

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 58

# THE FINAL EXHORTATION

REVELATION 22:6-21



IHOP - ONE THING MINISTRIES

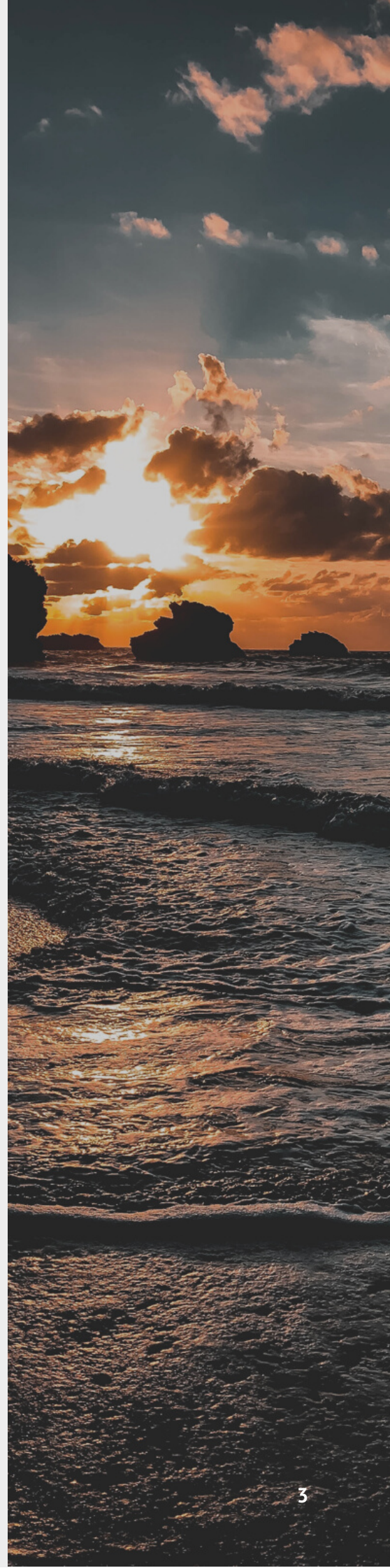


This final chapter of the Book of Revelation, chapter 22, is a **clear call to the Body of Christ not to neglect this book**. This is one of the most powerful chapters in the entire Bible. The Book of Revelation ends with this chapter. The entire Bible ends with this chapter. More than that, the entire human history ends with this chapter!

**How John responded in the penultimate verse in this chapter, “*Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*” is the ultimate response the Book of Revelation is seeking to create — that we will yearn for the coming of Jesus.**

One of the main purposes of the Book of Revelation is to reveal the beauty and glory of Jesus as our coming Bridegroom, King and Judge so as to create in us a deep desire and longing for His return. This is in line with Peter's exhortation for the Church **to look for and hasten the coming of the day of God** (2 Pet. 3:12).

The first century Church walked with the Lord. They really missed Him and wanted Him to come back. In this day and age, the Body of Christ, in general, does not have a deep yearning for Jesus' return.





Three times in this chapter, Jesus declared that He is coming back quickly (Rev. 22:7,12,20). This means that His return is imminent, and He wants us to pay attention. If this is important to the Church in John's time, it is even more relevant and important to the Church in the End Times.

Jesus also made three vital exhortations and gave three important warnings. We would do well to take heed.

**Revelation 22:6 begins by declaring that all the words of this book are faithful and true.**

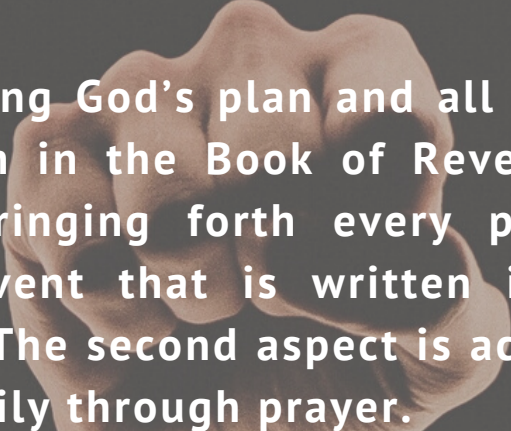
All that is written in this book is not theoretical. Neither is it just a dramatic story. All the revelations, events, personalities and promises from Revelation 1 – 22 are real, true and will come to pass. We are to study this book prayerfully, bathing our study with prayer, and birthing our understanding through prayer. We need the help of the Spirit of wisdom and revelation to guide us deeper and deeper into God's truth with understanding so that **we may see reality with clarity.**



The second part of **verse 6**, “*sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place*”, is the same as the opening verse of Revelation 1. **God is re-emphasising the importance of this book** in revealing who Jesus is, what kind of Church He is looking for when He returns, and what will happen during the End Times and in the Millennial Age and Eternity so that His people can develop understanding and partner with Him.

**Verse 7** is the first declaration of Jesus that He is coming back quickly. He then exhorts us to take this book seriously and to keep this prophecy. There is only one generation who can fulfil and keep this prophecy — the End-Time Generation.

## **KEEPING THE PROPHECY OF THIS BOOK IS ABOUT:**

1. Preserving and obeying every truth in this book so that we will prepare ourselves to be overcomers.
  2. Engaging God's plan and all that is written in the Book of Revelation, and bringing forth every promise and event that is written in this book. The second aspect is achieved primarily through prayer.
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**There is only one generation who will keep this prophecy. It will likely be the young ones — the Millennials, the Gen Z and the Gen A. That is why we need to prepare the young ones so that they will arise to keep this prophecy and bring forth all that is written in it!**

In **verses 8 to 9**, John was overwhelmed and awed by the revelation he received. That is why he bowed down and worshipped God. John was not worshipping the angel because, by the time he wrote this book, he was already a mature apostle. He had received revelations and encounters before. He had even gone before the throne of God the Father; an angel will pale in comparison to God in all His glory and majesty.

The response John had is the response that we want when we study the Book of Revelation — we want to be awed by God and His magnificent plan for us. **The ultimate litmus test of whether we truly understand the Book of Revelation is this — we will worship God!**



**VERSE 10 TELLS US THAT  
THE BOOK IS NOT SEALED.**

**This is exciting! It means that we can understand if we are diligent to press in and search it out. In contrast, in Daniel 12, Daniel was told that the book is sealed until the time of the end (Dan. 12:4). The angel gave two signs when the book will be opened up — when international travel is common (many shall run to and fro), and when knowledge shall increase (in the era of the internet, google and ChatGPT). These two signs are already fulfilled in our time! Hence, we, the End-Time generation, will have greater and greater understanding of the Book of Revelation and other mysteries in the Bible as we press in to search them out.**

**One major key to unlocking revelation and understanding is prayer and fasting. We see this in the life of Daniel, and God wants to restore and establish the lifestyle of fasting and prayer in the End-Time generation.**

Revelation 22:11 is the first warning from God. Out of His grace, God has put a cap on the wickedness in man's heart. There will come a time when God will remove the restraint. He's going to allow every evil in man's heart to be revealed. Sin will escalate and reach its max (Dan. 8:23). That is why we need to deal with the mystery of lawlessness and with offense in our hearts now (2 Thes. 2:7).

In **verse 12**, Jesus once again declared that He is coming quickly. This time, He calls us to stay faithful and obedient through the persecution and tribulation. If we do so until the end, we will receive eternal rewards. Jesus promised that He would give to every one according to his work. He is not just talking about labour in ministry but how we live our lives until the very end. It's a call to be wise and to align ourselves fully with the Lord.



In **verse 13**, Jesus assures us that He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, and the First and the Last. These are the exact same titles that He used to introduce Himself at the start of the book (Rev. 1:8,11).

Through His name, the Alpha and the Omega, Jesus is reminding us that He is the most absolute and complete leader throughout all human history. He is absolute in power and complete in wisdom and love.



He is the uncreated One who was there in the beginning with the Father and will be here on earth at the End of the Age and throughout eternity. He is first in authority, and He will have the last word at the Judgement Seat. We can put our trust completely in Him, and if we fully trust, obey and follow Him, we will overcome!

**Verse 14** tells us that if we obey His commandments in the Book of Revelation, we will be rewarded with the right to eat from the Tree of Life, and we will inherit the eternal city!

**Verse 15** is the second warning in this chapter. It tells us of six categories of people who will be disqualified from inheriting the promises. They are the *dogs* (false teachers, Phil 3:2), the *sorcerers* (those who practise witchcraft), the *sexually immoral*, the *murderers*, the *idolators* and the *liars*. Hence, we have to diligently deal with the small foxes in our lives. The little sins and compromises, if left alone, will flourish to become huge glaring sins and will cause us to fall away from the Lord.



In **verse 16**, Jesus reveals **four truths about Himself** to assure us that He is a great leader. He will lead and guide us to step into our identity as His Bride and the fullness of our function described in verse 17.

Jesus is:

## **THE ROOT OF DAVID**

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Jesus is saying that He is God. He existed before David, and He is the cause of David's kingdom.

## **THE OFFSPRING OF DAVID**

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Jesus is saying that He is fully Man and that He is the promised Jewish King who arises from the lineage of David, whose throne will be established forever (2 Sam. 7:12–17).

## THE BRIGHT STAR

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In the ancient days, stars were used for navigation. Jesus is saying that He is the Bright Star who will **lead and guide us** in the midst of the darkness of the Great Tribulation, unto becoming the mature, equally yoked Bride. He is the One who will bring the light and the glory and transition the earth from this age to the Millennial age!

## THE MORNING STAR

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The morning star usually refers to Venus and is the star seen shining brightly in the East just before sunrise. Jesus is giving us the **assurance of victory**. The increasing release of His glory during the Great Tribulation is a sure sign of the dawning of a new Millennium.

**Revelation 22:17 is the clearest description and picture of the End-Time Church fully established in her Bridal identity and fully functioning as the House of Prayer.**

She will operate in oneness with the Holy Spirit and will release the greatest power and glory on the earth through prayer, ultimately ushering in the Second Coming of Jesus.

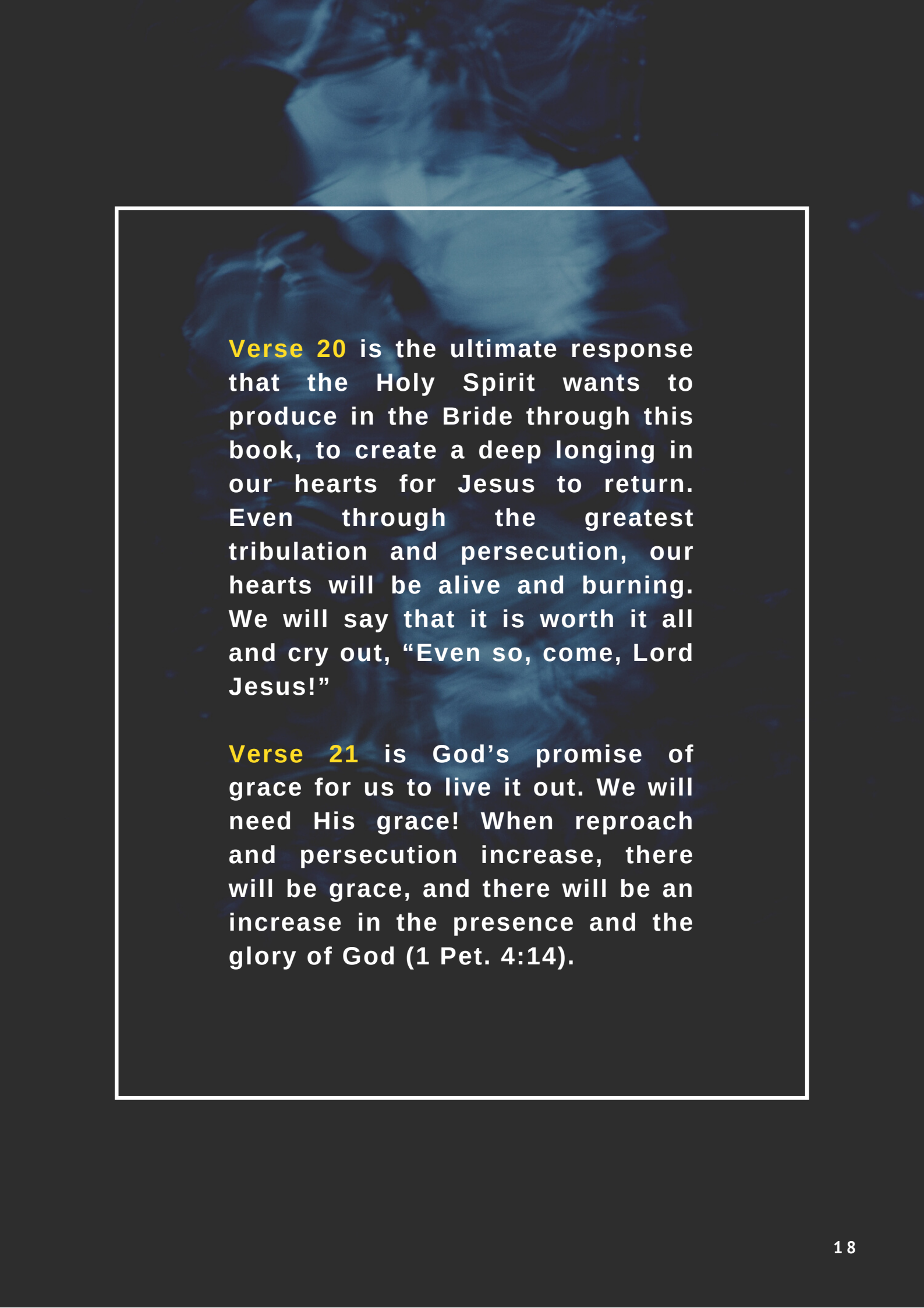
**Verse 18** is the final warning of Jesus. It is both serious and sober and warns us not to corrupt the Book of Revelation. There are serious judgements if we do so. We will receive the plagues written in this book, and our names will be removed from the Book of Life.





We are not to add to the words of this prophecy, meaning we are not to change its content or make it too complex to understand. Neither are we to take away from the words of this book. This means that we are not to diminish the importance and relevance of this book and cause His people to neglect it.

Indeed, without the Book of Revelation, the whole counsel of God is not complete, and something major is missing. Neglecting the Book of Revelation will leave the Body of Christ vulnerable and totally unprepared for the intensities of the tribulation and persecution that is coming.



**Verse 20** is the ultimate response that the Holy Spirit wants to produce in the Bride through this book, to create a deep longing in our hearts for Jesus to return. Even through the greatest tribulation and persecution, our hearts will be alive and burning. We will say that it is worth it all and cry out, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”

**Verse 21** is God’s promise of grace for us to live it out. We will need His grace! When reproach and persecution increase, there will be grace, and there will be an increase in the presence and the glory of God (1 Pet. 4:14).

Let's end with this exhortation in Revelation 1:3:

***“BLESSED IS HE  
WHO READS”***

Read the Book of Revelation regularly. Eat the scroll. What we have shared here is but a guide. Ask the Lord for deeper and deeper revelation and understanding as we approach the Day of His return.

***“AND THOSE WHO  
HEAR THE WORDS OF  
THIS PROPHECY “***

More than hearing physically, we want to take the message deep in, digest it, and allow it to produce a change in our hearts, values, mindsets and lifestyles, so that we ourselves can arise as a voice for the Lord.

***“AND KEEP THOSE  
THINGS WHICH ARE  
WRITTEN”***

There is only one generation that is preordained to keep this prophecy. This is the generation who will see the Lord's return.

**WE ARE THAT GENERATION.  
WHAT A PRIVILEGE!**

May we be the ones who engage the Lord regarding His plans, and bring forth every promise and event that is written in this book through constant prayer and consistent obedience!



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