

**BLESSED DEATH!** Revelation 14:9-13

1. At Jesus' second COMING He will judge the wicked of the earth and establish His glorious eternal kingdom.
2. *"But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations, and then the END will come."* Matthew 24:13-14
3. *"For God has not destined us for WRATH, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thess. 5:9*
4. *"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!'" Revelation 14:12-13*
5. "Blessed" means "happy", "blissful", "serene", "fulfilled", so the dead in the Lord have complete BLISS in death.
6. Beatitudes are found throughout the Old and New Testaments. There are SEVEN in Revelation.
7. Saints throughout history and during the great tribulation at the close of history are able to rejoice in persecution because *"your REWARD is great in heaven"*. Matt. 5:12
8. Two realities contribute to the blessedness of those who die in the Lord - #1 how they live and #2 how they DIE.
9. Stephen was empowered to preach the GOSPEL by the faith God had given him and by the Holy Spirit that dwelt within him. So has it been with all the martyrs.
10. *"Do not FEAR what you are about to suffer. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of Life... The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second DEATH."* Revelation 2:10-11
11. *"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord!"* Why? Jesus is risen - He is risen indeed! Our redeemer LIVES!

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