

The Bride of Christ as the Overcomer  
(Rev. 2:7,11,17,26; 3:5,12,21)

In each of the seven letters of Revelation to the churches, the Lord YAHSHUA gives a promise to those who overcome. We realize that true faith applied at one's conversion does not end there. Trials and tribulations are known to follow to bring about strength; sometimes they come in greater intensity in the way of family's rejection, persecution; sometimes in a lesser degree, but with certainty they are always part of developing the strength of faith to prove its genuineness, and in the end to result in praise, glory and honor at the revelation of YAHSHUA the MESSIAH (I Peter 1:7). The promise that YAHSHUA made to the overcomers is part of their salvation through His blood. We see in this that the overcomers of Revelation two and three are the true believers. The seven letters sent to the seven churches in Asia trace its beginning, its development, and its decline, showing that the religious trends of the last days before the return of CHRIST are far away from the truth and are settled in the apostasy of the time. We see that the course of the history of the church has been marked with progressive spiritual deterioration. Let's review the spiritual situation of the seven churches: The church of Ephesus lost her first love; in the church of Smyrna there were those who were of the synagogue of Satan; in Pergamum there were those who held the doctrine of Balaam and of the Nicolaitans; in Thyatira there was Jezebel and those who professed to be believers, alive in CHRIST, but were spiritually dead; the Laodicea church was found to be miserable, naked, wretched, poor, blind. These were the background history of the churches, a mixture of saved and unsaved, leading to the spiritual decadence of today's church.

The apostle John wrote, "For whosoever is born of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith; who is he that overcomes the world, but he that believes that YAHSHUA is the Son of God" (I John 5: 4-5). The overcomers are those who are sanctified in CHRIST YAHSHUA (I Cor. 1:2). We are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us (Romans 8:37). The promise that YAHSHUA gave to the overcomer of the church of Ephesus was, I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God (Rev. 2:7). To eat of the tree of life is only for those who have eternal life; those who are overcomers. To eat of the tree of life is to become immortal, or incapable of dying. YAHSHUA said, Whosoever lives and believes in Me shall never die (John 11: 26). The redemption of our Savior through His death gave us the true believer, the right to eat of the tree of life; it is not of our own, although the right is given to those who overcome the world in faith that endured to the end.

The promise to the overcomer of the Smyrna church was that "He that overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death" (Rev. 2:11). The second death is found in Revelation 20:14; 21:8. The second death is the everlasting punishment applied to those who rejected YAHSHUA'S sacrifice. It is the everlasting separation from YAHWEH. There are two resurrections: the resurrection to life and the resurrection to eternal death. Those who are called out to life are those who YAHWEH justified; it is the resurrection of the just (Luke 14:13-14). These are the redeemed called out at the sound of the trumpet of YAHWEH (I Thess. 4:16-18); death no longer has power over them. The overcomers clearly show to be the true children of YAHWEH.

The promise to the overcomer of Pergamum Church was, To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knows except the one who receives it (Rev. 2:17). In her journey through the desert, Israel was provided with the bread from heaven. Manna is a type of YAHSHUA coming from heaven and giving eternal life to all whosoever would believe in Him; He said, I am the bread of life; he that comes to Me shall never hunger; and he that believes in Me shall never thirst (John 6:32-35). Only CHRIST can satisfy His Bride as the Bread of life and as the Living water. He said to the Samaritan woman, If you knew the gift of God, and Who is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink', you would ask Him, and He would give you living water; everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again- ever! In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up within him for eternal life (John 4: 9,13). The white stone with the redeemed name inscribed in it, shows us that each redeemed will have a special relationship with his Lord, a relationship no one else can share. Only the redeemed will reign with CHRIST.

The promise to the overcomer of the Thyatira church was, And he that overcomes, and keeps My works to the end I will give him authority over the nations; I will give him the morning star (Rev. 22: 26, 27). This promise assures the overcomer his role in the millennium, when he will reign with CHRIST. Paul said to his letter to the Romans, And if children, then heirs of God, and joint-heirs with CHRIST; only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory (Romans 8:17); and Do you not know that the saints shall judge the world? (I Corinthians 6:2). Another promise to the overcomer from the Thyatira church was, And I will give him the morning star (2:28). YAHSHUA said, I am . . . the bright and morning star (22:16). In promising this Star to the overcomer, YAHSHUA is guaranteeing Himself to all who are truly His. Peter said, And we have the prophetic word firmer still. You will do well to pay close attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dismal place, until the day breaks through and the Morning Star rises in your hearts (2 Peter 1: 19).

The promise to the overcomer from Sardis' church was, He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white clothes; and I will never erase his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before My Father and before His angels (3:5). This promise is threefold: First, the promise of "white clothes" which is the righteousness of YAHWEH imputed on the true believer; second his name will not be blotted out of the book of life. Every person will have his name written in the book of life; the blotting out of the name from this book implies eternal death for those who never accepted the Lord YAHSHUA; He said to Nicodemus, I assure you: unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God; whoever is born of flesh is flesh, and whoever is born of the Spirit is spirit; do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again; anyone who believes in Him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the One and only Son of God (John 3: 3, 6, 7,18). Third, He will confess his name before His Father and before His angels. When on earth, the Lord clearly stated this promise to those who would be faithful in acknowledge Him (Matt. 10: 32; Luke 12:8).

The promise to the overcomer from the Philadelphia's church: Him that overcomes I will make him a pillar in the sanctuary of My God, and he will never go out again; 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 My new name (3:12). The believers from Philadelphia church had but a little strength; but in heaven they will be established and made a pillar of strength. All the overcomers will be pillars in YAHWEH'S temple. The second promise is, And I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God. In heaven all believers will be associated with God and with His city, the New Jerusalem. For the purpose of all to know that Israel was God's people, He said to Moses, And they shall put My name upon the children of Israel (Numbers 6:27). It is the same idea here. When we come back to earth to reign with CHRIST; all will know that we bear the name of YAHWEH and that we are citizens of heaven; "And I will write upon him My new name". The redeemed of the Lord will be identified with Him by His name; they will share with Him in His kingdom and glory.

The promise to the overcomers from the Laodicea's church: To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame and am set down with My Father in His throne (3:21). This promise positions the overcomer believer in the position of authority and conquest. All believers will be made kings unto God (Rev. 1: 6; 5:10) and will reign with CHRIST when He will establish His throne (Rev. 20:6). He that overcomes shall inherit all things (Rev. 21: 7). These promises given to the overcomers are firmly established in heaven and in the plenitude of time; in YAHWEH'S time all will come to pass. We are more than conquerors through Him Who loved us and gave Himself for us. This is the overcomers' hope in tribulation and trials, while faithfully waiting the fulfillment of His promise when He appears to fetch His bride.

( References from the book of Revelation by Lehman Strauss)