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These Words Are Trustworthy and True

22: 6-9

These words are trustworthy and true DIG: How do we know that the words of this book are trustworthy and true? How do the words, in the twinkling of an eye, sum up the theme of Revelation? What was John's mistake that we read about in this section?

REFLECT: What does it mean to you to know that Jesus Christ is a truth teller? What are the blessings associated with this book? What, or who, are you worshiping other than God? Sports? Music? A spouse? Education? You fill in the blank!

With the vision of the New Jerusalem, **John's** prophecy is complete. Now **God Himself**, and **Jesus** in particular, authenticate all that **John** had written. **ADONAI**, who had inspired all the other books of the Bible, also inspired the book of **Revelation**. The specific means of revelation to **John** was a holy **angel**.



The angel said to him: **These words are trustworthy and true (22:6a)**. **The angel** assures **John** that what he has seen and heard in the whole revelation of the future is **true and** reliable. **He** was not merely dreaming.⁵¹⁷ Everything **he** saw **and** heard was **true**. We can be sure that **He** who is **called Faithful and True (19:11)**, will speak **words that are trustworthy and true (21:5)**.

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, **You** are so wonderful! It will be worth it all! **Your** promise of*

heaven for all who love and worship **You** will come true. The trials of life will all be gone. Our time to show **You** our love on earth is short. We desire to make wise use of this time for we are so grateful for all **You** have done to rescue and save all who will choose to come to love and to follow **You**. **Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (Matthew 11:28-29).** You are worthy of all our love, even though it may bring us trials and death. For death is a conquered enemy (**First Corinthians 15:54-57**). Indeed, death for those who love **You (Romans 10:9-10)**, could be thought of as heaven's calling card to a life of eternal peace and joy! We love **You** and delight in serving **You**, no matter what it may cost us - for our eyes are on **You** and all eternity! In **Yeshua's** holy name and power of **His** resurrection Amen

The Lord, the God of the holy prophets, sent His angel to show His servants the things that must soon take place in the prophetic future (22:6b). The book of **Revelation** ends the same way it begins, with a promise of blessing to those who **read the words of this prophecy, hear it and take to heart what is written (1:3)**. This is the exact opposite of many Bible teachers. They find **Revelation** to be an impossible mystery for which there is no answer today. This book is the Word of **God** and not the bizarre dreams or overactive imagination on **John's** part. It is not an allegory from which readers can extract hidden meanings. Everything he said will come to pass. When taken in its literal, ordinary meaning, this is exactly what it does, even though much of **Revelation** is written in symbolic form. The Word of **God** is not written to be difficult to understand. It was given to be understood by those taught by **the Holy Spirit**.⁵¹⁸

The book of **Revelation** ends the same way it begins, with a promise of blessing to those **read the words of this prophecy, hear it and obey what is written (1:3)**. Believers are called not only to **hear** the Word, but also to **obey it**. **Jesus said: If you love Me, you will obey with I command . . . If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love (John 14:15, 15:10).** The need to **obey** the Bible was strongly emphasized in **John's** first epistle. **He wrote: We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands. The man who says, "I know Him," but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in Him (First John 2:3-4); This is how we know that we live as the children of God: by loving God and carrying out His commands. This is love for God: to obey His commands (First John 5:2-3).** Those who live as if **Yeshua** could come at any moment will **obey His Word**.

The word **and** marks a change in speakers. The speaker is no longer the **angel**, but **the Lord Jesus Christ**. **He** said: **And behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed are those who keep the words of the prophecy of this book** because they will be ready for **Messiah's Coming (22:7)**. This is the sixth of seven blessings in the book of **Revelation (1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, here and 22:14)**. I use the phrase **coming quickly** here. People get the wrong impression when someone says, "**Jesus** will come very **soon**." The Greek word *tachos* can be translated **quickly** or **soon**. From the divine perspective both are true; however, the context determines which should be used. What we should say is, "When **Jesus** comes, it will happen **quickly**, in the twinkling of an eye." The context in this verse does not imply shortness, but suddenness. Rabbi Sha'ul said it this way: **We will all be changed in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead in Christ will be raised imperishable (First Corinthians 15:51b-52)**.

Jesus does not command believers to read **Revelation** merely to satisfy their curiosity about the future. **He** did not inspire it to provide material for end-time seminars. It was not **God's** purpose to give us a detailed analysis of the prophetic significance of current cultural, political, military or social events. **God** inspired **Revelation** for one purpose: to reveal the glory of **His Son** and call believers to godly, obedient lives. The purpose of the book is not to provide entertainment, but to provide motivation for godly living.⁵¹⁹

The word **and** appears once more and marks the change of speaker. The speaker is no longer **Yeshua**, but **John**, who named **himself** for the first time since **1:9**. **He** said: **I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things (22:8a)**. **John** now adds **his** own testimony for the benefit of **his** readers. Those first readers in the seven churches of Asia Minor knew **him** personally. They loved and honored **him**. Thus, **he** assures them again (**1:9, 21:2**) that **he** had actually seen and **heard** the tremendous events that **he** was reporting.⁵²⁰

Then overcome by what **he had heard and seen them, John fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to him (22:8b)**. **He** had the right response, but being overwhelmed with the grandeur of the scene **he** mistakenly directed **his** reverence to **the angel**. **He** knew this was wrong. In fact, **he** had already been reprimanded for attempting to do so earlier (**19:10**). But like **Ezeki'el (Ezeki'el 1:28)**, **Dani'el (Dani'el 8:17, 10:9)**, and **Peter, James and himself** at the Transfiguration (**Matthew 17:6**), **John fell face down** in awe and **worship at the feet of the angel**.

Since **God** alone is to be worshiped, **the angel** warned **him**, "**Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book**" (**22:9a**). **Angels** are servants of **God**. They helped to **put the Torah into**

effect (Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:19; Hebrews 2:2) and are often seen protecting believers (**Exodus 23:20; 2 Chronicles 32:21; Psalm 91:11; Dani'el 3:28, 6:22; Acts 5:19, 12:7-11**). Summarizing the ministry of **angels**, the writer to the **Hebrews** asks rhetorically: **Are not all angels ministering spirits to serve those who will inherit salvation (Hebrews 1:14)?**

Jolting the confused **apostle** back to **his** senses, **the angle** commanded **John** to **worship God (22:9b)**! Only **God** is worthy of our **worship**. The Bible forbids us to **worship** anyone, including angels, saints, the Virgin Mary, or anything else. This is also a sharp rebuke to all those who feel they must have aids in order to worship **God**. Such things as images, a solemn atmosphere, excitement, prayer beads, ornaments, icons, a special building, a prayer room, nor anything else is needed to **worship God**. If not even a mighty **angel** of **God** provides a suitable atmosphere for **worship**, surely nothing we can make can add to it. **God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and truth (John 4:24).**

When **God** made **His** covenant with Isra'el, **He** exhorted them, saying: **Do not worship any other god, for ADONAI, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God (Exodus 34:14)**. We think of **jealous** as a negative term. So what is **God jealous** of? Everything! Our time. Our thoughts. Our heart. Or anything else that gets in between **Him** and you. But actually the meaning here of **Him** being **jealous** is that **He** can tolerate no rivals and is *zealous* for your worship. **He** does not want to share **His** honor and glory with anything or anybody. When I married my wife Beth, I vowed that she would always be number two in my life. Where is **ADONAI** in yours?