

# Revelation 22:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

## Analysis

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**Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book....** This verse from Revelation's vision of river of life, invitation, warnings - eternal blessing, urgent call, maranatha employs apocalyptic imagery rich with Old Testament allusions and symbolic meaning. The Greek text uses vivid apocalyptic language characteristic of Jewish prophetic literature, drawing heavily from Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Zechariah.

The symbolism must be interpreted within its first-century context while recognizing timeless spiritual realities. The imagery would resonate powerfully with persecuted believers facing Roman imperial cult worship, providing hope that despite present suffering, Christ reigns sovereign and will consummate His kingdom. The apocalyptic genre uses symbolic numbers (seven, twelve, 144,000), colors, beasts, and cosmic imagery to convey theological truth rather than photographic descriptions.

Christologically, Revelation consistently exalts Jesus as the victorious Lamb, the faithful witness, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Every vision ultimately points to Christ's supremacy, His finished redemptive work, and His certain return to judge the living and dead and establish the new creation.

## Historical Context

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John received this revelation circa AD 95 during Domitian's persecution, exiled on Patmos for his testimony. The seven churches of Asia Minor faced increasing pressure to participate in emperor worship and pagan religious practices. Refusal meant economic hardship, social ostracism, and potential martyrdom. Understanding this context illuminates Revelation's encouragement to faithful endurance.

The apocalyptic genre was familiar to first-century Jewish and Christian readers. Rather than newspaper-style predictions, apocalyptic literature uses symbolic imagery to reveal spiritual realities behind earthly events, encourage the faithful, warn the unfaithful, and assert God's ultimate sovereignty over history. Parallels with Daniel, Ezekiel, and intertestamental apocalyptic writings would help original readers decode the symbols.

Rome's imperial cult demanded worship of Caesar as divine, placing Christians in impossible situations—compromise their faith or face persecution. Revelation identifies Rome as "Babylon" and assures believers that despite appearances, the Lamb conquered through His death and resurrection, and all earthly kingdoms will submit to His reign.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does Revelation 22:7 reveal God's character, particularly His sovereignty, holiness, and justice?
2. What specific encouragement or warning does this verse offer for maintaining faithful Christian witness amid cultural pressure?

3. How does this passage point to Christ's victory and the hope of new creation, and how should that shape your present priorities?

## Interlinear Text

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ἰδοὺ,	ἔρχομαι	ταχύ.	μακάριος	ὁ	τηρῶν	τοὺς
<b>Behold</b>	<b>I come</b>	<b>quickly</b>	<b>blessed</b>	G3588	<b>is he that keepeth</b>	G3588
G2400	G2064	G5035	G3107		G5083	
λόγους	τῆς	προφητείας	τοῦ	βιβλίου	τούτου	
<b>the sayings</b>	G3588	<b>of the prophecy</b>	G3588	<b>book</b>	<b>of this</b>	
G3056		G4394		G975	G5127	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Revelation 3:11** (Parallel theme): Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

**Revelation 1:3** (Prophecy): Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

**Revelation 22:20** (Parallel theme): He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

**Revelation 22:12** (Parallel theme): And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

**Revelation 16:15** (Blessing): Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.