THE OVERCOMER'S REWARD: -

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the <u>King James Version</u>; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this <u>Study Document</u>.

- There are eight specific promises made by the Lord in the book of <u>Revelation</u> to the believer who overcomes. Let us briefly examine a few of these promises in a little more detail.
- 1. Jesus will give the overcomer access to eat from the Tree of Life that is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

 Revelation 2:7: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."
 - Jesus promised the repentant thief upon the cross, that they would be together in Paradise when Jesus comes into his kingdom.

<u>Luke 23:42 & 43: -</u> "And he said unto Jesus, **Lord**, **remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom**. And Jesus said unto him, **Verily I say unto thee**, **To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.**"

Paradise is in the third heaven, where Paul was caught up in heavenly vision.

<u>2 Corinthians 12:2 - 4: -</u> "I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."

Eating from the fruit of the Tree of Life is able to perpetuate immortality.

<u>Genesis 3:22: -</u> "And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, **and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever.**"

In the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, the Tree of Life yields twelve different fruits, one for every month. Revelation 22:1 & 2: - "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, [was there] the tree of life, which bare twelve [manner of] fruits, [and] yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree [were] for the healing of the nations."

In the New Earth where righteousness dwells (<u>See 2 Peter 3:13</u>), every Sabbath day and every new month, all flesh – that is all the righteous shall come before the Lord to worship him. And obviously when the passage below is compared with <u>Revelation 22:1 & 2</u> the righteous will come every new month and eat that month's fruit from the Tree of Life.

<u>Isaiah 66:22 & 23:</u> "For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, [that] from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD."

Those who keep God's Commandments have the right to eat of the Tree of Life, and to enter into the Holy City through its gates.

Revelation 22:14: - "Blessed [are] they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

Putting this last passage together with <u>Revelation 2:7</u>, an overcomer and a commandment-keeper are one and the same person.

2. The overcomer shall not be hurt by the 2nd Death.

Revelation 2:11: - "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; **He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.**"

Those from among the dead who have a part in the 1st Resurrection shall not be touched by the 2nd Death.

Revelation 20:6: - "Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

Those who have a part in this 1st Resurrection will have been accounted worthy of a part in that resurrection, and they will have done good during their lives.

<u>Luke 20:34 - 36: -</u> "And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: **But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead,** neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; **and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.**"

John 5:28 & 29: - "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

The contrast between the overcomer and the wicked that shall suffer the 2^{nd} Death is plainly highlighted in the following passage.

Revelation 21:7 & 8: - "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

- 3. Revelation 2:17: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; **To him that overcometh** 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 knoweth saving he that receiveth [it]."
- 4. Revelation 2:26 29: "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."
- 5. Jesus promises **not** to blot out the overcomer's name from the Book of Life.

 Revelation 3:5: "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life. but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

Every one whose name is not retained in the Book of Life will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 20:15: - "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Only those whose names are retained in the Book of Life will be able to enter into the Holy City, the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:27: - "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither [whatsoever] worketh abomination, or [maketh] a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

Those who keep God's Commandments are able to enter into the Holy City through its gates.

Revelation 22:14: - "Blessed [are] they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

- Putting this last passage together with <u>Revelation 3:5,</u> an overcomer and a commandment-keeper are one and the same person.
- 6. Revelation 3:12: "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, [which is] new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and [I will write upon him] my new name."
- 7. Revelation 3:21 & 22: "To him that overcometh 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. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Those who have a part in the 1st Resurrection – that is, those who are holy, shall reign on thrones with Christ in Judgment.

Revelation 20:4 - 6: - "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection. Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

8. The overcomer shall inherit all things in the New Earth that the Lord is going to recreate. But the wicked who have not overcome will be cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone which is the 2nd Death. This contrast of eternal rewards is highlighted in the following passage.

Revelation 21:7 & 8: - "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. "

The 2nd Death is inflicted upon the unrepentant sinners because of the sins committed by them during their lives.

<u>Ezekiel 18:26:</u> "When a righteous [man] turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; **for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die.**"

Romans 6:23: - "For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

The gift of eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ can only be given to the person who overcomes; while the person who does not overcome will receive the wages of their sins – the 2nd Death in the Lake of Fire.

VICTORY OVER SATAN AND HIS AGENTS IN THE LAST GREAT CONFLICT: -

Revelation 15:2: - "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and * them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, [and] over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God."

<u>NOTE: -</u> * The underlined, italicised portion of the above verse has been translated from the Greek word "nikao" – <u>See Strong's Concordance; Greek, No. 3528.</u> It is defined as "1. be victor, prevail, conquer ... 2. conquer, overcome, vanquish."¹

It is the same Greek verb that has been translated as "overcometh" in the eight passages from the book of the Revelation containing the promises to the overcomer, which we are briefly examining in this study document. And how

¹ A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, by Walter Bauer, page 539.

were those who overcame the Beast, the Image and his Mark in the last days victorious? By their obedience to God's Commandments and the faith of Jesus.

<u>Revelation 14:12: -</u> "Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

True faith in Jesus as the Son of God helps us to overcome the world with all its lusts.

1 John 5:4 & 5: - "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, [even] our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

1 John 2:15 & 16: - "Love not the world, neither the things [that are] in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that [is] in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

The saints overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

Revelation 12:10 & 11: - "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

THE HEAVENLY REWARD IS ONLY TO THE OVERCOMER!