

## **Are You before the Throne of God? Do You Sit with Jesus?**

### ***Introduction***

Read **Rev 3:14-21**

### **Seven churches of Asia**

Ephesus, Rev 2:1; Smyrna, Rev 2:8; Pergamum, Rev 2:12; Thyatira, Rev 2:18; Sardis, Rev 3:1; Philadelphia, Rev 3:7; Laodicea, Rev 3:14

### ***Ephesus, Rev 2:1***

**Rev 2:7**

7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

### **The Tree of Life**

**Gen 2:9**

9 And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground — trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

**Gen 3:22**

2 And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever."

**Prov 11:30**

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,  
and he who wins souls is wise.

**Rev 22:2**

down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

**Rev 22:14-15**

14 "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

**Rev 22:19**

19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

### **Paradise of God**

**Luke 23:42-43**

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

43 Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

## **2 Cor 12:2-5**

2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know – God knows. 3 And I know that this man – whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— 4 was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell.

## **Paradise**

to the oriental mind it expressed the sum total of blessedness (from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright © 1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers.)

## ***Smyrna, Rev 2:8***

### **Rev 2:11**

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

## **The Second Death**

### **Rev 20:6**

6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ

### **Rev 20:14-15**

14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

### **Rev 21:8**

8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

## ***Pergamum, Rev 2:12***

### **Rev 2:17**

17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

## **Hidden Manna**

### **John 6:32-33**

32 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

### **John 6:50-51**

50 But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

### **John 6:57-58**

58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."

### **White Stone**

Revelation 2:17

The "white stone" was a symbol of good fortune and prosperity; and it is a remarkable circumstance that, among the Greeks, persons of distinguished virtue were said to receive a *pseefon*, "stone," from the gods, that is, as an approving testimonial of their virtue.

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### **New Name**

**Isa 62:1-2**

2 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,  
till her righteousness shines out like the dawn,  
her salvation like a blazing torch.

2 The nations will see your righteousness,  
and all kings your glory;  
you will be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.

**Rev 3:12-13**

I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.

**Heb 12:22-23**

22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.

**Rev 21:1-3**

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

### **Thyatira, Rev 2:18**

**Rev 2:26-29**

26 To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations –

27 'He will rule them with an iron scepter;

he will dash them to pieces like pottery' –  
just as I have received authority from my Father. 28 I will also give him the morning star. 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

## **2 Peter 1:19**

19 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

## **Rev 22:16**

16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

## **Sardis, Rev 3:1**

Rev 3:4-6

4 Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. 5 He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. 6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

## **Dressed in White**

### **Gal 3:26-28**

26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 2

### **Rev 19:6-8**

6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

"Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

7 Let us rejoice and be glad

and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,

and his bride has made herself ready.

8 Fine linen, bright and clean,

was given her to wear."

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

## **Book of Life**

### **Ps 69:27-28**

27 Charge them with crime upon crime;

do not let them share in your salvation.

28 May they be blotted out of the book of life

and not be listed with the righteous.

**Phil 4:3**

3 Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

**Rev 13:8**

8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast — all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.

**Rev 20:12-15**

12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

**Rev 21:27**

7 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

***Philadelphia, Rev 3:7*****Rev 3:12-13**

12 Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. 13 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

**Pillar****1 Tim 3:15-16**

15 if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

**Rev 21:22-23**

22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

***Laodicea, Rev 3:14*****Rev 3:21-22**

21 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. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

**Sitting with Jesus****Matt 19:28-30**

28 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve

tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

**Rev 7:9-17**

9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation belongs to our God,  
who sits on the throne,  
and to the Lamb."

11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying:

"Amen!  
Praise and glory  
and wisdom and thanks and honor  
and power and strength  
be to our God for ever and ever.

Amen!"

13 Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes — who are they, and where did they come from?"

14 I answered, "Sir, you know."

And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore,  
"they are before the throne of God  
and serve him day and night in his temple;  
and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

16 Never again will they hunger;  
never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat upon them,  
nor any scorching heat.

17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd;  
he will lead them to springs of living water.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."