

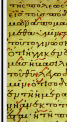




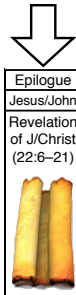


# Revelation: Epilogue (Rev. 22:6–21)

## General Outline

Prologue	Church		World		Heaven	Epilogue
Jesus/John Revelation of J/Christ (1:1–8)	Vision of Son/Man (1:9–20)	Judgment Seven Letters (2–3)	Vision of Heaven (4–5)	Judgment Cycle (6–20)	Vision of Victory (21–22)	Jesus/John Revelation of J/Christ (22:6–21)
						

## General Outline



## Epilogue (22:6–21)

### I. Imagery Sources

#### A. Epistolary Genre

macro *inclusio* for book: beginning, end  
numerous ties to Prologue, Seven Letters

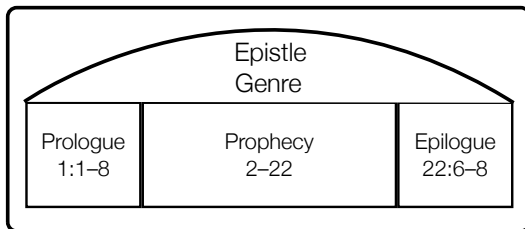
#### B. Miscellaneous Old Testament Ideas

Dan. 12:10: “seal up the words until the end” is reversed, since the “end” for John is now  
Isa. 11:1: “offspring of Jesse,” which John innovates as the “root” or *source* of Davidic line  
Num. 24:17: “bright, morning star,” messianic for Jews (*T. Levi* 18:3; 24:1; *CD* 7.18–21; *1 QM* 11.6–7; *4QTest* 9–13; cf. Simon bar Kokhba)

## Epilogue (22:6–21)

- I. Imagery Sources
  - B. Miscellaneous Old Testament Ideas
    - Isa. 55:1: “without price”
    - Isa. 44:6: “first, last, beginning, end” (1:17; 2:8)
- II. Major Narrative Functions
  - A. Epistolary Unity
    - macro *inclusio* for entire book (beginning, end)
    - sets up narrative connections with chapter 1
  - B. Major Themes reiterated

## Epilogue (22:6–21)



## Epilogue (22:6–21)

Motif	Prologue	Epilogue
1. revelation from God	1:1	22:6, 16
2. the one who testifies	1:1–2	22:20
3. John's identification	1:2	22:8
4. blessing on keeping	1:3	22:7, 9, 10
5. the time is near	1:3	22:10
6. the Seven Churches	1:4	22:16
7. coming soon	1:7	22:7, 12, 20
8. Alpha and Omega	1:8	22:13

## Epilogue (22:6–21)

- III. Words of Prophecy (22:6–11)
  - A. Three emphases
    - authenticity of revelation (“trustworthy”)
      - countering lies of beast
      - countering lies of Jezebel
    - nearness of fulfillment (“soon”)
      - echoes Seven Letters (assessment portion)
      - reminder of immediacy of prophecy
    - worship of believers (“worship God!”)
      - central issue related to Roman emperors
      - if not angels, then certainly not emperors

## Epilogue (22:6–21)

### III. Words of Prophecy (22:6–11)

#### B. Prophetic reprise

“faithful and true”

repeats end of of New Jerusalem vision  
echoes Dan. 2:45 (God’s kingdom come)

“must happen soon”

Daniel’s “after these things” of the future  
Daniel’s future is now for John

word of blessing

reiterates Prologue blessing (1:3)

“keeping” = faithful testimony to Jesus

“worship God!” reiterates angelic warning

## Epilogue (22:6–21)

### III. Words of Prophecy (22:6–11)

#### B. Prophetic reprise

unsealing the words

reversing Daniel (Dan. 8:26; 12:4, 9)

Christ’s death/resurrection unveils future

human character

persistent evil-doers will be judged

persistent righteousness will be rewarded

prepares for following judgment warning

## Epilogue (22:6–21)

### IV. Words of Christ (22:12–16)

#### A. Eschatological judge

coming as recompense (cf. Thyatira, 2:23)

words of warning certified (v. 11)

Alpha/Omega = divine title, legitimate judge

#### B. Eschatological destiny

washed robes = redeemed by blood (3:4; 7:14)

two eternal life metaphors

(1) tree of life

(2) enter by gates

“dogs”: final disparagement of evil doers = final  
emphasis on falsehood

## Epilogue (22:6–21)

### IV. Words of Christ (22:12–16)

#### C. Divine asseveration (22: 6, 16)

revelatory angel sent by God, Jesus (cf. 1:1)

God, Jesus always act in concert in Revelation

book John promised was delivered (cf. 5:4;

1:11; 10:11)

#### D. Speaker identification

“descendent of David” = messianic (cf. 5:5)

“morning star” = unique title in NT

likely allusion to messianic Num. 24:17

possible Venus allusion of Roman generals?

## Epilogue (22:6–21)

### IV. Words of Christ (22:12–16)

#### E. Audience identification

“to you . . . to the churches”

“you” = plural = ambiguous (not John)

seven churches?

church corporate?

authorities over churches?

## Epilogue (22:6–21)

### V. Words of Invitation (22:17)

#### A. Possible liturgical context (Beasley-Murray)

antiphonal responses of reader/congregation

facilitates public confession of Christ

calls Rome into divine judgment

#### B. Invitation of Spirit and Bride

“Come!” = bring kingdom of God fulfillment

answer cry of martyrs under altar (6:9–11)

#### C. Invitation of hearers

“Come!” = congregational response

affirmation of calling Rome into judgment

## Epilogue (22:6–21)

### V. Words of Invitation (22:17)

#### D. Invitation of evangelist

“Come!” to any thirsty (Jn. 7:37–38; Isa. 55:1)

“water of life without price”

direct assault on evil Roman commerce

commerce for self-gain, aggrandizement

bleeding life out of empire subjects

drunkenness of idolatries (17:2–6)

counterpoint to judgment scenes of famine

seals: 6:6; bowls: 13:17

equivalent to Paradise abundance themes

## Epilogue (22:6–21)

### VI. Words of Warning (22:18–19)

#### A. Curse formula

ancient world: books at mercy of copyists

formulaic endings

temptation to tamper with words

warnings of dire consequences

add/subtract symmetry

add words = add plagues written within

subtract words = subtract share in holy city

#### B. Literary innuendo

warning for Seven Churches

prejudging behavioral reactions to book

## Epilogue (22:6–21)

### VII. Words of Amen (22:20)

- A. Liturgical ending
  - responses of Christ, reader, congregation
  - provides balanced, fitting conclusion
- B. Response of Christ: "I am coming soon."
  - third time this chapter
  - burden of Christian anticipation
- C. Response of reader: "Amen."
- D. Response of congregation: "Come, Lord Jesus!"
  - prayer of early church (*maran atha*)
  - Seven Churches activate Judgment Cycle

## Epilogue (22:6–21)

### VIII. Words of Benediction (22:21)

- A. Epistolary conclusion
  - parallels opening greeting formula (1:4–6)
  - parallels Pauline conclusions
  - most unusual for apocalyptic literature
  - form of a benediction
- B. Interpretive corollary
  - historical anchor of apocalyptic images
  - meaning is specific, historical, first century
  - images sublimated to gospel realities
  - abiding issue of contemporary application