

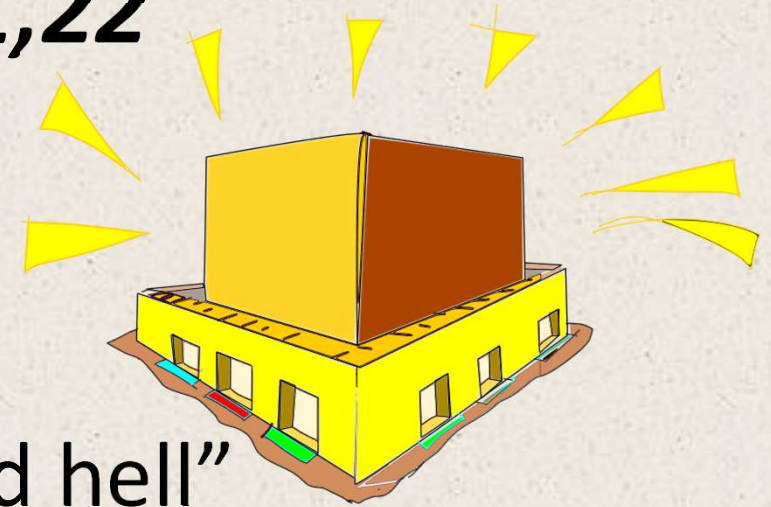
Final chapters 21,22

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?

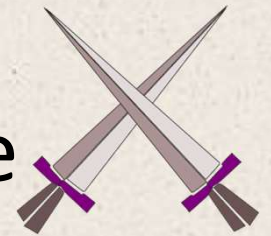
Final chapters 21,22



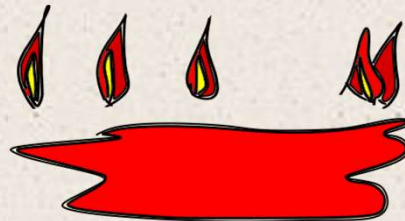
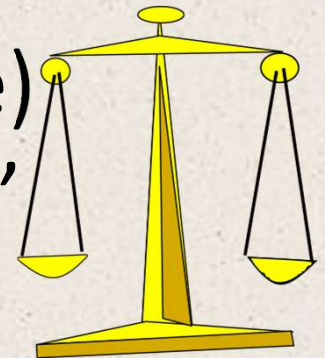
On previous times: “heaven and hell”

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 ???? Churches

- 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

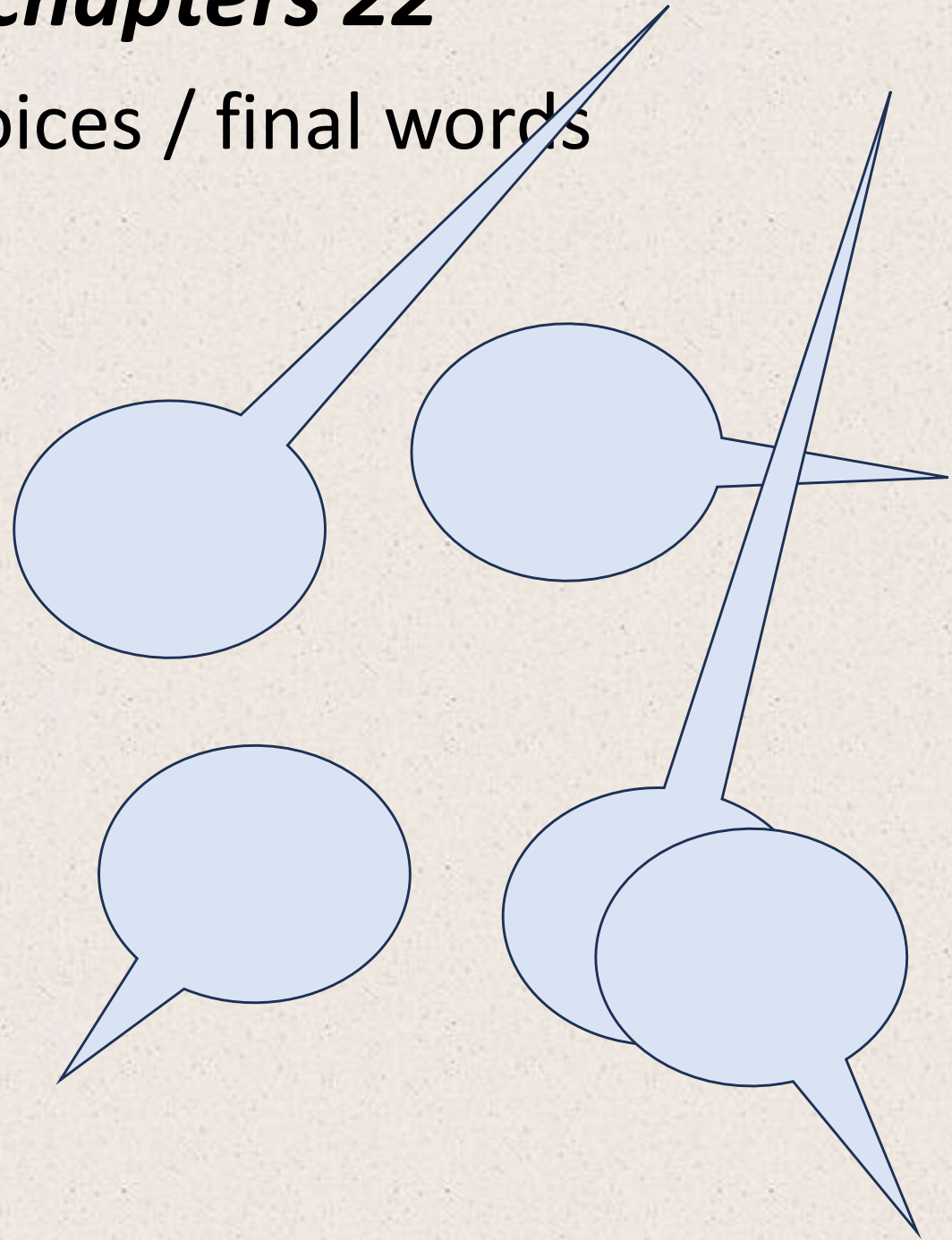
- horizon: from time of writing to end of the

world



Final chapters 22

22:6 -21 concluding voices / final words



Final words chapter 22

e.g. “in the unlikely event of an emergency ...”

22:10-12 “Do not seal up the words of this scroll (biblion = book) because the time is near.

Compare Daniel – DO seal up ... Daniel 12:9

→ Note the openness and urgency

Final words chapter 22

Final message #3 – worship

v.8 “when I saw and heard I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel ...”

→ *N.B. it is a response to what he has **seen** and **heard** via the angel*

→ *??? Is this meant to show us that this revelation is so massive and overwhelming that one is left in awe and wonder ... wrongly transferred to the angel*

Final words chapter 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*
- ➔ *never to assume that we can do without the spiritual armour of Ephesians 6:10ff*
- ➔ *1 John 2:2 "factory of idols" ... even good things can become idols*

Final words chapter 22

Final message #3 – worship

22:9 worship God

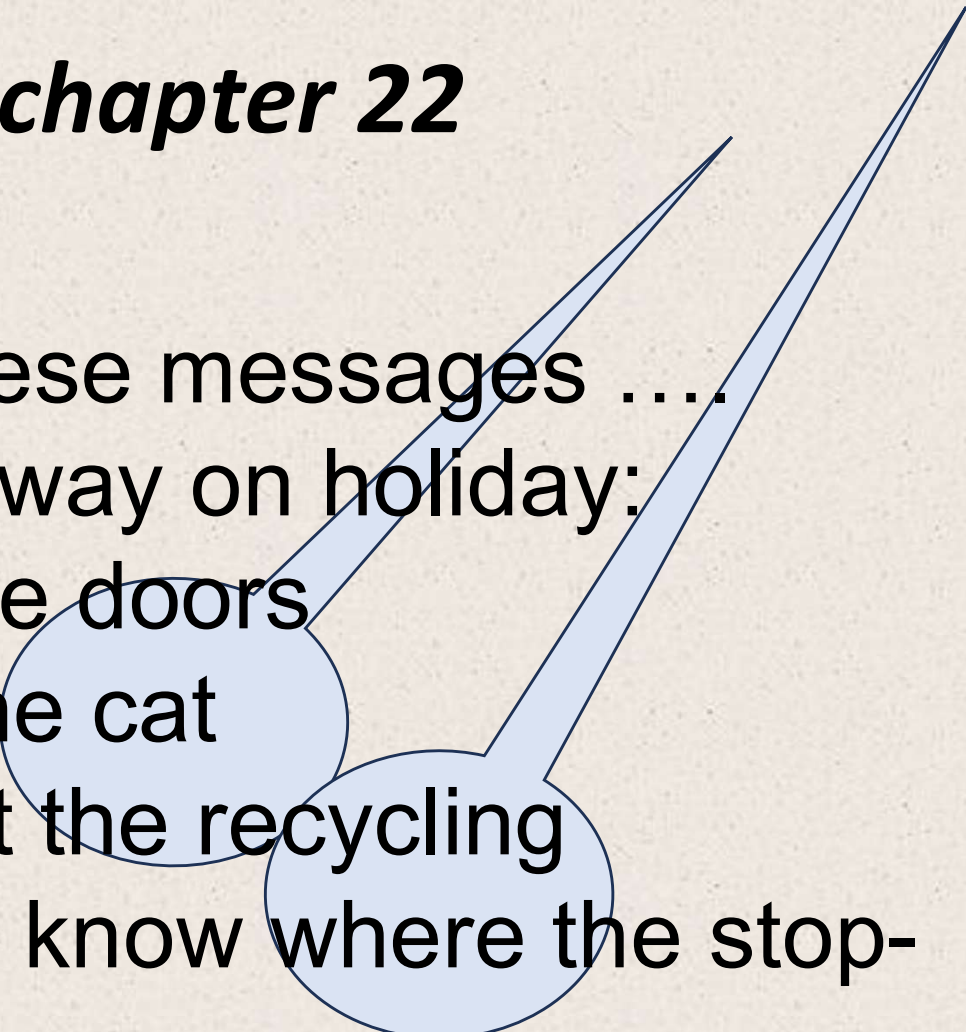
19:10 worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy.

- ➔ One commentator “this sums up the whole book”
- ➔ worship, testimony to Jesus, the ministry (=“heart”) of the Spirit ... all connected.
- ➔ Let us be worshippers together!
- ➔ Let us be evangelists testifying of Jesus!
- ➔ Let us be filled with the Spirit in doing so!

Final words chapter 22

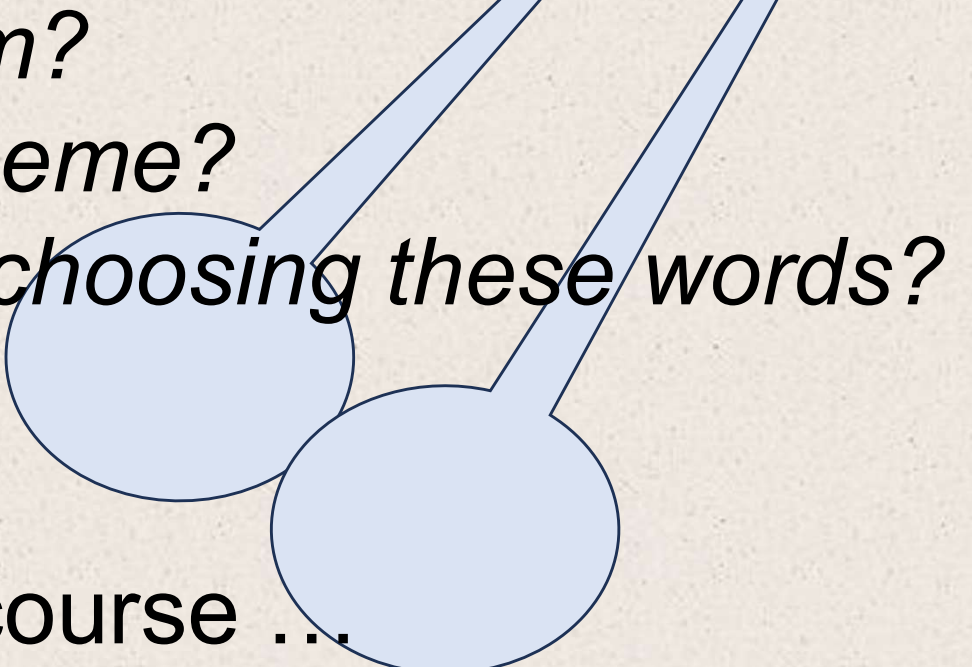
Thinking again about these messages

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- 

Final words chapter 22

Reflection on these final words ...

- *Are they fairly random?*
 - *Is there a common theme?*
 - *Is there a reason for choosing these words?*
- Possible answer:
- Like Upper room discourse ...
 - = how to live the Christian life in the absence of Jesus himself
 - = how to live in this world given that Christ is coming soon
- 

Final words chapter 22

“How to live in this world given that Christ is coming soon ...”

- Try on that thought???
- **A. Christ is coming soon**
 - Where mentioned? In what way?
- **B. When he comes there will be final judgment**
 - Where mentioned?
- **C. So how then shall we live?**
 - what points are emphasised?

Final words chapter 22

Final theme #1 – speed / "soon"

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

v.10 “time is near” = “close at hand”

v.12 “coming soon” (tachus)

v.26 “coming soon” (tachy)

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

➔ The next thing on God’s agenda

Final words chapter 22

Final theme #2 – final judgment

v.12 – reward is with me (misthos)

= connection with ... what?

= retributive justice: getting what deed deserve

... taken in context

v.14 the tree of life and gates to the city

➔ Inside / outside

➔ i.e. occupancy connected with ...?

v.19 “share in the tree and city”

➔ which is connected with ... what?

Final words chapter 22

Final theme – how then shall we live?

v.10 – realising that there will come a time when one's choices in life are fixed and you take the consequences ...

v.17 – there is an offer on the table not to be neglected

➔ *choice: which one will you be?*

➔ *Which one do you want to be?*

➔ *How have you and I dealt with Christ about this?*

Final words chapter 22

Final theme – how then shall we live?

v.12 – “reward”: realising that the value of how we have lived will only be revealed on the last day
→ Life now is played for high stakes

e.g. *Matthew 5:12 reward for being insulted*

5:46 no reward for quid pro quo

6:1 no reward for spiritual showing off

6:4 reward for unshowy generosity

6:6 reward for secret prayer

10:41 reward for relating to Christ's people for Christ's sake

Final words chapter 22

Final theme – how then shall we live?

Remembering that now we live by faith in God's word(s) – not sight, not [just] feelings, not [just] “miracles”

Words

v.6, 7, 9, 10, 16, 18 (19),

Keep the words

Until he comes

Final chapters 21,22

Final theme – come!

