

The Beatitudes of the Revelation

The term *beatitude* comes from the Latin noun *beātītūdō* which means "happiness". "Beatitudes" was anglicized from that term. Each Beatitude consists of two phrases: the condition and the result. *Wikipedia*

The following verses are from the ESV.

1. (1:3) - Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.
 - reads- Gk.314- to *know again*, that is, to *read*. Thus there is a certain amount of going back over the reading to re-familiarize one's self with the subject over and over.
 - hear- Gk.191- to *hear*: -understand. Obviously, we don't personally understand the practices of a culture that existed two millennia ago in a land that is foreign to us but, after rereading anything we might better understand the meaning of any subject. The whole purpose of this revealing to the churches was to have them ready for the, then, upcoming persecution. With the reading and hearing the churches of Asia were then blessed if they were to keep the words of that particular prophesy.
 - keep- Gk.5083- to *guard* (from *loss* or *injury*, properly by keeping *the eye* upon). John revealed to the churches of Asia of the impending persecution that was coming from Rome. Jerusalem was sacked in 70 AD (*Ray Murray, Jr.-The Destruction of Jerusalem*) but the church wasn't yet out of danger then. John's writing of the Revelation was before Jerusalem fell. The events prophesied to the churches of Asia were to transpire in the then, not too distant future. (22:10)

Rev 1:19 Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

Rev 22:10 And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.

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2. (14:13) – And I heard a voice from Heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

- the dead who die in the Lord- faithful saints and martyrs are fortunate. What does it mean to be in the Lord when I die? This is just another passage that shows the importance of following what the Bible says if we want to take advantage of the blessings that God wishes to give everyone* (2 Pet 3:9), from now on, i.e. under the New Covenant.

*Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have **put on** Christ. (*Emp. added*)

Heb 1:1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, Whom He appointed the Heir of all things, through Whom also He created the world.

- rest from their labors- This is in response to the souls under the altar (6:9) who received their "white robes"- Zec 14:8. Their work had to do with obedience to the "two witnesses" (11:3- *Law and prophets*) by which they suffered martyrdom. We've been given a work, known as the Great Commission (*Mat 28:19-20*). It never ends no matter how old we are as long as we have the physical and mental capacity to perform such. There's no handing the torch to the next generation as long as we are able to carry it ourselves.

- deeds follow them- (19:8) (“...according to what they had done” -20:12) Our works follow us into Paradise, will continue on through others on earth after we’re gone (*our legacy*) and will also follow us to the judgment (20:13).

1Co 3:13 each one's **work will become manifest**, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. 14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. (*Emp. added*)

Heb 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, **though he died, he still speaks**. (*Emp. added*)

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3. (16:15) – ("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on [*on' not in the Interlinear*], that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!")
 - Christians were not to get caught up in the world's pleasures or (*as with those who fell through the persecution-14:10*) they would suffer the same fate with those who did. (*Read 1 Th 5:2-10 and Mat 24:42-44.*)
 - In Rev 3:5 Jesus said “the one who conquers will be clothed in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life...” Christians have been clothed in Christ through obedience to baptism (*Gal 3:27*). Thus Christ has become our garment. The word keeping here is the same as the word keep in 1:3. Thus we are to keep an eye on the garment we are wearing,

by not allowing it to be soiled in sin, so as not to bring shame and reproach to the Name by which we have been named (*Act 11:26*). Without being clothed in Christ in the first place, or to have soiled His holy name through committing sin, our iniquities will all be exposed for Satan to take advantage of us. But...

Jas 1:12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him.

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4. (19:9) – And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

- Those who are bidden to the marriage, and who respond to the invitation, are the fortunate ones. Under the customs of those days, they understood how those bidden to a marriage feast were sent a 'wedding garment' as a sign of their being invited. Sort of an 'R.S.V.P.'

Mat 22:11 "But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. 12 And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 For many (*Israel*) are called, but few (*spiritual Israel*) are chosen."

Rom 9:6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,

Joh 10:1 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber.

- How are we called to the supper? The invitation comes through the message of the Gospel, which is according to the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and how we emulate it through baptism (*Rom 6*), thus putting Him on.

2Th 2:13 But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. 14 To this He **called you through our Gospel**, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Emp. added*)

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5. (20:6) – Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with Him for a thousand years.

- Presently, faithful Christians already enjoy the hope of eternal life...possessing the promise of it (2 Cor 1:22; 5:5; Eph 1:14) as “we walk in the light” (1 Jn 1:7). The faithful saint who shares in the first resurrection (*in the church consisting of both spiritual realms- Paradise and on earth*) has a future home waiting in Heaven after the general resurrection when Christ comes to “present the church to Himself” (Eph 5:27). Having begun around Pentecost, the “souls under the altar” (6:9) have received their “white robe” (6:11) and have been released in order to reign with Him along with all of spiritual Israel (Rom 11:26). Christ paid the down payment with His blood and sealed the covenant with the “Holy Spirit of promise” (Act 2:33). It’s up to us (*the church on earth*) to continue paying toward that ‘mortgage’ through our obedience to His word.

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, *(the church in both realms)*

Eph 1:11 **In Him** we have **obtained an inheritance**, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him Who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. 13 **In Him** you also, when you **heard the word of truth, the Gospel** of your salvation, and believed (*Gk.4100- by implication to entrust [especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ]*) in Him, were **sealed** with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 Who is the **guarantee** (*Gk.728- a pledge, that is, part of the purchase money or property in advance as security for the rest*) of our inheritance **until we acquire possession** of it, to the praise of His glory. (*Emp. added*)

Heb 10:26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

- Concerning the second death, death being a form of 'separation' (*2 Thes 1:8*).

Rom 6:3 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was **raised from the dead** by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (*Faithful Christians are dead to the world. Our first resurrection pertaining to that death was when we rose to "walk in newness of life".*) 5 For **if** (*thus we are given a choice in*

the matter) we have been united with Him in a death like His, **we shall certainly be** (*Int. - "we shall be"/ Gk.2071- "what would follow"*) **united with Him in a resurrection like His.** 6 We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him (21:3). 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. (*Emp. added*) (*Just as Jesus rose from the dead to die no more, we of the faithful, who continue to be so until death, share our place with those in Paradise, and will not face the second death to be separated from God for an eternity since it will have no hold on us.* - *Jn 5:24*)

Joh 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him Who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

- Therefore, we (*of the church on earth*) remain paid up and current on the heavenly mortgage as long as we remain faithful to our mortgage Holder by taking care "lest there be in any of [us] an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God" (*Heb 3:12*).

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6. (22:7) – "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

- To the seven churches of Asia there would be blessings on those who kept the words of this revealing and condemnation on those who didn't (1:3). Jesus warned the first century church that He would visit them with judgment if they didn't heed His warning to remain pure from the influences of the pagan practices that the Roman government sanctioned. His judgment was

soon to come on Jerusalem and they weren't to be partakers with the city in her idolatry and other iniquities or they would suffer right along with her.

The same can be true of us today if we participate in and/or agree with government sanctioned practices such as the laws being established on homosexual relationships, abortion and anything else that goes against the word of God (*Rom 13*). We become delinquent when we fail to keep an eye on His word. Jesus' words here in the Revelation were to a specific group of Christians, the seven churches of Asia, meaning it has application to the whole church (*Rom 15:4*) from inception to resurrection; seven being the metaphoric number of completeness.

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7. (22:14) – Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.
 - Christians have already been clothed in Christ. In 1 Jn 1:7 "if we walk in the light" (*remain obedient*)..."the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin". Only those who continue to obey Christ's commandments (*wash their robes*) have a right to the tree of life, thus eternal life. The tree of life is found inside the city four-square, through the pearly portals. It continually produces spiritual food that those who choose good over evil and now have a right to, once "transferred" into "the kingdom of His dear Son" (*Col 1:13; Act 2:47*). Unlike the tree in the garden that was off limits to Adam and Eve once they ate of the forbidden fruit, here, through Christ paying the ransom (*Mat 20:28*), the faithful saints will have access.