

# Revelation— Watching and Waiting!

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## Subject: Revelation 7:7-17, Preparation and supporting verses

[Matthew 24:44 *be ye also ready*; Matthew 24:46 *“Blessed is that servant; Luke 17:30 “Thus shall it be in the day; Luke 18:8 “When the Son of Man comes; Matthew 24:8 “All these are the beginning of sorrows; 2 Timothy 4:2-4 “Preach the word; Daniel 12:1 There will be a time of distress; Matthew 24:21-22 There will be great distress;*

1 Thessalonians 4:14-15 *If we believe that Jesus died and rose again; John 3:18 will not be condemned; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-15 Jesus brings our loved ones with Him; Luke 17:36 Two in the field: one taken one left; Luke 21:28 When these things begin to come to pass, [wars, famines, earthquakes, etc.]—He is at the door!*]

Our major concern today—considering the unbelief and spiritual condition of the world that worsens each day—is that we be *watching*, *preparing*, and *awaiting* the return of the Lord. He promised to come back for those who *believe* in Him.

If we have given our life to God without compromise, we will be *ready*; we will be *watching*; and we will be *waiting* for His sudden return.

We need to *know* what is going to *happen*; to be *informed* of predicted events prior to His return; and we must understand *what* God requires of us to be ready.

The dreadful immoral *condition* of the world in general is a definite *sign* that Jesus *could* return in a moment—when we are *not* thinking He would. Being *ready* is being *willing* to trust in faith on the resurrection power of God.

AV Matthew 24:44 *“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”*

46 *“Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing”*—or is *keeping his trust and faith* on Jesus.

The Bible predicts a falling away from faith in God—and that true believers would be as few today as they were during Noah’s Flood.

After more than seventeen hundred years following creation, only *eight* souls believed God enough to escape the devastating flood.

Then three hundred years later only *three* escaped—Lot and his two daughters. AV Luke 17:30 *“Thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”*

That is why Jesus asked NIV Luke 18:8 *“When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”* Or will there be any *real* Bible-believing faith that trusts *God* to be delivered from Satan’s power and oppressions?

Thus, we must AV 2 Timothy 4:2 *“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort [encourage NIV] with all longsuffering [patience] and doctrine.*

3 *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine.”*

Bible predictions are coming true every day. We have regional and ethnic wars; military conflicts; high inflation; sickness; disease; earthquakes; hurricanes; floods; and global food shortages. AV Matthew 24:8 *“All these are the beginning of sorrows.”*

There have been two world wars and many lesser conflicts; there have been famines, floods; increasing earthquake activity—what Jesus predicted is happening in *various places*.

After the *beginning of sorrows* will be supernatural judgments—hail and fire that destroys a third of all vegetation.

More angels sounding trumpets brings on more serious plagues. NIV Daniel 12:1 *“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then.”*

Jesus predicted the same AV Matthew 24:21 *“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”*

First there is a *rapture* of true believers. *Translation* means we are *changed* without experiencing death—this will be at the *end* of the *beginning of sorrows* and just before the supernatural judgments.

Our concern is to be *ready* for His return. NKJV 1 Corinthians 15:51 *“We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet,”* when AV 54 *“This mortal shall have put on immortality.”*

The *time* of this rapture is not known so we do not set *dates*—but we can look for *signs*, understand world *conditions*, and be *ready* for Jesus by keeping our faith on resurrection power of His atoning Blood.

AV John 3:18 *“He that believeth on him is not condemned.”*

AV 1 Thessalonians 4:14 *“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

15 *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.”*

16 *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

17 *“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to*

*meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”*

Enoch was caught up that way—and it would require the same faith in God as Enoch had to be ready.

Chariots of fire came between Elijah and Elisha—a strong whirlwind—the power of God took him to Heaven.

The Lord’s return will take the unbelieving world by surprise. Those who *are ready* will disappear; those who *are not ready* will be left behind to go through the horrible Tribulation.

NKJV Luke 17:36 *“Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.”*

Knowing, accepting, and living the full Truth of God is what counts! Actually, living the true Gospel includes the salvation of spirit, soul, and body.

Our *entire life* must be subject to God’s will—spiritually, physically, financially, at home, our work, and everywhere.

Most do not want to *hear* God’s Truth and not many who profess faith in Jesus understand what actual faith in God really is. The Truth is *lived* by faith in God every day.

The leaves of the tree are appearing—and NKJV Luke 21:19 *“By your patience possess your souls.”*

31 *When ye see these things come to pass, [wars, famines, earthquakes, epidemics, Jerusalem surrounded by enemies] know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.”*

God places His seal on 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel—they go through the Tribulation under His protection.

Four *angels* at the four *corners* of the earth do not release any judgments until the 144,000 are sealed.

When Sodom and Gomorrah would be destroyed because of their wickedness, the angel *warned* three people to leave.

NIV Genesis 19:22 *“Flee there quickly, because I cannot do anything until you reach [Zoar].”* God protects those who trust and obey Him.

After sealing 12,000 of twelve tribes, the apostle says AV Revelation 7:9 *“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*

10 *And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.”*

11 *“And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,*

12 *saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”*

13 *And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?*

14 *And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”*

Garments washed in the Blood of the Lamb means our sins are forgiven by the mercy of God—through our faith in the shed Blood of Jesus. That forgiveness is for today *on earth* while we wait for our eternal home *in Heaven*.

AV Revelation 7:15 *“Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.”*

16 *They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.*

17 *For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”*

Many false doctrines today do not include trusting faith in the Blood of Christ—not only for forgiveness, but also for the health, healing, protection, divine wisdom, and everything else God has promised.

Some teach that *death* delivers us from sin, but the Bible does *not teach* that. The death of our physical *body* does not change our rebellious *heart*.

Anyone who dies in their sins is just as much a sinner *after* their death as *before*. What the spiritual condition of our heart is when Jesus returns will determine if we enter Heaven or not.

God came to this earth so He could *deliver* us from our sins and *save* us from the coming wrath.

The angel said AV Matthew 1:21 *“Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”*

Jesus did not come to save us *in our sin*, but He came, gave His life on a Cross in *our place*, and rose again to save us *from our sins!*

If we are willing to *believe* in faith on the atoning Blood He shed for us, we will be *watching, waiting, and ready for His return!*



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