

OPEN DOOR BIBLE CHURCH, PO BOX 446, WEST OSSIPEE NH 03890

**Pastor John Donovan, cell phone 508-380-0471**

**Pastor Terry Gerlarneau, cell phone 603-455-4399**

**Web site [todbc.org](http://todbc.org) email us at [opendoorbiblechurch@todbc.org](mailto:opendoorbiblechurch@todbc.org)**

**May memory verse, Galatians 6:7 (NKJV) Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**

### **Commentary on Revelations Chapter 22 by Chuck Smith 5.12.21**

And he shewed me a pure river ([Rev 22:1](#))

You know it is going to be new, because these don't exist anymore here.

of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. And in the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bore twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month ([Rev 22:1-2](#)): So, you have an interesting kind of a tree here.

God is going to have a tree that has twelve different kinds of fruit and every month a fruit will be ripe. It is going to be a neat tree. I am such a fruit lover anyhow; I am going to see if I can get a few of those planted in my yard.

and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations ([Rev 22:2](#)).

So, there will be a medicinal value in the leaves of the tree.

And there shall be no more curse ([Rev 22:3](#)):

The earth, you remember, was cursed as a result of sin. "Cursed will be the ground; thorns and thistles will it bring forth. Cursed be man, by the sweat of his brow shall he earn his bread" ([Genesis 3:18-19](#)), and so forth. There will be no more curse.

but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face ([Rev 22:3-4](#));

"Blessed are the pure in heart", Jesus said, "for they shall see God" ([Matthew 5:8](#)). "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, nor light of the sun; for the Lord God gives them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever ([Rev 22:3-5](#)).

Hard to believe; isn't it? That is why He immediately said,

And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true ([Rev 22:6](#)):

It sounds too good to be true. It sounds, wow! So the Lord affirms that these are true and faithful sayings. Again, the affirmation of the truth of what God is declaring for your skeptical mind that finds it hard to believe that God should do such a thing for us. For we are so unworthy and undeserving that we should reign forever and ever in His glorious New Kingdom and New World and new age. So, the Lord assures you these are true and faithful sayings.

and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold ([Rev 22:6-7](#)),

The Lord is talking here to John now.

I come quickly: blessed is he that keeps the sayings of the prophecy of this book. And I John saw these things, I heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me those things ([Rev 22:7-8](#)).

He did this a little earlier and the angel said to him to stand up. "Don't do that." But John is overwhelmed again; he is just wiped out, overwhelmed that the guy tells him that, so he falls down at his feet again to worship him

Then the angel said, Don't do that: for I am thy fellowservant, of the brethren the prophets, of those which keep the sayings of this book: worship God ([Rev 22:9](#)).

Again John making the mistake that man so often makes worshipping the instrument of God. "Don't do that. Worship God."

And he said unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand ([Rev 22:10](#)).

Now, you remember when he talked to Daniel, he said seal up those things and don't write them, for they are for the end. In the last days, knowledge will be increased. So, seal them up there will be a time that they will be understood, but they are not for you, Daniel. Now with John, he said, "don't seal the book. Leave it open, because things are going to start working out".

Now the interesting thing is that so many people look at Revelation as though it were a sealed book. "Oh, that is a sealed book. You don't want to get into that. No one can understand it." It is because they don't attempt to or they attempted to spiritualize the meanings, and if you do that it becomes meaningless. So, if you just read it and say "wow" and accept it as it is, not adding to it or taking away, you have no problem. It is only when you try to spiritualize everything in it, and give everything some kind of a weird meaning, that it becomes a difficult book to understand. "So don't seal 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. And, behold [again the Lord is talking], I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be ([Rev 22:11-12](#)).

Now, as a child of God I will not be judged for my sins; that has all been covered by Jesus Christ. As a child of God the gift of eternal life is just that, it is God's gift to me. I can't earn it. I do not deserve it. It is a gift of God. "By grace you are saved through faith and that not of yourself it is a gift of God; not of works lest any man should boast"([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). However, God is going to reward me according to the works that I do. There will be degrees of rewards in heaven.

Now, as far as eternal life, that is God's gift. I can't deserve that or earn it. I don't deserve it. It is God's gift to me by faith in Jesus Christ, faith alone. That is the only basis upon which this gift is predicated and God gave me the faith to believe. However, now that I believe I want to serve God and I offer myself to God to serve Him, and the works that I do for God, I will be rewarded for them, those works that are done out of a pure motivation.

Now, there are a lot of works that people do that there will be no reward. If your work is just for a big show to just be known among people, and they say, "Oh, man he's just a holy Joe." And you do things to give them that kind of a feeling, you learn to close your eyes at the proper time and fold your hands and you learn to talk in such a way that it sort of oozes of righteousness and spirituality, so that people they can just talk to you and know that you walk close to God. That kind of stuff is junky and there is no reward for that.

Jesus said, "Take heed that you do not your righteousness before men to be seen of men, because then you have your reward"([Matthew 6:1](#)). So, when you pray don't go out on the street corner and do a big thing so that everyone goes by and says, "What is happening? "Oh, he's a spiritual man." "Go in your closet, shut the door and talk to your Father who sees in secret and He will reward you openly" ([Matthew 6:6](#)). When you give don't make a big to-do over it; don't play

the Halleluia chorus and do cartwheels. Learn to do things without drawing attention to yourself. "Let your light so shine before men that when they see your good works they glorify your Father which is in heaven"([Matthew 5:16](#)), because we will be rewarded according to those works that have right motivation.

Now, Jesus said, "If we do our works to be seen of men then we have our reward now." So, be careful about that. There is a real danger, subtle danger there.

"So, I'm coming quickly. My rewards are with Me and I'm going to reward every man according to his work."

You remember the one who received the five talents? How he brought them and said, "Lord you gave me five and I increased them and I now have ten." "Good job. I am going to make you ruler over ten cities. Enter into the joy of the Lord." "Lord you gave me four talents and I went out and used them and I have eight." "All right, good work, make you ruler over eight cities." "Hey, Lord, I know you are an austere man. You like to reap where you didn't sow and so forth. So I knew how you were about the money that You distributed, so I took the money and buried it and here it is, Lord. So I dug it up and got it out of the napkin and it's all preserved. You can have it back again." Not so good. No reward. "I'm coming quickly. My reward is with Me."

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last ([Rev 22:13](#)).

Now, these words were declared of God the Father in chapter one. Here Jesus is talking to John and He is declaring the same thing.

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 ([Rev 22:14](#)).

Jesus said, "I am the door to the sheepfold."

For without are dogs, drug abusers, whoremongers, murderers, idolaters, and whosoever loves and makes a lie. I Jesus have sent my angel to testify unto you these things in the churches ([Rev 22:15-16](#)).

So, this is for the churches. The Lord sent it for the churches.

I am the root and offspring of David, and the bright and the morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come ([Rev 22:16-17](#)).

God's invitation to you to come and to share in the glories of His eternal kingdom.

And let him that heareth say, Come. [Come Lord Jesus and establish Your kingdom.] Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely ([Rev 22:17](#)).

It is open and available. Help yourself.

For I testify unto every man that hears 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 ([Rev 22:18-19](#)).

I cannot imagine the audacity of man to mess around with the book of Revelation with a warning like that, or to try to read something into or read something out of it. I can't imagine such audacity. That is why I take the book literally even though I may not understand all of it. I take it literally and I teach it literally, because I don't want to be guilty of adding to or taking away. I'd rather be wrong in my literal interpretation of the book than to be wrong and add to the book by spiritualizing, or take away from it by spiritualizing.

In other words, this book is not to be messed with, just to be believed and practiced. "Blessed are they that read, hear and practice the words of this prophecy, putting them into practice in their lives." So, that is what it is for, to be read and heard and put into practice, not to be argued with, or disputed over or whatever.

He which testifies these things saith, Surely I come quickly. So be it. Even so, come, Lord Jesus ([Rev 22:20](#)).

Well, that was almost nineteen hundred years ago that He said, "Behold, I come quickly." But Lord it has been nineteen hundred years. Peter said, "In the last days there will be scoffers that will come along and saying where is the promise of His coming? Since our fathers have fallen asleep everything has gone on as it was from the beginning"([2 Peter 3:3](#)). "You know, God stepped out." Foolishness. Jesus is coming again, foolishness. Where is the promise? Things are just going to go on and on and on. There is not going to be any interruption in history.

But Peter said, "God isn't slack concerning His promises," that is the promise of the coming, "as some men count slackness." But he said, "You need to consider that one day is as a thousand years to the Lord and a thousand years is as one day"([2 Peter 3:8](#)). We say it has almost been almost two thousand years. Well,

the Lord says, "It has only been a couple days. Guess we better get back."  
"Behold, I come quickly."

How, quickly is He coming for you? We don't know; do we? But I do believe that the time of the return of Jesus Christ is very, very near. There is an indication in Hosea that for two days Israel will be as dead, but in the third day God will revive them and they will live before him. Again a thousand years to a day and a day to a thousand years. For two thousand years Israel was like dead, but now they have revived. The prophecy of Hosea is fulfilled. And so I do believe that the day of the Lord is at hand. And I, with John, would respond, "Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus."

Oh, how my heart yearns for the Lord to come and the establishing of His kingdom. How I desire to see the New World, the new age with Jesus reigning as King and Lord.

John's final parting words and the closing words of the Bible. How appropriate.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. So be it. ([Rev 22:21](#))

Isn't that beautiful? What a glorious way to end this glorious book. Just the bequest of God's grace or the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ upon you. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ rest or be upon or be with all of you. "So be it."

Shall we pray.

Lord we thank you for Your grace and by grace we will be able to participate in the glorious inheritance of the saints in light. Thank you, Lord, that you have delivered us from the power of darkness, taken the rebellion out of our hearts, and given us a heart of love, a heart of commitment, a heart of faith. Lord we want to serve You because we love You. And we thank you Lord for that hope that You have given to us of the New World, the new age where righteousness shall reign and Jesus shall reign where here the sun doth her successive journeys run. Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus. Amen.

## **Overview of Revelation, by Chuck Swindoll**

### **Who wrote the book?**

The author of Revelation mentioned his name, John, four times throughout the book ([Revelation 1:1](#), [4](#), [9](#); [22:8](#)). Christians throughout history have given almost unanimous affirmation to the identity of the book's author as John the apostle, who had been exiled to the island of Patmos by the authorities for preaching the gospel in Asia. Some

traditions say that the Romans dropped John into a vat of boiling oil, but when the apostle did not die, they instead banished him to the barren rock of Patmos.

The title of the book, Revelation, comes from the Greek word for apocalypse and refers to an unveiling or a disclosure of something as yet unknown. This title is certainly appropriate for the book, a work so interested in making known the events of the future.

## Where are we?

The apostle John wrote the book of Revelation around the year AD 95 from his exile on the island of Patmos. He addressed his work to seven Asian churches—Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. Because John worked in Ephesus for so many of his later years, it would have been natural for him to communicate this vision to the churches under his immediate care and influence. Each of those seven churches received a message directed specifically to them (chapters 2 and 3) before John launched into his account of the future which he received in his vision from God.

## Why is Revelation so important?

The book of Revelation provides the clearest biblical portrait of the events of the tribulation, dealing with the specifics of that terrible time (chapters 4–18). The tribulation will be a time of judgment, a time when those left on the earth after the rapture will suffer deeply for their nonbelief. John pictured this judgment as a series of twenty-one events—inaugurated by the breaking of seven seals, the blowing of seven trumpets, and the pouring out of seven bowls. This grand judgment on the sinfulness of humanity shows the seriousness with which God views sin—payment will be exacted from those not covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.

## What's the big idea?

While Revelation offers many details on the tribulation—even if they are often couched in the mystery of symbolic language—it is the final four chapters that dictate the overall message of the book. [Revelation 19–22](#) portrays Christ's future triumph over the forces of evil and His re-creation of the world for the redeemed. Ultimately, the book—and the world—end in a final victory for truth and goodness.

For the bulk of its sixty-six books, the Bible portrays a world deep in the throes of suffering. Human beings have had a problem with sin since the fall in [Genesis 3](#), and verse after verse has recorded our problem in painstaking detail. The brilliance of Revelation is that it provides a final answer to this problem, a hope that Jesus will once and for all heal the wounds wrought by sin ([Revelation 19](#)), reign for a thousand years on earth ([Revelation 20](#)), and then re-create the world into a place that represents God's original design ([Revelation 21–22](#)). The Bible's narrative is a simple one: creation, fall, re-creation. Without the completion of the redeeming work of Jesus

recorded in Revelation, we wouldn't have the end of the story, leaving our hope for the future in serious doubt.

## How do I apply this?

Usually when people mention the book of Revelation, they immediately think about judgment. And without a doubt, much judgment occurs in the book. However, Revelation does not end with judgment. Instead, it provides a striking bookend for the entire Bible, which begins in Paradise and ends in Paradise. More than judgment on the evildoers, Revelation is a book about hope for the faithful in Christ.

What pains or indignities have you suffered? What broken relationship have you wept over? Has death's sword struck deep into your heart? Revelation promises a world where pain and tears and death pass away. Revelation reminds us that there is indeed hope beyond the momentary trials and struggles of this life. One day the darkness will pass away, and we will all dwell in perpetual light.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus! God be praised.

### Bible Study Aids

#### Revelation Overview Chart

<b>REVELATION</b>			
	<b>"The things which you have seen . . ."</b>	<b>"The things which are . . ."</b>	<b>"The things which will take place." (Revelation 1:19)</b>
	Personal and biographical	Christ's letters to the seven churches	Christ as Judge (chapters 4–5) The tribulation (chapters 6–18) The coming of Christ (chapter 19) The millennium (chapter 20) The eternal state (chapters 21–22)
	<i>CHAPTER</i> 1	<i>CHAPTERS</i> 2–3	<i>CHAPTERS</i> 4–22
<b>Scope</b>	History: looking back		Prophecy: looking ahead
<b>Style</b>	Dialogue		Observations and questions
<b>Scene</b>	On earth		Shifts between earth and heaven
<b>Theme</b>	Christ's future triumph over the forces of evil and His re-creation of the world for the redeemed		
<b>Key Verses</b>	1:7, 19; 22:12–13		
<b>Christ in Revelation</b>	Jesus is the coming King of Kings and Lord of Lords, who will return as Judge and King to usher in the kingdom of God on earth (19:11–20:6).		

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