



# PROPHECY EXPO

## Who Are the Mysterious Overcomers?

I. The Seven Churches of Revelation 2-3 have been interpreted many ways. The Seven Churches can be identified as different epochs or phases that make up church history from the time of the apostles until the end of time. But, our interest at the Prophecy Expo in the Seven Churches is to understand why some church members were victorious and others were not. The "Overcomers" were not the only members of their churches. On the other hand, If we are going to learn anything from these seven churches, why not look to those who victoriously "overcame" Satan and were blessed and promised a reward by Jesus

II. Before we learn anything else from the "Overcomers," let's consider what their rewards will be<sup>1</sup>

	Rev 2:7	Rev 2:11	Rev 2:17	Rev 2:26	Rev 3:5	Rev 3:12	Rev 3:21
The Characteristics of the "Overcomers"	Eat from the Tree of Life	Not hurt by second death	White stone and new name	Authority over the nations	Jesus will confess name before the Father	Become a pillar in the temple of God, New Name, God's name written on Him	Sit down on throne with Jesus

1. These rewards are a summary of what all who are rewarded with eternal life will receive, as well as characteristics of God's faithful people from the past

"There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;  
<sup>4</sup> they will see His face, and His name *will be* on their foreheads.  
<sup>5</sup> And there will no longer be *any* night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever."  
 (Revelation 22:3-5; NASB201; SP1226)

"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."  
 (Revelation 22:14; NASB201; SP1227)

"Now behold, I have made you today as a fortified city and as a pillar of iron and as walls of bronze against the whole land, to the kings of Judah, to its princes, to its priests and to the people of the land.  
<sup>19</sup> "They will fight against you, but they will not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you," declares the LORD."  
 (Jeremiah 1:18-19; NASB 535; SP745)

III. Now, consider the characteristics of the “Overcomers”<sup>2</sup>

Name of the Church	Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamum	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Chief characteristics of the “Overcomers”	Perseverance <sup>3</sup>	Faithful in tribulation <sup>4</sup>	Held fast to the name of Jesus <sup>5</sup>	Love, faith, deeds, perseverance <sup>6</sup>	Clean garments <sup>7</sup>	Kept the word of Jesus, not denied the name of Jesus <sup>8</sup>	White garment and spiritual insight <sup>9</sup>

IV. The characters and stories of the book of Daniel provide good models of the “Overcomers.” Remember that Jesus pointed to the book of Daniel, when speaking of the last days and days of tribulation

“Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),”  
(Matthew 24:15; NASB 21; SP 961)

V. The three narrative stories of the faithful from the book of Daniel

A. Daniel and his friends refused to eat the king’s food

”But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king’s choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought *permission* from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself. “  
(Daniel 1:8; NASB628; SP865)

B. Daniel’s three friends Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down to the king’s idol

”But *even if He does not*, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”  
(Daniel 3:18; NASB630; SP 869)

C. Daniel is thrown into a lion’s den for continuing to pray to God, when the king forbade prayer

“Then these men said, ‘We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find *it* against him with regard to the law of his God.’”  
(Daniel 6:5; NASB 634; SP 873)

D. The two characteristics we find in the book of Daniel are loyalty to God and a determination to make prayer an important part of their spiritual life

VI. If we are going to be part of the “Overcomers” we will need to be loyal to God and His holy Bible and we will be a praying people. Note the contrast between those who worship God and those who worship the beast

"Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters."  
(Revelation 14:7; NASB 196; SP 1220)

"If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb".  
(Revelation 14:9-10; NASB 196: SP1220)

VII. In the end, by trusting in Jesus with all our hearts, we will become His children

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,"  
(John 1:12; NASB 71; SP1037)

"He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son."  
(Revelation 21:7; NASB 200; SP1225)

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<sup>1</sup> These verses are the specific verses the spells out the reward for the individual “Overcomers.”

**Revelation 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.' (Rev 2:7 NAU)

**Revelation 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.'

(Rev 2:11 NAU)

**Revelation 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.'

(Rev 2:17 NAU)

**Revelation 2:26** 'He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; (Rev 2:26 NAU)

<sup>NAU</sup> **Revelation 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.

(Rev 3:5 NAU)

**Revelation 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. (Rev 3:12 NAU)

**Revelation 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. (Rev 3:21 NAU)

<sup>3</sup> Revelation 2:2

<sup>4</sup> Revelation 2:10

<sup>5</sup> Revelation 2:13

<sup>6</sup> Revelation 2:19

<sup>7</sup> Revelation 3:4

<sup>8</sup> Revelation 3:8

<sup>9</sup> Revelation 3:18