

"The Promises to the Overcomers"

Part 2

Revelation 2:1-3:22

Introduction: Last week in our study of the book of Revelation we started to look at the promises to the OVERCOMERS which are found in each of the letters written to the 7 churches.

We started last week by defining the OVERCOMERS.

I. Who are the Overcomers?

1 John 5:4, 5

⁴ For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

⁵ Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Here is the same writer and he defines the overcomer for us in 1 John. The overcomer is the person who is the true believer.

II. The Promises

1. Eternal Life

Notice Revelation 2:7

John 10:27, 28

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

2. Eternal Security

Notice Revelation 2:11

John 11:25, 26

²⁵ Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

²⁶ And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

This brings us to where we are today.

3. Spiritual Sustenance

Notice Revelation 2:17

There are 2 promises in this verse and the first one is the privilege of eating the HIDDEN MANNA.

Manna was the food which God gave to Israel as they journeyed through the wilderness for 40 years. Let me share somethings about the manna.

Exodus 16:4, 14-21

⁴ Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

¹⁴ And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground.

¹⁵ And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is manna: for they wist not what it was. And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the LORD hath given you to eat.

¹⁶ This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded, Gather of it every man according to his eating, an omer for every man, according to the number of your persons; take ye every man for them which are in his tents.

¹⁷ And the children of Israel did so, and gathered, some more, some less.

¹⁸ And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating.

¹⁹ And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the morning.

²⁰ Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was wroth with them.

²¹ And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.

Now let me show you what the manna was a picture of.

John 6:31-35

³¹ Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

³² Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

³³ For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

³⁴ Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

³⁵ And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

John 6:48-51

⁴⁸ I am that bread of life.

⁴⁹ Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

⁵⁰ This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

The manna in the wilderness was a type of Jesus Christ. Therefore we can know for sure that the HIDDEN MANNA is a reference to Jesus Christ.

But the question is why does Jesus refer to it as HIDDEN MANNA?

The HIDDEN MANNA is a reference to our fellowship with Jesus Christ which only believers can enjoy. This is SPIRITUAL FOOD that is hidden from the unsaved world. This is FOOD that the world knows nothing about. This is the SPIRITUAL FOOD that sustains us as we walk through this world.

Deuteronomy 8:3

³ And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Matthew 4:4

⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Here is the point of the promise to the OVERCOMER; we have the privilege feeding upon Jesus Christ as we walk through this world. The world sits at a buffet of JUNK FOOD but you and I can feed upon Christ as we read His Word and it is there that we eat HIDDEN MANNA and are sustained for the battle which we face every day. Let me show you one more thought here.

Exodus 16:4, 21

⁴Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

²¹And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.

The manna was to be gathered every day just as we are to feed upon the Word every day. You cannot gorge yourself on the Word and expect it to sustain you for a month. We must feed on His Word every single day.

4. Royal Privilege

Notice Revelation 2:17 again.

Listen to the words of David Guzik on the white stone:

"In the ancient world, the use of a white stone had many associations. A white stone could be a ticket to a banquet, a sign of friendship, evidence of having been counted, or as a sign of acquittal in a court of law. Jesus may have any one of these meanings in mind, but at the very least we know that it has the assurance of blessing."

He goes on:

"Some compare this to conquerors in the public games, who were not only conducted with great pomp into the city to which they belonged, but had a white stone given to them, with their name inscribed on it; this stone entitled them, during their whole life, to be maintained at the public expense ... There were several kinds of privileges which came with certain stones. Clarke gives examples of the different kinds: One was equal to our card of invitation. It was similar to a ticket of admission to a public feast or banquet; when the person invited produced his white stone he was admitted. But there was another which was the most remarkable of these white stones. These were given as badges of friendship and

alliance, and on which something was engraved, as a testimony that a contract of friendship had been made between the parties."

The idea is that the "victor" in the games was treated with "ROYAL PRIVILEGES"

In the same way we who are believers are also given ROYAL PRIVILEGES. These are what I would call KINGDOM privileges. What are some of the present Kingdom Privileges?

1. **We have a personal relationship with the future King.**

Hebrews 2:11

¹¹ For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Romans 8:35-39

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

³⁸ For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

³⁹ Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. **We are provided all we need for this life.**

Matthew 6:31-33

³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Psalm 23:1-6

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ *He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

⁴ *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

⁵ *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*

⁶ *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.*

3. **We have access to the Royal Throne room at all times.**

Hebrews 4:

¹⁴ *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*

¹⁵ *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

¹⁶ **Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.**

Conclusion:

As OVERCOMERS we have:

1. Eternal life
2. Eternal security
3. Eternal sustenance
4. Eternal Royal privileges