

The future

***“the eternal glories gleam afar
To nerve my faint endeavour
And not to watch, to work, to war,
And then to rest for ever”***

I found a friend, O such a friend: James G. Small, 1817-1888

Paul:

Romans 8:18 ***“I consider the present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us”***

John

1 John 3:2 ***“dear friends now we are the children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears we shall be like him. For we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves even as he is pure”***

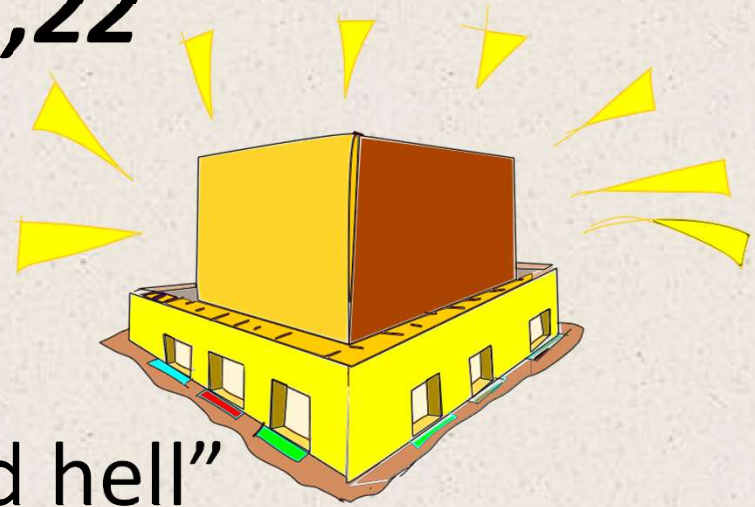
Final chapters 21,22

Final messages going away on holiday:

- Don't forget to lock the doors
- Don't forget to feed the cat
- Don't forget to put out the recycling
- If the water leaks you know where the stop-cock is
- Water the plants!
- Mum says: make sure you eat properly
- Oh, and tidy up before we get back

Why does anyone leave these messages?

Final chapters 21,22



On previous times: “heaven and hell”

The rider on the white horse conquers

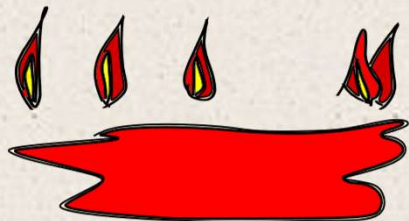
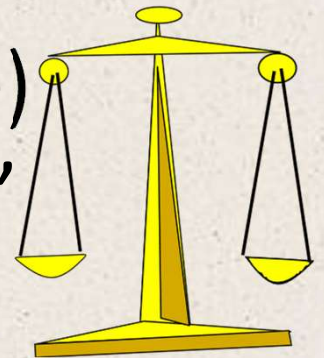
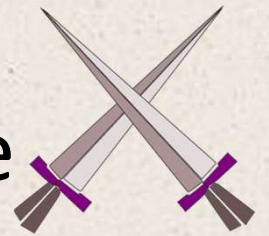
- enemies gruesomely defeated in battle

- lake of fire 20:10,14,21:8

- judgment (books of deeds, book of life)

And I saw “a new heaven and a new earth”

21:1,2



The book of revelation

It is a book in the Bible – for our edification, our survival and progress as Christians

It is an “**unveiling**”

– truth behind the appearance

It is in the form of a **letter**

- to ????

- letters are relevant to hearers

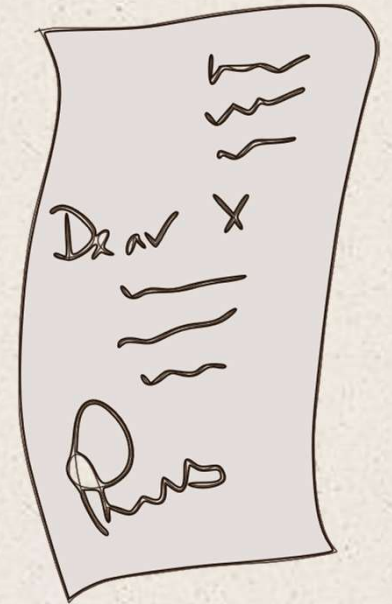
It is in the form of a **prophecy**

- telling them what is shortly going to happen

- behavioural implications of big picture

- horizon: from time of writing to end of the

world



21:9-26

- theological architecture
// grandest of designs
- Like tabernacle/temple
 - where God and humans meet
- **Gates** x12: angels -> tour guides, 12 tribes + 12 apostles
- **Size** – huge, covers known world
- **Foundations**: jewels like Priest's clothing
- **Temple** (absence of): presence everywhere
- **Traffic** = wealth of nations, nothing impure



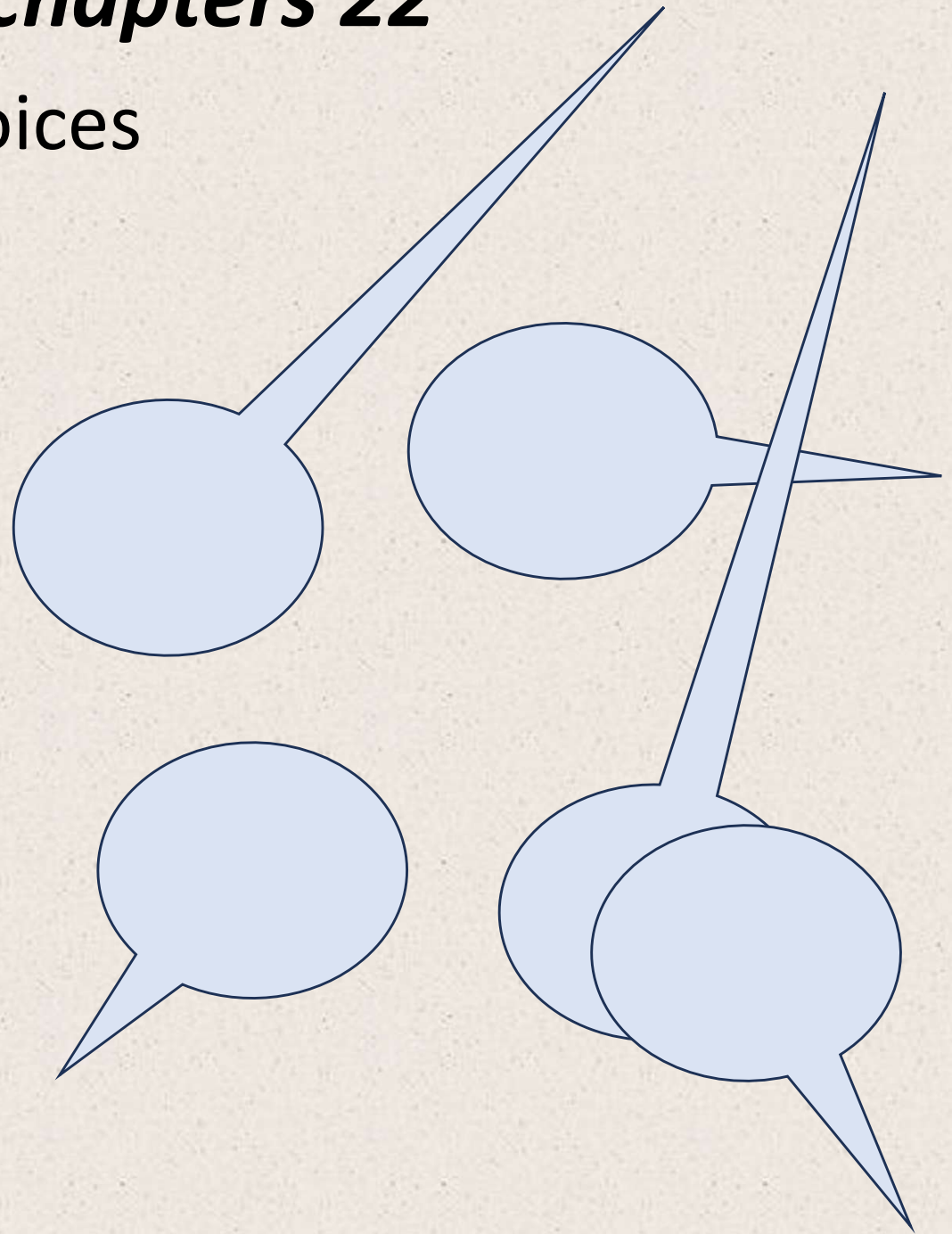
22:1-5 things:

- *river,*
- *tree,*
- *light*
- Service
- Sight
- success



Final chapters 22

22:6 -21 concluding voices



Final chapters 21,22

Final messages going away on holiday:

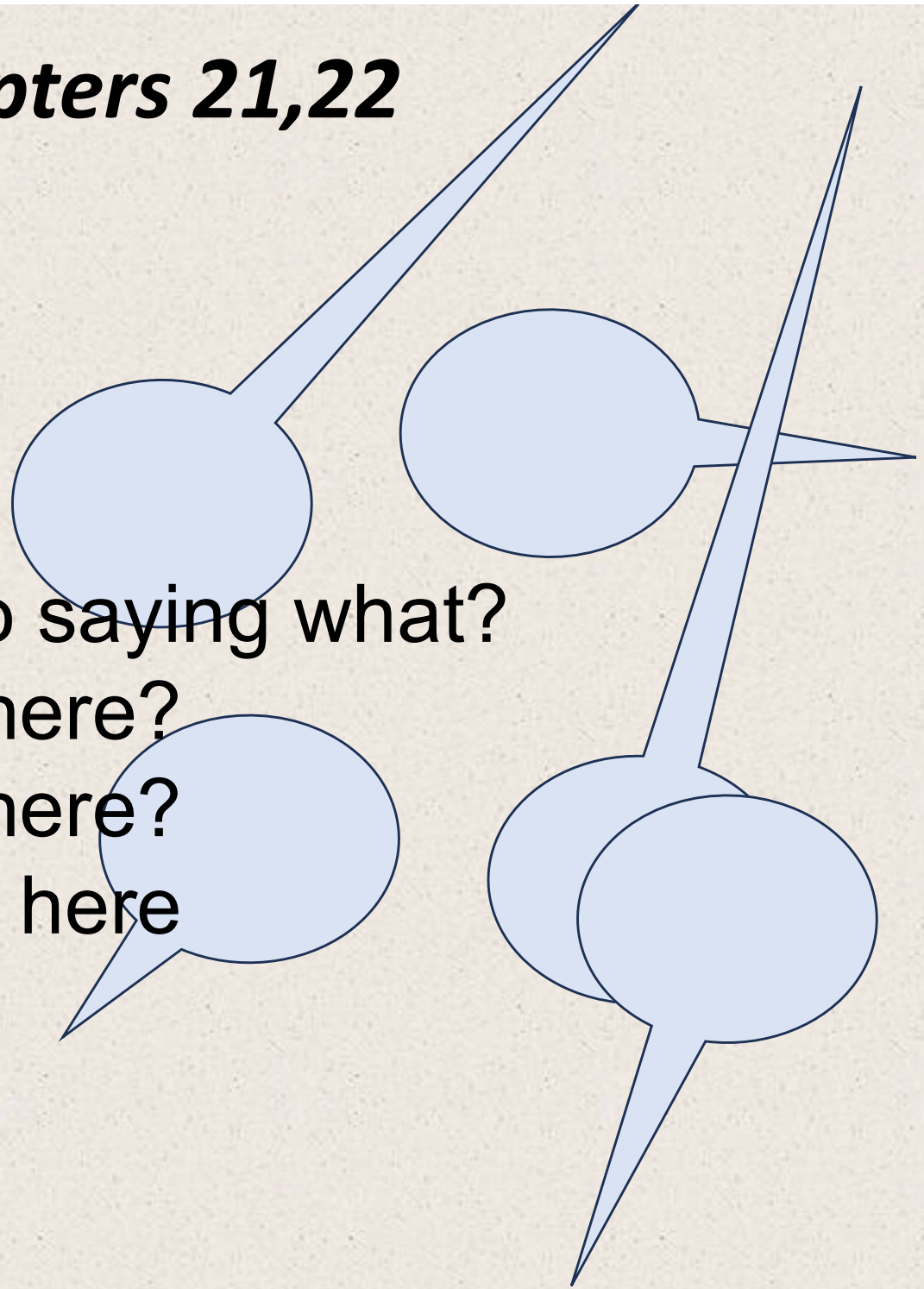
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Final chapters 21,22

Final messages:

- V. 6 angel says
- V.7 who says ...
- V.8 who reports who saying what?
- V.17 who is talking here?
- V.18 who is talking here?
- V.20a who is talking here
- V.20b who?



Incidentally – chapter 1

From ...

To ...

To show to ...

By sending

To ...

God →

Jesus Christ →

Servants

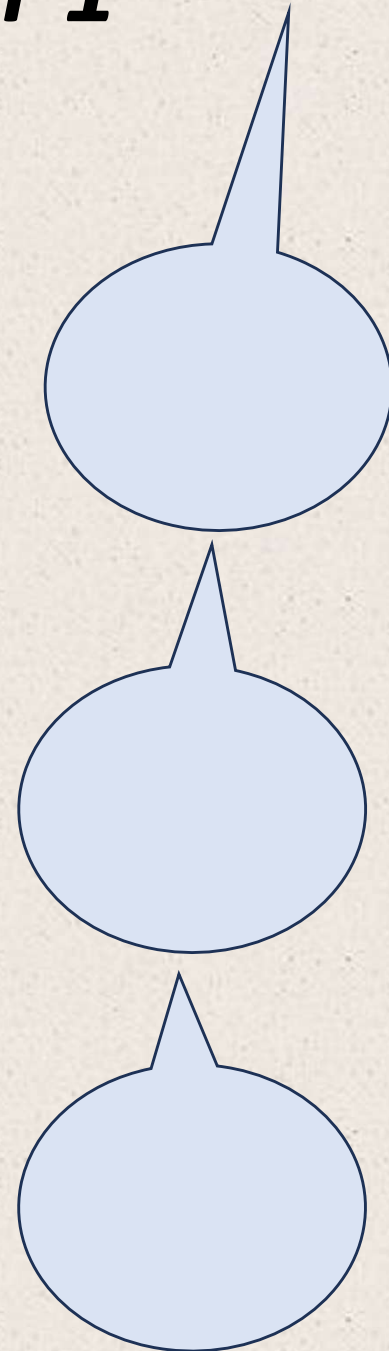
[Jesus] →

Angel →

John →

Seven churches →

Us ???



Final chapters 21,22

Final message #1 – speed

v.6 “ sent his angel to show his servants the things that must take place soon

= en tachei

= in quickness

v.7 “and behold I am coming quickly

= tachy

Q: soon = human soon, a mistake?

Q: soon = divine soon (2 Peter 3:8)

➔ The next thing on God’s agenda

➔ Matthew 25:1-13

Final chapters 21,22

Final message #2 – words

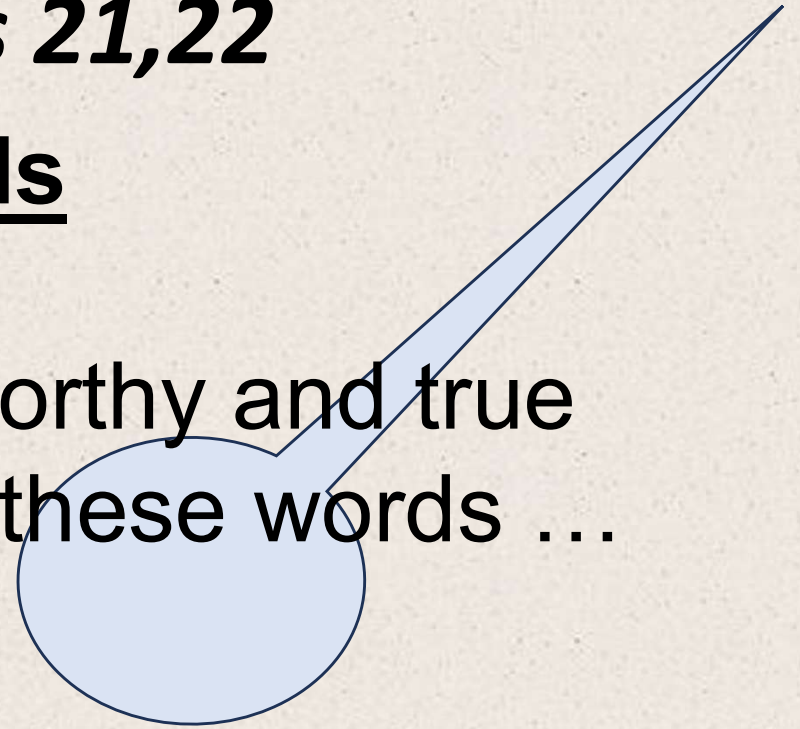
v.6 these words are trustworthy and true

v.7 blessed ... who keeps these words ...

prophecy ... written

v.9

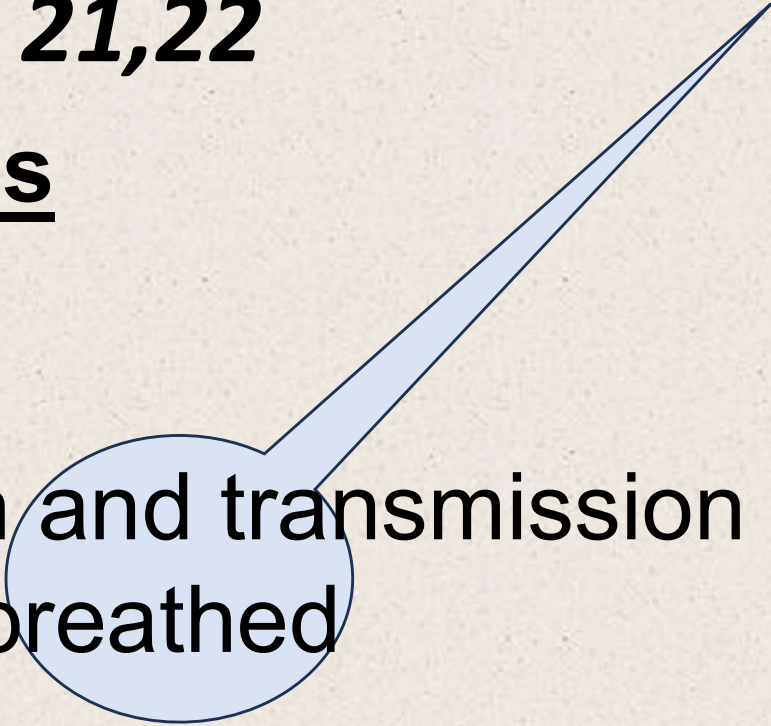
v.18



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Final message #2 – words

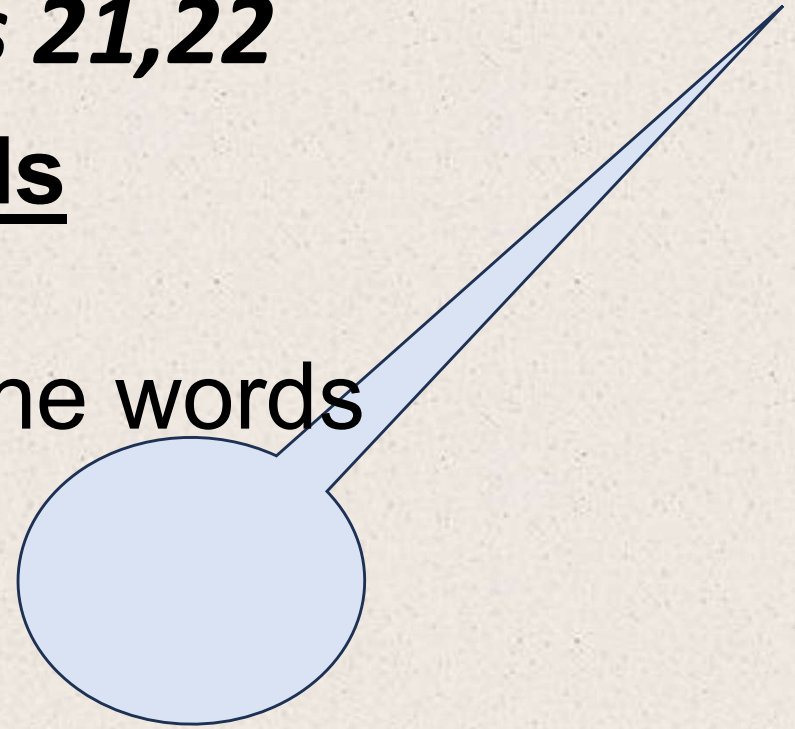
1. Divine reliability

- Claim for divine origin and transmission
 - → Scripture as God-breathed
 - 2 Tim 3:14-16
 - 2 Peter 1:16-21, 3:16
- 

Final chapters 21,22

Final message #2 – words

1. Divine reliability
2. Profitability of keeping the words
 - = believing
 - = re-visiting, meditating
 - = behaving accordingly



Final chapters 21,22

Final message #2 – words

1. Divine reliability
2. Profitability
- 3. Sufficiency**

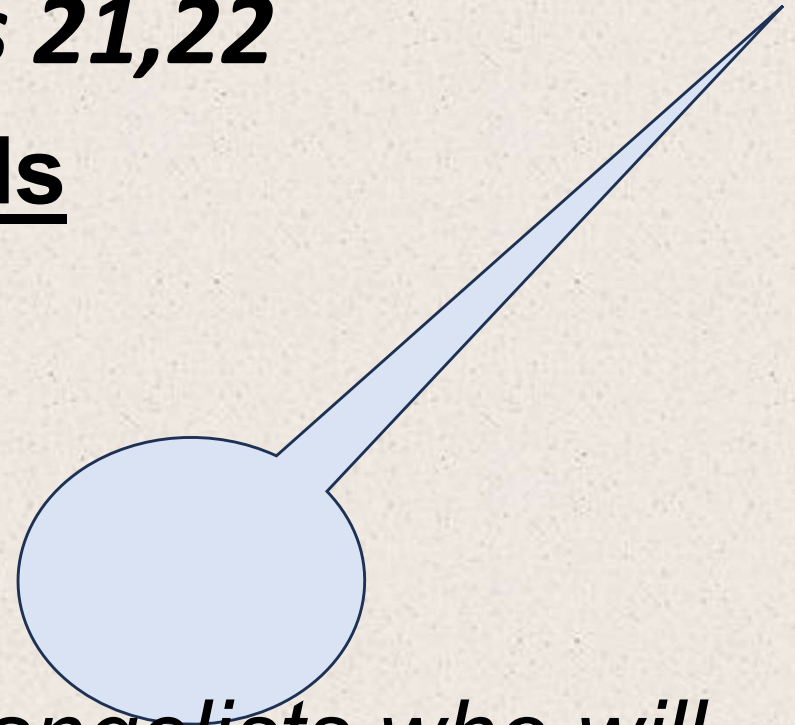
= do not add

e.g. *“144000 Jewish evangelists who will convert the world prior to the great tribulation”*

e.g. *“American invasion will start the battle of Armageddon”*

➔ *The message is enough by itself*

➔ *John 15:15, 17:14*



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Final message #2 – words

1. Divine reliability

2. Profitability

3. Sufficiency

= do not subtract

e.g. subtract the necessity to fight the battle

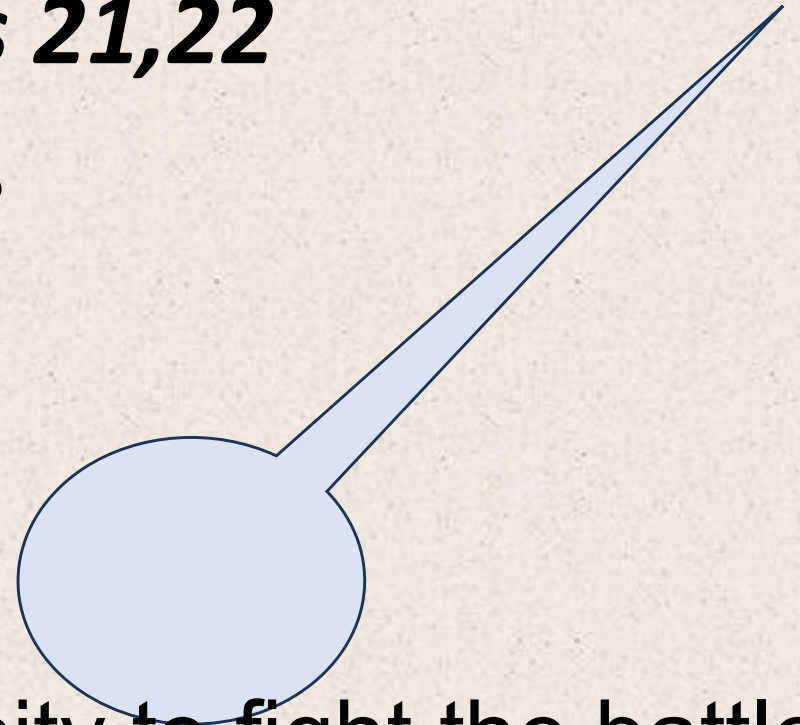
e.g. subtract the wrath of God

e.g. subtract the blood of the Lamb

e.g. subtract the final crisis of heaven or hell

e.g. subtract the promises of future glory

➔ *The message is enough by itself*



Final chapters 21,22

Final message #3 – worship

v.8 amazingly John falls into the same fatal error that he has been warning about all the way through.

19:20 he's been told before

- ➔ Constant need to be on our guard for traps and slips that we have been prone to before
- ➔ ... hopefully we grow in likeness to Christ

Final chapters 21,22

Final message #3 – worship

22:9 worship God

19:20 worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy.

- ➔ worship, testimony to Jesus, the ministry (=“heart”) of the Spirit ... all connected.
- ➔ Let us be worshippers together
- ➔ Let us be evangelist testifying of Jesus
- ➔ Let us be filled with the Spirit in doing so