

# 7 Last-Day Blessings



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## Introduction

In The Book of Revelation, God has provided last-day Christians with 7 promised blessings (beatitudes). Each is designed to magnify hope, motivation, and a resolute faith to endure the unimaginable hardships that will occur during the Tribulation. **“For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.”** Matthew 24:21-22

The term “beatitude” comes from the Latin word “beatitudo” which means “blessedness,” or to be blessed. In addition, beatitudes are more than just blessings because they are also promises from God.

Jesus declared 8 beatitudes in His Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:1-12). The first 7 describe blessings based upon the desires and “conditions” of our spiritual heart, the last defines blessings for persecution of faith.

Jesus said, <b>“Blessed are:</b>	
<b>The poor in spirit,</b>	<b>for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</b>
<b>Those who mourn,</b>	<b>for they will be comforted.</b>
<b>The meek,</b>	<b>for they will inherit the earth.</b>
<b>Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,</b>	<b>for they will be filled.</b>
<b>The merciful,</b>	<b>for they will be shown mercy.</b>
<b>The pure in heart,</b>	<b>for they will see God.</b>
<b>The peacemakers,</b>	<b>for they will be called children of God.</b>
<b>Those who are persecuted because of righteousness,</b>	<b>for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”</b>

Note: The above 8 beatitudes are described in the lesson “THE BEATITUDES” on UniqueBibleStudies.com.

However, God provided Christians with 7 additional and different beatitudes in Revelation that describe blessed promises one may receive during the end times. As you read, note how the words of these blessings reveal:

- They are not based upon the desires and conditions of our spiritual heart.
  - They are focused upon what one will receive because of their behavior.
  - Warnings that an unprecedented degree of darkness will occur in the future—which will require an unprecedented degree of commitment to our faith in our Savior and Lord, and in God’s promises.
  - Our need to:
    - Strengthen our faith in Jesus.
    - Focus upon His promises—as motivation to stand firm—as life becomes progressively difficult.
1. **“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.”** Rev. 1:3
  2. **“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.”** Rev. 14:13
  3. **“Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”** Rev. 16:15
  4. **“Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!”** And he said to me, **“These are the true sayings of God.”** Rev. 19:9
  5. **“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”** Rev. 20:6
  6. **“Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”** Rev. 22:7
  7. **“Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”** Rev. 22:14



## 2. “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” Rev. 14:13

This last day beatitude creates a visual image of the stark reality of Christian faith and martyrdom.

As life upon earth worsens, as sin and darkness permeates the hearts of those who reject Jesus, and as Satan’s hatred and lies influences the behavior of those who are destined to an eternity in the lake of fire...Christians will die because of their faith: some murdered, some beheaded, and some from starvation.

In a similar manner where God exercised His power through Jesus to reach the lost, Satan will exercise his power through the “beast” to reach the saved and to insure those who believe his lies will join him in the lake of fire. Two of the greatest means that Satan will use to reach the faithful will be through forcing Christians to worship an image of the beast, and to accept the beast’s mark to buy and sell.

“He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.” Revelation 13:15

“I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’” Revelation 6:9-10

“Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands.” Revelation 20:4

These brutal and unimaginable acts—driven by lies and hatred—are occurring now in various parts of the world.

- Google “Murdered Christians” for the latest reports on killings.
- Go to ([OpenDoors](#)) to view their “World Watch List.”
- Go to ([Persecution.org](#)) to read the latest global news reports on persecution.

In addition to death caused by heinous acts of those who reject Jesus, some Christians will also die from starvation.

“He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.” Revelation 13:16-17

All upon earth will know of the consequences of worshipping the beast and his image and accepting his mark.

“Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, ‘If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.’ Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’” Revelation 14:9-13

As you take the time to fully “chew upon and digest” these prophetic truths...they are likely causing an uncomfortable feeling in the gut of your stomach. So...here is a question to ponder...What changes must occur within our global society to transition from where we are today to the unprecedented future darkness depicted in the above scriptures? For these are the type of things we need to watch for.

**3. “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.” Rev. 16:15**

Jesus exhorts Christians to stay continually alert and prepared for His return—which will occur when not expected.

- “Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” Mat. 24:44
- “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” Mat., 24:36

The relevance of why Jesus used the word “thief” to describe His return may be found in Matthew 24:23: “If the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.” For if we had a prewarning of a thief who would break into our home...we would stay awake and watch for the thief to protect our property. Therefore, to protect our home (i.e. our spiritual being), we must:

- Use spiritual discernment to watch for polarizing changes within our global society. These changes are evidenced by increased degrees of hatred, division, destruction, inconceivable behavior, and murders (including mass murders by terrorist groups and by demonically-inspired individuals)—which are indicators of Satan’s increased influence upon earth.
- “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” Ephesians 6:11-18

Those who fail to watch—and those who do not keep their protective spiritual garments—will find it increasingly difficult to not succumb to Satan’s lies. For this will be a time unlike any other—since the beginning of time, and for eternity. “For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.” Matthew 24:21-22



“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” Matthew 7:24-27

Worshipping the beast and accepting his mark will separate the saved from the non-saved. In addition, those who declare they are a Christian—but their heart is far from Jesus—will no longer be able to live a lie. Every person will be forced to consider the benefits and consequences of two choices, and will make an eternal decision.

Reject Mark	Accept Mark
Eternal Life	Eternal Death
May be a Martyr	No Martyrdom
Lose Possessions	Keep Possessions
No Marketplace Access	Marketplace Access
Will Make Living Difficult	Will Make Living Easier

Jesus used earthly aspects of life to explain spiritual truths. In the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares, the:

- Seed (wheat) represents Christians.
- Tares (weeds) represent non-Christians.
- Enemy is Satan.
- Harvest represents the last days.
- Burning of the tares represents the lake of fire.
- Gathering of the wheat into the barn represents those who love God with all of their heart, soul, mind and strength—for this is what it will take to endure. (Mark 12:28-30)

“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, ‘First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” Matthew 13:24-30

#### 4. **“Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb! And he said to me, ‘These are the true sayings of God.’” Rev. 19:9**

This beatitude is an absolute promise from God that provides motivational strength to persevere through the difficult times—because the present suffering is temporary and the glory that is before us is eternal.

The marriage supper of the Lamb is a wedding feast that culminates the relationship between the Lamb (Jesus Christ), and His bride (those who were saved by their faith in His sacrificial death). It also signifies the eternal celebration of the redeemed with the Redeemer.

The Parable of the Great Supper (spoken by Jesus below) provides insight into God’s desire to dwell amongst and interact with those who love Him—now and for eternity. He initially chose and dwelt amongst the Israelites, made a covenant with them, provided for their physical and spiritual needs—but they rejected Him. So, He made a New Covenant through the sacrificial death of His Son, Jesus, that invites all (Jew and non-Jew) to the marriage supper of the Lamb, and into an eternal relationship with Him. (Jer. 31:31-33; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:6, 9:15; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9, 5:25-27; Rev. 19:7-8)

“A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.’” Luke 14:16-24



5. **“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”**  
**Rev. 20:6**

Throughout time all humans have experienced a terrifying unknown—which causes varying degrees of an uncontrollable upwelling of anxiety and stress: what happens to us after our physical bodies die? These life-draining emotions become stronger as we get older—especially when we are facing a potential life-ending illness...or a last day situation that may cause us to be murdered because of our faith in Jesus.

However, those who will die for their testimony during the last days will have absolute proof of the fulfillment of God’s prophetic word occurring in the world—all of which will strengthen our resolute faith, and will reduce our anxiety and stress in facing death because of His promised blessings.

### **What Occurs When We Die**

All of us are born with a spiritual entity within our body—which is commonly referred to as our soul. As such, our body may be considered as “a tent or house” that our souls reside in. In addition, our temporary body:

- Has a limited life span.
- Is designed to enable our soul to function within the physical world.
- Provide a means for our soul to grow and mature.
- Facilitates interaction with other souls.
- Supports procreation.
- Reflects the personality of our soul.

**“For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.”** 2 Corinthians 5:1

Our souls will leave our physical body upon death. But what is most important to understand...our souls are spiritual and will exist forever. God’s word provides us with insight as to what occurs to our souls:

- Our souls will temporarily “sleep.”
- At some point in the future:
  - Those who placed their faith in Jesus will be raised to everlasting life (1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection).
  - Those who rejected Jesus will be raised to an everlasting second death (2<sup>nd</sup> Resurrection).

**“And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.”** Daniel 12:2

**“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”** John 5:28-29

**“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

**6. “Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”**

**Rev. 22:7**

The sixth beatitude reinforces the messaging of the third, first and seventh beatitude.

- He is coming quickly (as a thief).
- Therefore, watch and obediently adhere for the time is near.

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.” 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

Consider the length of time it takes for our eyes to blink...which is about 100 milliseconds (0.1 seconds). Go ahead and blink your eyes...for this is how long it will take for the first resurrection to occur. In a fraction of a second all who believe in Jesus will be transformed and raised in righteousness.

This is why Jesus warns us to watch and be constantly ready because no one knows the day, hour, minute, and micro second when this event will occur.

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” Matthew 24:36-44

**7. “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.” Rev. 22:14**

There are three components of this beatitude: obey, tree of life, and entering into the gates of Heaven.

**Obey**

The influential power of Satan’s lies will continually increase throughout the 7-year Tribulation. Satan’s intent is to darken the minds of the damned, while seeking to destroy those who have placed their faith in Jesus by giving them reasons to disobey God.

“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” 1 John 5:2-5

“Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:22

**Tree of Life**

The Bible specifically identifies two trees in the Garden of Eden: the Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. “And out of the ground the Lord God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” Genesis 2:9

Eating from the Tree of Life provides eternal life and divine sustenance. Whereas, eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and evil creates moral awareness and the consequences of disobedience. It is important to note that the only tree in the Garden of Eden that God told Adam not to eat was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God did not tell Adam not to eat from the tree of life—which would have caused Adam and Eve to live forever.

“Then the Lord God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.’ Genesis 3:22, 24

“And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” Revelation 22:1-2

### **Entering Through the Gates of Heaven**

Although it is only conceptual at this point...consider the exhilaration of your emotional experience when your eyes see the gates. Because of your faith and obedience...all that you have hoped for has come to fruition...and all of the difficulties that you persevered has become a distant memory.

“Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, ‘Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb’s wife.’ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.” Revelation 21:9-14

### **Summary**

The 7 Revelation beatitudes are comprised of warnings, instructional messages and blessings for compliance:

- Warnings:
  - The time is near for the occurrence of things written in Revelation.
  - Christians will die because of their faith.
  - Those who do not take part in the first resurrection will experience a second death.
- Instructional Messages:
  - Read and understand the Book of Revelation.
  - Jesus will return and is coming soon.
  - Obey instructions by:
    - Continually watching for His return.
    - Abstaining from sin.
- Blessings:
  - Entry into Heaven.
  - Right to eat from the tree of life.
  - Reign with Jesus.
  - Participate in the marriage supper of the Lamb.
  - Will not die a second death.



As we look into the unknowns of a progressively dark future...remember:

- God is in control.
- The hardship and turbulent times are temporary.
- All that is occurring is prophesized in the Bible.
- God will pour out His Spirit in the last days.
- “He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’ So we may boldly say The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” Hebrews 13:5-6
- “God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.” 1 Cor. 10:13

When you “stand back” and look at the “big picture”...there is nothing we can do to change what will occur in the last days. Some perceive it is possible to avoid the last days via political means or military strength. But these approaches are in vain—for God’s plan and His prophetic word will occur.

However, there are areas where we can make an impact. For example, we can make changes:

- Within our own lives by enhancing our spiritual strength.
- In the lives of others by:
  - Introducing them to Jesus.
  - Supporting those who are weak in their faith by providing them with biblical reasons to endure, and with prayer.

Jesus spoke of the benefits of overcoming to the 7 churches in Revelation. (Rev. 2 & 3) Here are a few...“To him who overcomes:

- I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”
- Shall not be hurt by the second death.”
- To him I will give power over the nations.”
- Shall be clothed in white garments.”
- I will not blot out his name from The Book of Life.”
- I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”
- I will grant to sit with Me on My throne.”

All for His Glory!

Harold D. Thomas