

# “Overcome and Reign”

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The book of Revelation opens with a message to seven churches directly from Jesus Christ himself. These messages came from Jesus to John who communicated them to the saints of the late first century as he wrote the book of Revelation. Jesus' messages to the churches in Revelation have a unique statement attached to each. He tells the churches that certain things are promised to "those who overcome."

Revelation 2:26-27 - "He who overcomes, and he who keeps my deeds until the end, TO HIM WILL I GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from my Father..."

This is a quote from Psalm 2.

Psalm 2:6-9 - But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain. I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'

This original promise is strictly spoken by the LORD to His Anointed son. The Messiah is to rule the world in the Kingdom of GOD with great power and authority. The entire Hebrew Scriptures speak of this individual and the rule he will exercise. When we get to Revelation, the Messiah himself extends this same promise to those who overcome! Jesus is offering his obedient followers to share in his own Messianic promise - what he was given by his Father. Even after his resurrection and ascension, Jesus remains a servant leader, offering the opportunity to join him in rulership of the nations in the age to come.

Studying the other promises given to those who overcome in Revelation shows us that they too relate in some way to life in the Kingdom of GOD.

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

2:11 - 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.'

2:17 - 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it.'

2:26 - 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star.'

3:5 - 'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

3:12 - 'He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; 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 My new name.

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

Even after Jesus' ascension, he desires that his church would keep their focus on the Kingdom of GOD, commencing at his return.

Each of these statements is for those who overcome. What does it mean to overcome? Jesus clearly overcame, and he did so by holding fast to the words of his God, the Father. Consider the temptation by the devil. Jesus relied constantly on the words of GOD to fight the wicked tempter. The sword of the spirit is our only offensive weapon in this fight of faith, and we must keep it close. Jesus Christ allowed the Words of GOD to dictate his every action. We must do the same; we must "keep his deeds until the end."

Revelation 2:26 (NLT) - "To all who are victorious, who obey me to the very end, I will give authority over all the nations..."

This is how we overcome: Staying obedient to the Lord. By staying faithful to the words of Jesus, he will lead us to where he wants us to go, where his Father desires us to be (Luke 12:32).

O the wondrous, marvelous love of Jesus! How loving is it for him to share his authority with the saints in the end?

If we have repented and answered the call of Jesus we are promised the opportunity to rule with him. As Christ's ambassadors, we are extending this same invitation and this same privilege to the world. What was promised to us, we share with others, just like our Lord initially did for us. In this we are able to be like Christ - love with that same selfless love he has shown towards us. There are only two options for our destiny, overcome and reign with Christ or be forced into submission by his rule.

Let us each consider these few words and reason out for ourselves just how amazing this love that Jesus Christ has shown us is. What should it cause us to do? Live our lives for the one who died for us? Offer salvation to others? Keep his deeds until the end? Will we overcome?

Revelation 22:12-14 - "Behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward is with me, to render to every man according to what he has done. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.

Overcome and reign....