

Rewards for Overcomers – Revelation 2 - 3

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Revelation 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

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What does it mean to **OVERCOME**?

John 14:26-27 The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

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What does it mean to **OVERCOME**?

- How did JESUS overcome the world?
- **Colossians 2:13-15** And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

➤ **“handwriting of requirements”** - written note of debts owed

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What does it mean to **OVERCOME**?

- How did JESUS overcome the world?
 - Jesus overcame our problem of sin - canceling the debt we owed.
 - Jesus overcame the enemy – disarming them, removing their weapons, and triumphing over them.
 - Jesus overcame the world - when He died on the cross, accomplished the Father's plan of redemption by being a substitutionary sacrifice, and when He rose from the dead... defeating even death itself.

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What does it mean to **OVERCOME**?

- How did JESUS overcome the world?
 - Overcome: **success against a challenging situation**
 - *nikao* - *be victorious, win, prevail;*
of a legal action win (out), prevail, win the case;
transitively overcome, defeat, conquer

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NAS **Revelation 5:5** behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.

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NAS **Revelation 6:2** And I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him; and he went out conquering, and to conquer.

NAS **Revelation 11:7** And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them.

NAS **Revelation 13:7** And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

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NAS **Revelation 12:11** "And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.

LSB **Revelation 15:2** Then I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who have overcome the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God

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NAS **Revelation 17:14** "These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him *are the called and chosen and faithful.*"

NAS **Revelation 21:5-7** He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." ⁶ And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

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“The promises of the seven messages also serve notice of the book’s unity. They provide for escape from the miseries of Revelation 4-19 and for enjoyment of the privileges of the saints after Christ’s triumphant return in Revelation 19:11-21.

Incentives for faithfulness are abundant. The churches are encouraged to look beyond the present difficulties of the Christian life to derive courage to persevere.” *Dr. Thomas*

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- **John 16:13** When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

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To him who overcomes

- ❖ I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.
- ❖ He shall not be hurt by the second death.
- ❖ I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*.
- ❖ I will give power over the nations -- 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' -- as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star.

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To him who overcomes

- ❖ He shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels
- ❖ I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.
- ❖ I will give him the right to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

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Every one of these is:

- what every believer in Jesus as their Savior will receive
- a GIFT from Jesus Himself
- an incentive for faithfulness to Jesus

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The gift of eating from the tree of life.

Revelation 22:2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

❖ it emphasizes LIFE.

^{NKJ} **Ephesians 2:1** And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

❖ it indicates access into the garden of God - in the presence of God, enjoying perfect fellowship with Him.

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The gift of not being hurt by the second death

Revelation 20:12-14 ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

❖ The unbelieving dead will be resurrected and STAND before God, in immortal bodies:

Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

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The gift of not being hurt by the second death

- ❖ Believers will only experience ONE death - a first death.
Then we will be with the Lord forever.

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The gift of hidden manna and a white stone with our new names

Revelation 2:17 To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*.

❖ Israel was fed manna from Heaven while in the wilderness, a portion was kept hidden in the Ark of the Covenant.

^{NAS} **Hebrews 9:4** ... the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant.

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The gift of hidden manna and a white stone with our new names

Revelation 2:14 But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality.

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The gift of hidden manna and a white stone with our new names

Jesus said that the manna that God gave the Israelites in the wilderness represented HIM

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.

Luke 22:19 And when He had taken *some* bread and given thanks, He broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

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The gift of hidden manna and a white stone with our new names

- ❖ White stones – used as a ticket, given to the winners of games, giving entrance to a celebration, these were the only ones with a person's name

What name?

- ❖ Our NEW NAMES, given to us by Jesus.
- ❖ The eternal name that characterizes us.

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The gift of power over the nations and the morning star

- ❖ The church of Thyatira needed to take action and not tolerate Jezebel's false teaching anymore.

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The gift of power over the nations and the morning star

- ❖ The church of Thyatira needed to take action and not tolerate Jezebel's false teaching anymore.

“This promise of power over the nations, ruling them with a rod of iron, shattering them like pottery is fierce. Its violent nature is in keeping with the general tone of the message. A strong threat to the truth such as the teaching of Jezebel required a strong promise to bolster those who successfully stood against her.” - Dr. Thomas

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The gift of power over the nations and the morning star

- ❖ This gift guarantees believers that they will share in Jesus' victory over His enemies.
- ❖ This gift carries into the Millennial Kingdom, when glorified saints have power over the nations, ruling, and governing the world under Jesus' reign as King.

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The gift of power over the nations and the morning star

Jesus is called the bright morning star:

Revelation 22:16 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star."

But Jesus is the giver of the gift of the morning star:

Daniel 12:3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Matthew 13:43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

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The gift of white garments, his name will not be blotted out from the Book of Life and Jesus will confess his name before God.

Revelation 3:4-5 You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

❖ White garments indicate purity

Revelation 19:8 ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

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The gift of white garments, his name will not be blotted out from the Book of Life and Jesus will confess his name before God.

Zechariah 3:1, 3-4 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest³
Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. ⁴ Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, “Take away the filthy garments from him.” And to him He said, “See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.”

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The gift of white garments, his name will not be blotted out from the Book of Life and Jesus will confess his name before God.

Overcomers are acceptable to God and serve as priests of God.

Revelation 1:5-6 To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Our names will never be blotted out of the Book of Life.

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The gift of being a pillar and a threefold name.

Revelation 3:12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more.

“This message assures Christians of an eternally enduring place in the Messianic Kingdom and an open recognition of them as the people of God and of the Messiah.” *Dr. Thomas*

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The gift of being a pillar and a threefold name.

Revelation 3:12 He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more.

To be a pillar – is clearly symbolic.

- ❖ A pillar is strong, steadfast, and permanent
- ❖ This indicates our eternal state, our permanent residence in the presence of God.

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The gift of being a pillar and a threefold name.

A threefold name:

Revelation 3:12-13 And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And *I will write on him* My new name.

The name of My God - we belong to Him

The name of the city of My God - we are citizens of His city

The new name of Jesus - we will know Him in His fullness as the King of Kings.

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The gift of the right to sit down with Him on His throne, as He overcame and sat down with His Father on His throne.

Revelation 3:21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

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The gift of the right to sit down with Him on His throne, as He overcame and sat down with His Father on His throne.

2 Thrones:

- ❖ God's throne - in Heaven
- ❖ Jesus' throne - the throne of David, it rightly belongs to Him

Genesis 49:10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

He will occupy His throne in Jerusalem when He comes in His glory

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The gift of the right to sit down with Him on His throne, as He overcame and sat down with His Father on His throne.

Matthew 19:28 So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

Paul expanded this promise to the church:

1 Corinthians 6:2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?

The overcomer is promised a place of reigning with Jesus in His Millennial kingdom.

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John 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

By His Spirit in you, you can overcome too.



