

18 "To the angel of the church in Thyatira write: You are doing great in faith and love and spiritual growth. **20 Nevertheless, I have this against you You tolerate that woman Jezebel** (I will punish her and everyone around her).

24 Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets (I will not impose any other burden on you): 25 Only hold (κρατήσατε) on to what you have (ἔχετε) until I come.

Did they hold on?

Tradition tells us that not long after this, this church embraced the heresy of Montanism (a perversion of Christianity that emphasized tongues, prophecy, ecstasy, secret knowledge, etc.).

By the end of the second century this church ceased to exist altogether (Thomas).

It's interesting to compare this church to the one in Ephesus (that lost it's first love).

This church was strong in love, but weak on dealing with sin & error.

Ephesus was strong on putting out sin and error, but was lacking in love.

Both churches are harshly rebuked. It's essential to be committed to both love and holiness.

But It's interesting to me that it was Ephesus that recovered, and regained its first love.

As long as you hang on to the truth, you can recover from a lapse in love. But if you become fuzzy on the truth, your fall might be one from which you won't be able to recover.

Jesus knows that just the fact that they are growing spiritually is no guarantee that they will be overcomers. So the Lord offers an incentive to each church.

Overview of the Incentive Promises

The major purpose of the book of Revelation is for the Lord to say to His Church, "The Great Hour of Trial is coming, but if you overcome – if you persevere all the way to the end, I will reward you – handsomely. I will make it worth your while."

3

And He describes a little piece of that unspeakable reward in each letter.

First He says **To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.**

You will know life that's *really* living.

Those who overcome will know live as it was meant to be, and he **will not be hurt at all by the second death.**

Then He said that **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.**

He will give bountiful provision for all your needs.

The one who makes it through to the end will receive special privilege. He or she will be rewarded not only with all the general reward promised to all believers, but in a specific way suited just for you.

4

He goes on to say that the overcomer **will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ...I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.**

The Lord will be proud of you in heaven and without hesitation will announce you as one of His. He won't be embarrassed in the least to do that in front of everyone including the angels and the Father Himself.

The Christians who holds on to what he has will receive a **crown**. Jesus will make him a **pillar in the temple of God in heaven. 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.**

You will play a prominent role in the very Temple of God in heaven.

And on top of that will **eat with him** and Jesus says, **I will give him the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.**

5

We will reign with Christ. And that last promise is similar to the one given to Thyatira.

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.

What Does It Mean to Overcome? (to keep His works)

First He tells us what it means to overcome.

26 To him who overcomes and does my will (keeps my works) to the end

This is the first time Jesus gives a clarifying statement of overcoming. And it turns out to mean just what we thought – keeping His works all the way to the end.

6

That's an odd way to put it – **keep my works**. Normally we think of keeping commands, not keeping works. You don't see the concept of keeping works anywhere else in the Bible.

I think there are two reasons:

1. **It's a contrast to her works.** The problem in that church was people holding to wrong works – the works of Jezebel. **So Jesus calls them to be faithful to His works rather than hers.**

2. Jesus uses that unusual phrase here to get their attention and our attention and to remind us of how critical it is that we live out the Christian life all the way to the end.

There are two kinds of heresy: heresy of belief and heresy of deeds. You can be a heretic by believing and teaching false doctrine. Or you can be a heretic by believing true doctrine, but living out a false Christian life.

In fact, that second kind of heresy is probably more prominent in the NT discussion of false teaching than the first.

In places like 2 Pe.2 or Mt.23 or any of the places where Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for being false teachers and leading people astray, the emphasis is on their way of living more than their doctrine.

Make no mistake about that – you can lead just as many people astray by living out a bad example as you can by getting on TV or going door to door and preaching a false Gospel.

The great apostasy of the end time will be caused mostly by a severe increase in wickedness.

Mt.24:12-13 **Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.**

8

The influence of a sinful life draws more people astray than words.

Mt.23:15 **"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and**

when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.

How did they make people such sons of hell?

The answer is in v.2

"The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. 3 So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.

It wasn't their preaching that led people astray, but their lives.

I don't want to diminish the significance of doctrinal error. People live sinful lives as a result of believing the wrong way. So true doctrine is critical.

...But not enough by itself.

You can hold to orthodoxy and still be a heretic in your actions. So Jesus calls them to maintain their orthodox lives right to the end – that's why He says "Keep my works."

The Great Promise to the Son in Ps.2

And if you do that, here's what you get. In v.26 comes our incentive.

Look at how He describes salvation

26 To him who overcomes and keeps my works 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.

TT Ps.2

Jesus is quoting some of the most precious words His Father ever spoke to Him.

It's from Psalm 2, where God speaks to the Messiah as His Son, and promises to give Him authority over the nations.

This is the only place in Revelation where Jesus is called the Son of God. All these identifiers come from the vision in ch.1, and most of the time they are stated in more forceful terms to the church to which that aspect especially applies.

Here in place of “**son of man**” He says **Son of God**. That phrase prepares the way for the quote of Ps.2 – because Ps.2 is about as great a statement on the Sonship of the Messiah as there is in the OT.

Ps 2:1-9 Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

The world has adopted a hostile stance against two people – against God the Father and against His Anointed One (the Messiah).

3 "Let us break their chains," they say,"and throw off their fetters."

11

The world is subservient to God and to His Messiah, and they decide they don't like that, and they are going to join forces and muster the strength to break free of God.

They are going to run their own lives and be captains of their own ships.

This is man's declaration of “We will not have this God be king over us. We are no longer going to live under the tyranny of God and His Messiah. From now on we are going to be self-governed.”

So there is a revolutionary war going on against God. There is an uprising that involves all the nations.

“They are lawless and aweless.”

4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

He sees this uprising and it's laughable. “What kind of a puny, wimpy, cheesy attempt at an uprising is that?”

5 Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, 6 "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill." (Messiah)

Now in v.7 it's the Messiah speaking. Looking back we now know who the Messiah is, so you could really put vv.7-9 in red letters.

Jesus says:

7 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. **8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. 9 You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."**

When a great king wanted to show someone the highest favor, they would say, "Ask me for anything" – even a portion of the Kingdom itself in some extreme cases.

Est.5:6

As they were drinking wine, the king again asked Esther, "Now what is your petition? It will be given you. And what is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be granted."

Mark 6:21-23

On his birthday Herod gave a banquet for his high officials and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. 22 When the daughter of Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his dinner guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask me for anything you want, and I'll give it to you." 23 And he promised her with an oath, "Whatever you ask I will give you, up to half my kingdom."

14

Obviously this was rare – no king could just go around offering half his kingdom to people. It was a display of extreme favor (and in both these cases it was helped along by a little alcohol and lust – because what king in his right mind would offer his kingdom – no matter how much he favored the person?

Now think of God the Father, who is not effected by any kind of fleshy impulse and whose Kingdom is especially expansive (including everything in existence).

It's the highest honor imaginable that He would say to the Messiah, "Ask anything of me."

15

And He doesn't stipulate a limit. He doesn't say, "I'll give you up to half the world."

"And not only will I give You My entire kingdom, but I guarantee You complete success in ruling it."

It's really a very graphic picture – He wants you to imagine a piece of pottery being smashed into a hundred pieces. That's a good picture of the eventual collapse of the world's rebellion against Christ.

15

10 Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

The Father will tolerate no insubordination toward the Son in His final kingdom.

16

Jesus' Joy in the Promise

That promise from the Father meant a lot to Jesus.

If you have ever wondered why God bothered creating the world and mankind, here is one reason: to give the nations as a gift to His Son.

The summary of History

I would challenge anyone to come up with a theme in the Bible more important than this one.

In fact, I am fully convinced that it's really the summary of the entire Bible.

In our Bible study methods class we do on e-mail we have been learning how to summarize portions of God's Word. The longer the portion, the harder it is.

But if you want to summarize the message of the entire Bible, you could do it in one sentence: God the Father gave a great Kingdom to God the Son. He honored Him with the greatest Kingdom imaginable the highest throne imaginable.

17

TT Dan.7.

About 550 years before Jesus, the prophet Daniel had a series of amazing visions. The one in this chapter describes the rest of human history from Daniel's time to the end (except for the Church Age, which is always hidden in OT prophecy).

In the vision Daniel sees the next four major world powers represented as 4 beasts.

Dan 7:2-28

4 "The first was like a lion... and he goes on to describe Babylon, which was the world power at the time Daniel was writing.

5 "And there before me was a second beast, which looked like a bear... and he goes on to describe the Medo-Persian Empire, which dominated the world for the next couple hundred years after Babylon.

18

6 "After that, I looked, and there before me was another beast, one that looked like a leopard... and goes on to describe Greece, which took over after Medo-Persia and dominated the world for the next 300 years until Rome came along just before the time of Christ.

7 "After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast-terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns.

The 4th Beast is Rome, but ancient Rome didn't fulfill all these things. That's because in the middle of that 4th empire comes the Church Age, which, again, is hidden in OT prophecy.

So the 4th Beast begins with ancient Rome, and continues in the time of the Tribulation. And that's when the Antichrist comes.

It's interesting that in Daniel's visions, his descriptions of the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece match what we know from history to a T.

19

But when he gets to that 4th kingdom, and the man of lawlessness, there are some things about Antiochus Epiphanies, and the Roman Empire that unmistakably match what is said, but there are some very clear aspects that are definitely *not* fulfilled and have yet to happen in history.

The fact that he has such incredible accuracy with the first three kingdoms shows God can be precise about the future when He wants to be. So the fact that ancient Rome didn't fulfill completely what the 4th beast was to do leaves open the fact that it has yet to happen.

At the time of Ancient Rome Jesus came into the world and inaugurated His Kingdom.

When Jesus came He announced something completely new that had never been revealed before – a period of time in which the Age to Come would co-exist with this present age.

The Kingdom would be inaugurated spiritually, and yet evil would still exist.

That's the Church Age. It's been going for 2000 years now.

The Church Age is always hidden in OT prophecy. So v.8 picks up after the Church Age.

8 "While I was thinking about the horns, there before me was another horn, a little one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted before it. This horn had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

This is the Antichrist.

He's mentioned again in v.20, he shows up again in ch.11, we hear about him in 2 Thes.2, and he's described in some detail in Rev.13.

And more than anything else, including the name "antichrist" this man is identified in Scripture as the one with the huge pride problem.

22

Dan.7:20 the other horn that came up, before which three of them fell-the horn that looked more imposing than the others and that had eyes and a mouth that spoke boastfully.

He is always marked by his arrogant boasting against God, and his attempt to destroy the saints of God.

His arrogant boastfulness against God is described even further in ch.11.

Dan 11:36-39

...He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. 37 He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all. 38 Instead of them, he will honor a god of fortresses; a god unknown to his fathers he will honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts. 39 He will attack the mightiest fortresses with the help of a foreign god and will greatly honor those who acknowledge him. He will make them rulers over many people and will distribute the land at a price.

This guy has a real pride issue.

Until he arrives, you know the Day of the Lord has not yet come. 2 Thes.2:3-4

3 Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. 4 He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.

He finally shows up in Rev.13:1-8

...And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name. (he had all the power of all the great kingdoms of the past) The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

4 Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"

5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months. 6 He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. 7 He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. 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.

So the final beast comes, he is fiercer and terrifying than all the past kingdoms combined, he rages against God and His people...

What Daniel is seeing is the Great Tribulation. Things on earth are a disaster. God's Kingdom looks to be getting wiped out, and evil dominates.

This is what was described in Ps.2. The nations are raging against God and His anointed One.

But then in v.9, the vision suddenly switches up to heaven, and Daniel gets to see what is happening there.

9 "As I looked,

"thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. 10 A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated...

All these highest dignitaries in the universe are seated. This is a very, very momentous occasion.

23

...and the books were opened.

Oh – this is Judgment Day for the boasting Antichrist.

11 "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. 12(The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)

The Ancient of Days easily dispenses with the boastful beast, and hands over the whole world to someone of His own choosing:

13 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

24

That's all of human history in a nutshell.

Verse 14 is not just the climactic high point of the whole vision.

It's not just the climax of the book of Daniel.

It's not just the climax of the entire OT.

It's not just the climax of the entire Bible...

This is the high point, the goal, the consummation of all history.

It's the whole reason why God made this world. It's the reason why everything that has and will happen happened. It's the final purpose of everything – to arrive at that point.

25

The Reason Everything Happens

We have been giving some thought to what we want to do about Joe's ordination to make it special. I want it to really be a big deal.

On the one hand we don't want to glorify a man or lift the role of pastor to some exalted realm. All we are doing is recognizing that God has called Joe to be, in Paul's words, God's bus boy.

But on the other hand being an undershepherd of Christ is a very significant role that we are commanded to honor, and in order to send a message to our children and to ourselves to remind ourselves of that, it is appropriate that we do something beyond just saying, "congratulations, nice job."

I have found myself at a complete loss trying to figure out what we could do to make it a special day when we ordain him.

What do you do to honor someone?

God the Father was faced with that same question, except to an infinitely greater degree. He had to figure out what He could do to honor His Son, in Whom He delighted.

26

It had to be something really special. Something fitting for Almighty God Himself.

He could have planned a massive banquet in Heaven. And He did. That's part of it.

But He wanted more.

He finally conceived a plan in which Jesus would emerge as the mighty victor who conquered and eliminated evil and brought all of creation to redemption.

The greater His victory, the greater the honor. So the Father set in motion an unimaginably complex plan involving billions and billions of persons who all play a role over a span of thousands of years.

And the whole thing involves free will, so the victory the Son eventually achieves is a real victory.

In order for it all to work out to achieve the final end product that the Father had in mind, every single action *must* work out according to the design of His plan.

There are no extraneous details.

27

If you're like me, you can open the hood of your car, or look inside some very complex machine, and look around and find all kinds of things that seem to be totally unnecessary. Some of them I'm sure could be removed and you wouldn't notice any difference.

Yet those things serve some purpose.

That's the way this world is. So many things that happen seem to us to be random and without any meaning, just because in our infinitesimal little microscopic perspective we don't see any immediate purpose.

But the Preacher reminds us in Eccl.11:5 **As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.**

Rest assured, the psalmist was right when he said **Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you.** (119:91)

Part of what will make the final Kingdom so glorious is that it won't just be a created world, but a redeemed, restored world.

We look forward to various things – the rapture, the Second Coming, the Millennial Kingdom, being in heaven...

What does Jesus look forward to? What He has always looked forward to is when He gets His gift from the Father in its final, fully restored form.

Mt. 19:28-30 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things (lit. at the rebirth), 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.

(and goes on to promise them immense reward)

What Jesus looked forward to was the rebirth of the cosmos. He can hardly wait for the day when the whole creation is born again. I think the NIV really captures the idea – it will be the time when everything is restored.

It's not that God made everything for some other reason, and the world got messed up, and eventually He will renovate it.

The whole span of history has unfolded as it has all as part of the plan.

28

Eph. 1:9-10 (God) made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment- (what is that? What is the fulfillment of all history?)

Remember, in order for something to have a fulfillment, it has to have a purpose.) **to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.**

That's why everything that happens happens. Christ's final victory is not God trying to bring good out of a bad situation. It's the whole span of history reaching fulfillment.

I don't know if anyone remembers that old show The A-Team, but if you watched that you will remember something the leader of that little group always said: "I love it when a plan comes together."

29

He would come up with these impossibly difficult plans, and everything would seemingly go as wrong as it could go, and the A-Team would find themselves captured with guns pointing at them, and this guy would smile and say, "I love it when a plan comes together."

The plan was really the plan of the people writing the show. And they purposefully wrote in all the problems and difficulties so that the final victory won by the A-Team would be that much more impressive.

I want you to know I'm fully aware of how dumb this illustration is, and that the Kingdom of God and an episode of the A-Team are on opposite extremes of the spectrum of things that are important, but I still want to draw the analogy in kind if not in magnitude.

30

God has written out this infinitely complex script that Eph.1:11 refers to as **the plan** worked out **in conformity with the purpose of his will**. And believe me, He *loves* it when a plan comes together.

- Especially because that plan is His whole plan of glorifying His Son – the reason He created everything that's in existence.

Col.1:15-16 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

People spend their lives on a quest to find out, "Why I am here?" I'll tell you why you're here – you were created literally as God's gift to His Son.

Your only value is found in your reason for existing. Your value doesn't come from what your spouse thinks of you or what your friends or the church think of you or what the world thinks of you...

Your only value is found in your reason for being in existence. And the reason you are in existence is to serve as a gift to Jesus from the Father.

And there is no rejoicing like the rejoicing of God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son when *that* plan comes together.

31

Human history is not a cycle, or a pendulum swinging, or anything like that. It is the intentional, purposeful outworking of a single plan, and the only meaning anything has now is in relationship to how it fits in to that plan.

That's why you can look at a true Christian's life and see that he really believes that right now counts forever. We take life very seriously, we take this moment very seriously, because right now counts forever.

As RC Sproul has often pointed out, the secular person lives only for this time, because he believes right now only counts for right now. And if that's true, you don't have to think about it too long before you realize that that means now really doesn't count at all.

The Elect

As part of this grand gift – the major part, the most important part, the part Jesus takes the greatest delight in, God the Father gave the Son...something exceedingly wonderful...

...something that turns out to be so precious to the Son, it's His favorite part of the whole gift.

It's like if you gave your wife a large, complex gift that involved a whole lot of things, but at the very core was one special thing that when she saw it, it took her breath away.

It's a part of the gift that so touches His heart that it can only be described to us this way: imagine being a man and finding a perfect bride.

This part of the gift was so dear to Him, He willingly died for Her.

As part of this great Kingdom God the Father gave to the Son a special people. They are referred to as "the elect."

And they are His own special people. And they don't just obey Him, but they *love* Him with all their being.

You know someone really likes a gift if he is always talking about it. That's the way Jesus is with the Elect.

Jesus prayed for them in

At Jesus' arrest, the soldiers tried to capture Him and His disciples. He willingly surrendered Himself, but when they wanted to get His disciples He

literally knocked the whole Roman legion on it's back – smashed them to the ground.

33

John 18:9

When they got themselves up out of the dirt He issued an order to the soldiers: **This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."**

This is a precious gift from His Father, and so if anyone touches it He says, "Hey, that's MINE! Don't touch!"

That's why in Jn.6 He refers to the elect, He doesn't call them the elect, or "all those who believe," or Christians, or all those who are saved, He called them **all those the Father has given me.**

The gift of the elect was so precious to Jesus. And it was precious because of the fact that it was a gift from the Father.

John 6:37-38 **All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. 38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me**

It was the elect who were His consuming interest.

Listen to the love in His voice in Jn.10 for this part of the gift from His Father: (He refers to the elect as His lambs) – and listen for the implicit gratitude He has toward the Father for this gift:

John 10:27-29 **My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all**

That's why the last night of His earthly life, in the longest recorded prayer of Jesus, He prays for that group of people:

35

John 17:6-26 **"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me**

9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.

22 I have given them the glory that you gave me...

why? Look at v.24

24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

36

Plus Everything Else

So God made everything and orchestrated and masterminded the entire scope of history and every event all in a massive effort to put together the gift of all gifts for His Son.

The elect are a key part of that gift, but it also includes everything else.

Heb 1:2 in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things

One key part of the plan was redemption, which involved Jesus leaving heaven, becoming a man, living a perfect life, and then bearing the punishment for all sin on Himself on the cross.

Another key part was the resurrection, through which Jesus was powerfully instated by the Holy Spirit into the office of Son of God (Ro.1:1-5).

37

By far most of the references to the resurrection refer to the Father raising the Son from the dead.

But Scripture teaches that Jesus raised Himself from the dead

John 2:19-21

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." 20 The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to

build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" 21 But the temple he had spoken of was his body.

We also find in Ro.1:1-5 that the Holy Spirit was involved. Paul talks about **the gospel of God...3 regarding his Son, who ... 4 through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead**

Notice, He was already the Son of God, but in the resurrection He was powerfully instated by the Holy Spirit in that office.

It's not enough for the Father to give the Son a position of honor, it has to be in a dramatic, grandiose manner.

Eph.1:19-23 talks about **the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.**

God went way out of His way.

Romans 8 tells us that the whole creation was subjected to the curse, so that we have death and decay – all for the express purpose of setting up Jesus to bring about an amazing redemption and restoration and re-creation of the universe.

Ro.8:20,21

the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

So everything was created for Jesus Christ, and everything that happens is part of a grand plan to glorify Jesus Christ

Christ Gives the Same Gift to Us!

Now, here's the absolutely amazing thing: God the Father gives all that as a gift to God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and is delighted to do so, and then Jesus takes just as much delight in giving it all in turn to us!

Just as the Father gave all that to Him and made Him and heir of everything, so Jesus makes us co-heirs with Him!

39

Ro.8:15-18 ...you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.

1 Cor.3:21-23 All things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future-all are yours, 23 and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God.

What good thing is there, anywhere in the universe, anywhere in heaven and earth, that He would withhold from us? If He loved us enough to bear our sin and die for us, why would He withhold some lesser thing?

40

That's Paul's argument in Ro.8:32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

He wants us to enjoy everything He enjoys. His invitation to us is, in the words of Mt.25:21

I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!

He wants us to come share in His enjoyment of Heaven.

So when we get to the end of the book of Revelation, and see the glories of the New Jerusalem, the Lord says

"It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. 7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

(Rev 21:6-7)

41

Back to Rev.2.

So can you see why Psalm 2 was so precious to Jesus, and why He quoted it on more than one occasion? It may very well have been His favorite passage in Scripture (unless it was Dan.7)

In many ways the book of Revelation is really the story of the unfolding of Ps.2. We will see references to that Psalm in 11:18, 12:5, 19:15.

It's the story of Jesus finally getting His Kingdom.

And He turns around and offers it to us. We will rule with Him.

1 Cor.6:2-4

Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels?

Paul expected them to know that someday the saints will rule the world, because it's promised repeatedly in the OT (for example, Dan.7:18-22)

Some people get really distressed over the fact that they don't have a lot of authority in this life.

They wish they had a more prominent position. They wish they were in charge and had control over things.

You will be in authority for all eternity – enjoy your time now under authority.

The word **rule** in v.27 is a misleading translation. The word is "**shepherd**," and it's a very gentle word. It means "to shepherd" or "to pastor."

That word is meant to clash with the image of the rod of iron and the smashing of the pottery. Christ's rule, and our rule over the Kingdom will be powerful. There will be no crime or disobedience.

Everyone who does anything wrong will be immediately caught and punished severely. So no one will need locks or security cameras or security guards.

I doubt even the banks will have vaults or even lock their doors. (They may just put the money in drawers and have it be self-serve.

So the rod of iron shows the swiftness and severity of the punishment of crime.

43

However, that's not to imply that Jesus will be some kind of tyrant. He won't be a heavy-handed dictator who keeps law and order by just brutalizing everyone.

Instead He will have a shepherd's heart. The word is the same word translated "pastor." He will pastor the world.

And the promise here is that we will pastor the world.

We will shepherd them. We will feed them and care for them and protect them and teach them.

And they will submit to us and obey us. Not only will the wolf lay down with the lamb, but the inner city tough guy will play in the yard with your children, and you won't have to worry about any harm coming to them.

44

28 I will also give him the morning star.

The morning star is the last star visible in the morning and the brightest object in the sky beside the sun and moon is (Venus).

A little trickier is figuring out what it represents here.

There are numerous theories, but I think the context points fairly consistently to one: the dawning of the reign of Messiah.

The idea that the Messiah's rule would be described in terms of a star originates, of all places, in one of Balaam's cursing attempts that God turned into a blessing.

Num 24:15-17

"The oracle of Balaam son of Beor...

17 "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab

The Messiah will rise up in the sky like Venus – the bright star of the morning that inaugurates the beginning of a new day.

2 Peter 1:19

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.

45

And the only other time we see that phrase in Revelation is right at the very end:

Rev.22:16

"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."

So this is just another aspect of the first part of the blessing. We will have authority over the nations and shepherd them with a iron rod – in other words, the very dawning of the Messianic Kingdom – the Age to Come, will be given to us.

The King Himself will be ours – He will be our own, beloved Savior.

So that's the incentive – but it's only for overcomers.

What do you want in life? What desires do you have? What could you possibly want that He won't give you?

Do you want wealth? Fame? Power? Influence? Food? Pleasure? Fulfillment? Meaning? Ideal relationships? Intimacy? Love? Excitement? Responsibility?

You will get all that to the superlative degree in heaven. He who gave us His Son will not hesitate to graciously give us all things.

All you have to do is give up the pursuit of it now in this life, and then hang on to the end. Overcome this world.

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

46

Cards & brochures

- Pick up a visitor's pack
- Doughnuts (Next week come early)
- Cards & brochures
- Pick up a visitor's pack
- Doughnuts (Next week come early)
- SS (Ruckus)
- Tapes, CDs, MSS
-
- Greeting class today 4:30
- Choir rehearsal
- Deacon meeting
-
- Remaining pictures (list)
-
-
- E-mail Bible study class
- Come to prayer once a month!
- Book club
- fellowship meal.
- Deacon meeting
- Bible study group 4:30
- Shepherd's conf. In March 5-9
- Fill in flow charts!
- Suggest tape cases
- Pick up your newsletter
- Applebees
- Thursday Bible study on Knowing God's will
- Tuesday Bible study on Knowing God's will

-
- Call people forward to pray

Benediction:

Rom 11:33-36

33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

**How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!**

34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?"

**35 "Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay him?"**

36 For from him and through him and to him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.