begins his own prayer response to this announcement: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

15. Though the Book of The Revelation concerns itself with a broad expanse of God's dealing with men in the Tribulation, the Millennium, and the eternal state, for John the important event is the coming of the Lord for him at the Rapture of the church.

16. For this his heart longs, not only because he has been exiled on the bleak Island of Patmos but because of the glorious prospect which his eyes have beheld and his ears have now heard.

17. Seiss in his book *The Apocalypse* writes of a young lady waiting for her lover to return:

"Fiction has painted the picture of a maiden whose lover left her for a voyage to the holy land, promising on his return to make her his beloved bride. Many told her that she would never see him again. But she believed his word, and evening by evening she went down to the lonely shore, and kindled there a beacon-light in sight of the roaring waves, to hail and welcome the returning ship which was to bring again her betrothed. And by that watch fire she took her stand each night, praying to the winds to hasten on the sluggish sails, that he who was everything to her might come.

Even so that blessed Lord, who has loved us unto death, has gone away to the mysterious Holy Land of heaven, promising on his return to make us his happy and eternal Bride. Some say that he has gone forever, and that we shall never see him. But his last word was, 'Yea, I come quickly.'

“And on the dark and misty beach sloping out into the eternal sea, each true believer stands by the love-lit fire, looking, and waiting, and praying and hoping for the fulfillment of his work, in nothing gladder than in his pledge and promise, and calling ever from the soul of sacred love, "even so come Lord Jesus." And some of these nights, while the world is busy with its gay frivolities, and laughing at the maiden on the shore, a form shall rise over the surging waves, as once on Galilee, to vindicate forever all this watching and devotion, and bring to the faithful and constant heart a joy, and glory, and triumph which nevermore shall end."

18. Before we look at the BENEDICTION (Rev 22:21), I want to give you an expanded translation of Rev 22:18-20.

Expanded Translation

Rev 22:18 Let me warn those who have access to this Book of The Revelation. If any unbeliever adds anything to the Revelation, God will place upon him the plagues described in the book.

Rev 22:19 Or if any unbeliever takes away anything written in this book, God Himself will take away his share of the tree of life and his place in the New Jerusalem. Clearly there will be no unbelievers living in Eternity Future though there will be plenty of unbelievers living in the Millennium.

Rev 22:20 Jesus then announced, "Yes, I am coming soon. Amen." And John responded "Come, Lord Jesus!"

19. Now let's close out our study of the book of the Revelation.

KJV

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

NIV

Rev 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

20. I think it fitting at this point to give you an expanded translation of the entire chapter.

Expanded Translation

Rev 22:1 Then the seventh angel showed me the river of the water of life, its waters were as clear as crystal flowing from the Throne of God where both the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ reside.

Rev 22:2 The river ran down the middle of the city's main street. On each side of the river grew the trees of life, the trees bore twelve delicious varieties of food, one for each month. The leaves of the trees when eaten provided a renewed appreciation for life in the New Jerusalem.

Rev 22:3 There will no longer be a curse on planet earth. The throne of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ will be evident in the city, and all of the citizens of the New Jerusalem will serve Them.

Rev 22:4 No longer will we have to transform the mind to know Him, each of us will see Him, His presence will pervade the entire city.

Rev 22:5 In the New Jerusalem I could see there would be no light. The citizens of the city will not need that light, for the Lord Himself will provide abundant light. And we as believers will reign there and bask in His light.

Rev 22:6 The seventh angel said to me, "The words and pictures provided to you are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God of the angels and the prophets, sent his angel Gabriel to show you things which will one day come to pass. Once the eschatological events begin, the events will occur in rapid fire succession;

Rev 22:7 therefore be alert, for events will occur quickly! Blessed are all of those who reproduce the events described in this Book of The Revelation.

Rev 22:8 I, John, was overwhelmed that I had been selected to hear and see these amazing things. I was so amazed that I fell down to worship the seventh angel who had been showing me the things to come.

Rev 22:9 I was promptly rebuked, "Do not do that! I, like you, am a ministering spirit to you and your brothers, the prophets, and of all who keep the words of this book, You, like them, must Worship God!"

Rev 22:10 The seventh angel then said, "Do not seal up the words of this book. Why? Because the time is in fact near.

Rev 22:11 In fact let the unbeliever who has rejected God's protocol keep on doing wrong; the vile should continue to be vile. But as for the believer positive to the word, they should continue following God's protocol; let those who are holy continue to be holy."

Rev 22:12 Now listen up and pay attention for, I am coming soon! I am bringing rewards with Me for those who have produced divine good in time; production which survives the fiery judgment of the Bema shall receive eternal rewards.

Rev 22:13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

Rev 22:14 Blessed and happy are those who by faith alone in Christ alone have washed their robes, and thus may eat from the tree of life and enter into the city.

Rev 22:15 Those who cannot enter the city are the dogs, those who practice the occult, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices lies and deceit.

Rev 22:16 I, Jesus, have sent my angel Gabriel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright and Morning Star."

Rev 22:17 The Holy Spirit, Christ and His forever family say, "Come!" Let him who hears say, "Come!" All who are thirsty, let those who are ready come and take the free gift of salvation - the water of life.

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Rev 22:20 Jesus then announced, "Yes, I am coming soon. Amen." And John responded "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Rev 22:21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you now and forever more. Amen."

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