

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

1. The Call: Be Ready!



Introduction

For generations Christians have been expecting the return of Jesus Christ. That day is certainly closer than ever before! How can we prepare ourselves? Jesus gave an amazing revelation to the Apostle John, which is recorded in the book by that name, the Book of Revelation. In this book we are told that we are blessed if we read it and take it to heart.



Look at Revelation 1:3 and 22:7. Why do you think it says a person is blessed if they read and obey this book?

Jesus loves His church and wants us to be ready when He comes. In fact the book of Revelation is full of wonderful promises for those who are ready.



Read Revelation 21:1-8. Describe what John saw in your own words.



How can we prepare ourselves to be ready for Jesus' coming according to these verses? Revelation 21:2 and 21:7. Compare with 19:7-8

We can see that those who are ready are the ones who 'overcome'. "He who **overcomes** will inherit all this."



In each of the 7 letters written to the churches we read in more detail about the blessings that those who overcome will inherit. Look at the following verses and make a list of the promises given: Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21

What does it mean to overcome? The word 'overcome' is from a Greek word 'nikaw' which means 'to gain victory', 'to conquer', 'to prevail' or 'to overcome'. Over the next few months we will study the seven letters written to the churches, but in this study let's look at some other verses to help us understand what we are to overcome, and how we are to do so.



What are we to overcome according to 1 John 2:13, 4:4, 5:4?



Why is it so important in our Christian lives to overcome the evil one?

(The evil one constantly tries to draw us away from God. He will use many tactics – discouragement, fear, accusation etc. We need to overcome him so we will continue to follow Jesus, and be ready when He comes.)



How are we to overcome the evil one? Look at the following verses carefully. 1 John 5:4-5 and Revelation 12:11.

(1 John 5:4-5 No one can overcome the evil one/Satan unless he is 'born of God'. Then we need to learn to exercise our faith and understand the authority we have in Christ.

Revelation 12:11 We need to understand the power of the blood of Jesus, and learn to constantly have our lives washed in His blood. Also we must understand the power of our confession and choose not to deny Jesus, living a crucified life.)



Has the evil one been attacking you recently? What tactic has he tried using? Turn to the person beside you and pray for God's protection over their life and that they will be an over-comer.

Conclusion

We may feel it is impossible to live this kind of life. It certainly is if we live in our own strength. However it is possible if we live day by day, depending on the Holy Spirit. Jesus has already overcome, and it is through His power that we can overcome too. Revelation 3:21 says:

"To him who overcomes,
I will give the right to sit with Me on My Throne,
just as I overcame and sat down with
My Father on His Throne."