The Last Words of John

I John am the one "Now I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. When I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who had shown me these things" (Rev 22:8).

John is often accused of compiling the book of Revelation out of his own imagination, bits of the Bible, and other literature of his day. But John's sources are impeccable. He got his visions from an angel sent by Jesus.

If anyone adds... or takes away "I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book, if anyone adds to them, may God add to him the plagues which are written in this book. If anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, may God take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book" (Rev 22:18-19).

People are often rather free with the word of God, adding their own doctrines to it and discarding parts of it.

Here we are all severely warned not to do that. John's statement shows that he regarded his book as holy scripture not to be tampered with.

Amen, Come Lord Jesus! "He who testifies these things says, “Yes, I come quickly.” Amen! Yes, come, Lord Jesus.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with all the saints. Amen" (Rev 22:20-21).

I suppose when John considers all that he had heard and seen, he is more than ready for the Lord to come quickly as he promises. We too, when we have considered his revelation, will respond just as eagerly.

The Last Words of the Angel

These words are true "And the angel said to me, “These words are faithful and true.” The Lord God of the spirits of the prophets sent his angel to shew to his bondservants the things which must happen soon" (Rev 22:6). Here the angel joins John and Jesus in asserting the source of the visions. The angel implies that the visions have received the stamp of the Almighty God and his prophets of old.

Don't Do That! "See that you don't do that. I am a fellow bondservant with you and with your brothers, the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God" (Rev 22:9).

John fell down to worship the angel, awestruck by the things the angel had given him to see and hear. But he should not have thought to worship the angel.

It is very big of John to share his mistake with us. He does this to impress on us that we should worship none but God.

Do not seal up the words "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand" (Rev 22:10). When Daniel had completed his prophecy, the angel told him to seal up his book (Dan 12:4).

This does not mean that he couldn't let people read it, but that its fulfillment was not yet. John's book is not to be sealed, because it was, and is, being fulfilled already —it is the gospel message, The mystery revealed (Rom 16:25-26), the message for today.

Let him be holy still "He who acts unjustly, let him act unjustly still. He who is filthy, let him be filthy still. He who is righteous, let him do righteousness still. He who is holy, let him be holy still." (Rev 22:11).

The angel is not saying it is ok to be unjust or filthy, or that if you are unjust and filthy you have to stay that way. He means that now is a time for decision. You can stay filthy if you wish —or you can become holy. You can stay holy if you wish —or you can become filthy. You won't always have the option, but for the time being you do. Don't waste that time —because in the state you are found on the last day, in that state you will remain forever.

The Last Words of Jesus

We will look at these in “The Last Words of Jesus (2).