

Beatitudes
What The Bible Teaches About Being Blessed

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO WAIT FOR THE MESSIAH

Text: Daniel 12

Introduction:

1. “Where the word *blessed* is hung out as a sign, we may be sure that we shall find a godly man within.” - *Sir Richard Baker*
2. Biblically, the word “blessed” refers to those whose sufficiency comes from God and not from the circumstances of life.
3. The “blessed” are those who inherit the promise made to Abraham by conforming to God’s Will and being added to the body of Christ.
4. This passage teaches that to be one of God’s blessed, one must wait with faith for the Son of God...

I. The Prophet’s Predicament

- A. Daniel had received revelations from God, many of them foretelling events in the distant future (from Daniel’s perspective).
- B. Now, he has learned of a time of triumph (12:1-4) and a time of tribulation (12:5-12).
 1. The triumph is for those who remain faithful to God during persecution and tribulation.
 2. They are the wise who shine forth as stars in the night sky (cf. Matthew 7:24; 5:14; Philippians 2:15-16).
- C. Yet, these writings were to be sealed because they would not be fulfilled until the time of God’s choosing (12:4, 9)
- D. The question that weighed upon Daniel was expressed by one of the angels in the vision: “How long?” (12:6).
 1. Three answers were given:
 2. “A time, times, and a half” – meaning, 3½ or half of symbolic 7
 3. 1,290 days – or, 3.6 of symbolic 7
 4. 1,335 days – or, 3.7 of symbolic 7
- E. The answer is that it would be an incomplete time (not brought to its fullness) because the tribulation would be overcome with victory.

II. The Father’s Faithfulness

- A. These prophecies had to do with the coming of Jesus, the Messiah.
- B. He would bring victory by providing salvation from sin, defeat of the devil, and resurrection from the dead!
- C. However, in order to receive this victory, one must be one of the blessed.
- D. Thus, the blessed man is the one who waits for the coming of the Messiah.
 1. Trust in God’s promises.
 2. Trust in God’s prophecies.
 3. Obey God’s commandments.
- E. From God’s promise to Abraham until His prophecies through Daniel, a period of over 1,350 years had passed – yet they must wait a little longer.

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- III. The Remnant's Reward
- A. Those who faithfully waited for the Messiah were truly blessed.
 - 1. Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)
 - 2. The Wise Men (Matthew 2:1-12)
 - 3. Zecharias and Elisabeth (Luke 1:5-25, 67-79)
 - 4. Mary (Luke 1:26-56)
 - 5. The shepherds (Luke 2:8-20)
 - 6. Simeon (Luke 2:21-35)
 - 7. Anna (Luke 2:36-38)
 - 8. The disciples (John 1:11-13, 35-51)
 - B. Today, we have received greater blessings and promises than those who lived under the Law of Moses.
 - C. We know salvation and victory because of the coming of the Messiah.
 - D. Yet, like them, we still wait for Him.
 - E. His return is guaranteed, but it remains in the future.
 - F. To be one of the blessed, we must wait faithfully for the return of the Messiah.

Conclusion: *Are you waiting for the Lord with patience, endurance, and trust?*