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## The Blessing of Keeping the Prophetic Word

### 1. How do we Keep the Prophetic Word?

- Come to Jesus (if you're thirsty) & take of the water of life without price (Rev 1; 21-22)

- By Heeding the Letters to the 7 Churches (Rev 2-3)

### 2. Why are we Blessed if we Keep the Prophetic Word?

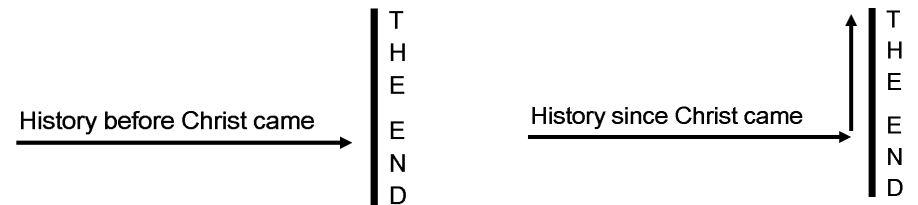
- Because Christ will satisfy our thirsty souls & welcome us into His glorious eternal kingdom (Rev 1:6; 11:15; 19-22)

- Because these words are trustworthy and true (Rev 22:6)

- Because the risen Lord Jesus Christ is coming soon (Rev 22:7, 20)

### Jesus Christ is Coming Soon

Chart & notes below adapted from I. Howard Marshall (*The Epistles of John*)



The first coming of Christ has altered both our sense of time regarding the end of the age as well as our focus regarding the direction in which human history is heading. Before Christ came to earth, history was gradually heading towards the coming of Israel's Messiah, with the ushering in of His kingdom and the end of the age. Now that we are living after the first coming of Christ, and with the revelation of the gospel, our sense of the timing regarding the imminent arrival of the end of the age has been greatly intensified, and our focus regarding where history is heading has been dramatically clarified. Time and the course of human history are no longer slowly heading towards the end of the age. Rather time & human history are running along side it (see the charts above).

Living with this sense of urgency and focus regarding the timing of Christ's return and the end of the age was not possible in the generations before Christ came: first, because God's promises regarding Israel's long awaited Messiah had not yet been fulfilled (Lk 24:27, 44); and second, because His revelation regarding the last days had not yet been revealed (Dan 12:4; Mk 13:5ff; 1Th 5:4; 1Pe 1:10; Rev 1:1; 22:10). The end is very near and we are living in the last hour (1Jn 2:18), because, with the first coming of Christ, the prophesied promises of God foretold long ago have almost reached their fulfillment. Therefore each passing generation of human history is now living under the impending return of Christ and the end of the age, which should exhort us in our godly witness and fill us with joy and hope!