

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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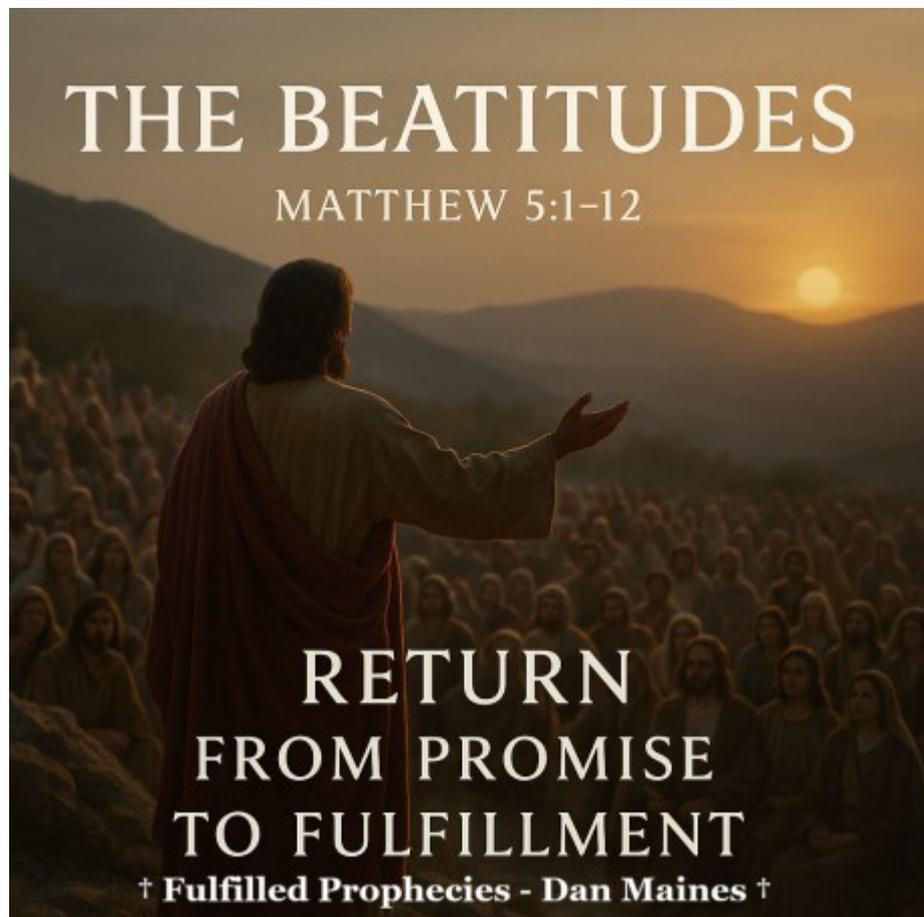
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## The Beatitudes



By Dan Maines

## The Beatitudes

† The Beatitudes aren't simply moral virtues or steps toward happiness. They're covenantal declarations spoken by Jesus, revealing the spiritual nature of those who would inherit the Kingdom. Each blessing described the character of the faithful who would receive the promises of the New Covenant when the Old Covenant world ended. Those who were poor in spirit, meek, merciful, pure in heart, and peacemakers were the true Israel of God, both Jew and Gentile, who would enter the Kingdom when it came in fullness at the end of the age in AD

70. The Beatitudes outlined the spiritual transformation of the New Covenant community and the reward that awaited them when the old system passed away.

## **Matthew 5:1-12**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

† These words weren't meant for a far-off age but were spoken to those living at the close of the Old Covenant world, showing who would truly inherit the promises of God.

† The Beatitudes describe the spiritual character of those who would enter the Kingdom. Jesus was teaching His disciples what life in the Kingdom would look like under the New Covenant. These blessings weren't promises of worldly gain, but of covenantal transformation.

† The poor in spirit recognized their spiritual need. Israel's pride had to be broken before the kingdom could be received (Isaiah 66:2). The humble received the kingdom that the proud rulers

rejected (Matthew 21:43).

† Those who mourned were those lamenting Israel's fallen condition and longing for redemption. In AD 70, the system that caused the mourning was destroyed, and the comfort of the New Jerusalem was revealed (Revelation 21:4).

† The gentle, or meek, were those who submitted to God's will. The promise to inherit the earth finds its fulfillment in the New Covenant world, where Christ reigns over all nations (Psalm 37:11, Matthew 28:18).

† Those who hungered and thirsted for righteousness weren't longing for law-based justification, but for God's righteousness through faith. This was fulfilled in Christ (Romans 3:21-22).

† The merciful reflected the heart of God, who desired mercy rather than sacrifice (Hosea 6:6). Mercy triumphed over judgment in the New Covenant (James 2:13).

† The pure in heart weren't those ceremonially clean, but those inwardly cleansed. They'd see God because access into His presence was granted through Christ (Hebrews 10:19-22).

† The peacemakers were the ministers of reconciliation, proclaiming peace between God and man through the finished work of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

† The persecuted were those who suffered for righteousness' sake. Their vindication came when the persecutors, chiefly unbelieving Israel, were judged in that generation (Matthew 23:34-36).

† When Jesus said, Rejoice and be glad, He pointed to the eternal reality of the Kingdom. Their reward wasn't in some future age, but in the heavenly realm now opened to believers

(Hebrews 12:22-24).

## **Historical References**

† Josephus records that those who sought peace and righteousness in Judea were often slain by zealots during the war, yet their faith was vindicated when judgment fell upon their persecutors (Josephus, Wars 4.3.8).

† Clement of Rome and Ignatius both reminded early Christians that the persecution they endured was the same kind suffered by the prophets, showing the continuity of God's righteous servants before and after Christ.

† Eusebius wrote that the believers who obeyed Christ's warning fled to Pella before the destruction of Jerusalem and were preserved, demonstrating God's mercy toward the meek who trusted His word (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

## **How it applies to us today**

† The Beatitudes remind us that the Kingdom isn't about outward appearance or religious show, but about the inward transformation of the heart.

† Every blessing Jesus spoke has its fulfillment in His completed work. The New Covenant believers now live in the reality of these promises.

† We're called to live as citizens of the Kingdom, humble, merciful, and peacemaking, reflecting the righteousness of God in a reconciled world.

† The Beatitudes aren't future promises, but present realities fulfilled in Christ's Kingdom, where righteousness, peace, and joy now reign forever.

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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## Source Index

† Matthew 5:1-12; Isaiah 66:2; Matthew 21:43; Revelation 21:4; Psalm 37:11; Matthew 28:18; Romans 3:21-22; Hosea 6:6; James 2:13; Hebrews 10:19-22; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Matthew 23:34-36; Hebrews 12:22-24

† Josephus, Wars 4.3.8

† Clement of Rome, Epistle to the Corinthians

† Ignatius, Epistle to the Magnesians

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5

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