

“Book of Revelation—Part 11”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Sept. 14, 2024.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a 12-part series about the book of Revelation. Part 11 was about “Revelation 22:10-11.”

This Bible study was different from the previous topics, because those presentations spent a lot of time within the book of Revelation. The recent presentation began with two verses, but then included other parts of the Bible to support the main points.

Revelation 22:10

- Revelation 22:10—“He said . . .”

Who said?

- Revelation 22:8—An angel showed John things.
- Revelation 22:10—An angel said to John: “Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.”

Let’s look at this verse in two other translations.

The Amplified New Testament: “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book and make no secret of them; for the time when things are brought to a crisis and the period of their fulfillment is near.”

Contemporary English Version: “Don’t keep the prophecies in this book a secret. These things will happen soon.”

So there seems to be a mandate to talk about what is in the book of Revelation.

Biblical warnings

However, there are definitely biblical warnings about how to talk about what is in the book of Revelation.

Notice Revelation 22:18-19.

- Revelation 22:18—“If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book.”

■ Revelation 22:19—“If anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life.”

Are those biblical warnings clear enough?

Combining two objectives

Are you successful about combining two important objectives?

- Don't keep the teachings from the book of Revelation a secret.
- But don't alter the biblical teachings.

How successful are you in teaching from the book of Revelation without altering the biblical teachings?

How observant are you in hearing people teaching from the book of Revelation without them altering the biblical teachings?

Personally, I enjoy hearing people who give me their humble “interpretation” about the book of Revelation.

I know. I know.

2 Peter 1:20-21—“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation—because prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

- If you talk about the book of Revelation claiming to be moved by the Holy Spirit (when you are not moved by the Holy Spirit), you should be classified as a false prophet.
- If you humbly give your perspective (your interpretation) about the book of Revelation, you might actually be helpful to other people.

Exalting ourselves violates both aspects of the Great Commandment (Mark 12:29-31).

Erroneously claiming to speak for God violates the commandment of loving God with our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30).

Erroneously claiming to speak for God violates the commandment of loving our neighbor (Mark 12:31).

n So please continue to share your humble and thoughtful perspectives about the book of Revelation with other people.

n But please keep your arrogant and dogmatic opinions about the book of Revelation to yourself.

Revelation 22:11

■ Revelation 22:11—“He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”

At some point, time will run out, and our character traits will be established.

That truth should remind us of two valuable lessons.

- The Father gave us His expectations to be accomplished until the very end.
- When we fall short of the Father's expectations (as we oftentimes do), we have the opportunity to be restored through our repentance and His commitment to us.

Biblical examples

- Deuteronomy 3:25-27—When Moses requested to travel to the Promised Land at that moment, the Lord said "no" (because Moses made a mistake)—but Moses is still listed favorably in Hebrews 11.
- 2 Samuel 12:13-21—When David fasted for his son to be healed, the Lord said "no" (because of David's sin)—but David is still called a man after God's own heart in Acts 13:22.
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-9—When Paul asked God to remove a thorn in his flesh, the Lord said "no" (because God was going to show His strength through Paul's weakness).
- Job 1:8—The Lord asked Satan if he had considered testing Job.
- Job 2:3—The Lord asked Satan a second time if he had considered testing Job.
- Job 38:3—The Lord challenged Job to give Him an answer.
- Job 40:4—Job gave the Lord a pretty good answer.
- Job 40:7—The Lord again challenged Job to give Him an answer.
- Job 42:1-6—Job gave the Lord a better answer.
- John 12:47—The Son of God said that, if a person does not understand, he is not being judged.
- John 12:48—The Son of God said that, if a person does understand, he is being judged.
- Matthew 23:4-15—The Son of God corrected alleged leaders who had knowledge, but did not use that knowledge to serve people.
- Luke 23:27-28—The Son of God said it was appropriate for people to mourn for themselves and their children—and by extension for the world around us.
- Luke 23:42—The thief on the cross repented at the very end.

It is my perspective that we should live a lifetime of obeying our Heavenly Father and talking to Him (repenting) when we disappoint Him.

I recommend that you repent at baptism, repent throughout your life and repent right before you die.

Your Heavenly Father will help you avoid being unjust and filthy. Your Heavenly Father will keep you righteous and holy.