

# **What Believers Will Do After Death**

*International Bible Lesson*

**Revelation 5:1-14**

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*“And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints” (Revelation 5:8—KJV).*

*“When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints” (Revelation 5:8—NRSV).*

You do not need to die in order to become a saint. The Bible calls all true followers of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the Scriptures “saints.” Saints are all those who have been ransomed for God by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus the Messiah. By His sacrificial death, Jesus has ransomed “saints from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9). Furthermore, Jesus has planned for the saints “to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth” (Revelation 5:10). Jesus has such great plans for His followers that no wonder He wants the most important creatures and leaders in heaven to present personally to Him all the prayers of the saints. No matter how feeble or unadorned a prayer of a saint might seem, Jesus will hear and answer that prayer in the very best way. If a saint does not know how to pray at any time in any trouble, the indwelling Holy Spirit will help them pray; indeed, more than this the Holy Spirit “intercedes for the saints according to the will of God” (Romans 8:27). The Apostle Paul wrote, “Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:18). Jesus Christ will always sympathize with the saints, and He understands their weaknesses when He hears their prayers, because He “in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). —© Copyright 2014 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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# **Thinking Further**

1. What do you think was written on the scroll in God the Father’s hand (may be several good answers)?
2. Give a reason why you think John wept bitterly (may be more than 1 reason)?
3. Describe what John saw when he first looked at Jesus? What do you think it meant?
4. How important to God are the prayers of true Christians; people John called “saints”?
5. Who did Jesus die for and ransom by His blood? What will He make of them?