

THE BLESSING OF GOD

HAPPINESS NOW & FOREVER

- (REVELATION 1:3 NLT) GOD BLESSES THE ONE WHO **READS** THE WORDS OF THIS PROPHECY TO THE CHURCH, AND HE BLESSES ALL WHO **LISTEN** TO ITS MESSAGE AND **OBEY** WHAT IT SAYS, FOR THE TIME IS NEAR.

CAN'T GET ANY "PLAINER" THAN THIS, CAN WE?
READ -> HEAR -> OBEY -> GOD BLESSES

WRITE MY ANSWER PLAINLY ...



WRITE MY ANSWER PLAINLY ON TABLETS, SO THAT A RUNNER CAN
CARRY THE CORRECT MESSAGE TO OTHERS ... (HABAKKUK 2:2)

1) God makes the blessing plain, 1:3.



- (Revelation 1:3 ESV) 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.

A) The promise of the happy life is made plain.

Blessed ... μακάριος [makarios] means blessed, happy; describes a life that is characterized by happiness and being highly favored by God. God offers happiness now and forever. Happy and favored by God is the one who chooses the right pathway of God.

B) The instructions for the happy life are made plain.

"THE WORDS" ARE ESSENTIAL TO "THE BLESSING" ...

DO WE SEE THIS?

Read the words, hear the words, keep the words and God blesses. **To live the blessed life we need the words of God to be the commanding influence of our lives.** If we do not have the steady nourishment of the plain truth of the word of God, then we will suffer from spiritual famine.

- (Habakkuk 2:2-3 NLT) Then the LORD said to me, "Write my answer plainly on tablets, so that a runner can carry the correct message to others. 3 This vision is for a future time. It describes the end, and it will be fulfilled. If it seems slow in coming, wait patiently, for it will surely take place. It will not be delayed."
- (Amos 8:11-12 NLT) "The time is surely coming," says the Sovereign LORD, "when I will send a famine on the land— not a famine of bread or water but of hearing the words of the LORD." 12 People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from border to border searching for the word of the LORD, but they will not find it.
- (Hosea 4:6-7 NLT) My people are being destroyed because they don't know me. Since you priests refuse to know me, I refuse to

recognize you as my priests. Since you have forgotten the laws of your God, I will forget to bless your children. 7 The more priests there are, the more they sin against me. They have exchanged the glory of God for the shame of idols.

- (Ezekiel 13:3-6 ESV) Thus says the Lord GOD, Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! 4 Your prophets have been like jackals among ruins, O Israel. 5 You have not gone up into the breaches, or built up a wall for the house of Israel, that it might stand in battle in the day of the LORD. 6 They have seen false visions and lying divinations. They say, "Declares the LORD," when the LORD has not sent them, and yet they expect him to fulfill their word.

C) The attitude and urgency for obeying the instructions is made plain—"the time is near."

- (James 5:8 ESV) You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
- (1 Peter 4:7 ESV) The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.
- (1 John 2:28 NLT) And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame.
- (Hebrews 10:36-39 NLT) Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. 37 "For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. 38 And my righteous ones will live by faith. But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away." 39 But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction. We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved.

2) God makes the Blessor known, 1:4-8.



—A blessing is only as good as the blessor.

- (Revelation 1:4-8 ESV) John to the seven

churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood 6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7 **Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.** 8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

A) This promise of blessing is strengthened by the delivery method—grace and peace.

- i) The blessing is delivered along with God’s grace and peace.*
- ii) It comes from our Triune God.*

B) The promise of blessing is strengthened through the witness of Jesus Christ.

- i) Our Faithful Witness—Jesus Christ—assures us of the blessing.*
 - (John 5:25 NLT) **And I assure you that the time is coming**, indeed it’s here now, when the dead will hear my voice—the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen will live.
- ii) He is a faithful witness in his resurrection.*
 - (Revelation 1:5 NLT) And from Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world. All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us.
- iii) He is a faithful witness in his sovereign rule over the kings of the earth.*

C) The promise of blessing is strengthened through the work of Christ.

- i) Our Faithful Witness loves us.*

- ii) Our Faithful Witness freed us from our sins by his blood.*
- iii) Our Faithful Witness made us a kingdom of priests to God.*

D) The promise of blessing is strengthened through the powerful vision given of Christ’s return to earth in glory.

- (Revelation 1:7 NLT) **Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him**— even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen!
- (Matthew 11:2–3 ESV) Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, “**Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?**”
- i) Christ is coming in power and glory and judgment.*
 - (Daniel 7:13–14 ESV) I saw in the night visions, **and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man**, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.
 - (Matthew 16:27 ESV) **For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father**, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.
 - (2 Thessalonians 1:7B–10 ESV) **When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.** 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, 10 when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled


at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

ii) *Everyone will see him when he comes.*

- (Revelation 1:7 ESV) Behold, he is coming with the clouds, **and every eye will see him**, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

iii) *The sight of Christ will provoke repentance for some and terror for others.*

- (Zechariah 12:10 ESV) And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.
- (John 19:37 ESV) And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

3) God makes certain ***the blessees*** are made aware of the blessing, 1:9-11. 

- (Revelation 1:9–11 ESV) I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet 11 saying, "**Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches**, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

A) John is commanded to ***write*** nine times.

–Revelation 1:11, 19; 2:1, 8, 12, 18; and 3:1, 7, 14.

B) He is commanded to "***write this***" two times.

- (Revelation 14:13a ESV) And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "**Write this**: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on."
- (Revelation 19:9 ESV) 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."

C) He is commanded once to "***write this down***."

- (Revelation 21:5 ESV) And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "**Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.**"

Robert Thomas ... The reason for the command ... the angel directs the prophet to convey the promise of supreme blessedness in the new heaven and the new earth (Beckwith). [Thomas, R. L. (1995). *Revelation 8-22: an exegetical commentary* (p. 447). Chicago: Moody Publishers.]

A solemn guarantee of the truthfulness of the revelation ... These great sayings rest on a secure basis. Human beings can rest assured of their reliability, that they answer to realities that will in God's time enter the experience of human life. Man's inability to grasp them or adequately express them in the present does not diminish the fact of their future realization (Swete). [Ibid. (p. 447).]

D) He is once commanded "***do not write it down***."

- (Revelation 10:2–4 ESV) He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land, 3 and called out with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. 4 And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, **and do not write it down.**"