

**The New Jerusalem – the Consummation of the Central Vision of God’s Economy
and of the High Peak of the Divine Revelation through the Overcomers,
Who Return to the Orthodoxy of the Church**

After seeing some of the main things that the Lord spoke to the seven local churches in Rev. 2-3, this week we have a conclusion on all this, **focusing on the New Jerusalem**, which is the consummation of the central vision of God’s economy and of the high peak of the divine revelation through **the overcomers**, those in the church in Philadelphia who **return to the orthodoxy of the church**.

The Lord’s speaking to the churches doesn’t end or conclude in Rev. 2-3 but rather, as we come to Rev. 21, one of the angels came to John and said, “Come here, I will show you the bride, **the wife of the Lamb....**” We need to have an increasing vision of what is on God’s heart for His eternal satisfaction: the **bride**, the **wife**, the **New Jerusalem**; when we see this, we will be besides ourselves, and the only thing we can do is worship God... There’s an **intrinsic** and **organic** connection between the church in Philadelphia (the recovered church) and the New Jerusalem. In Rev. 3:11-12 the Lord said, “I come quickly...” – there’s something about Philadelphia that enables the Lord to come back.

Then He says, “Hold fast that no one take your **crown**” – from now on until the Lord comes or we go to Him, we need to hold fast that no one take our crown. The crown relates to **reigning**, to the kingdom; the **overcomers receive the crown of life**, the faithful elders will receive the crown of glory (1 Pet. 5), and Paul testified that the crown of righteousness is laid up for him. In v. 12 the Lord continues, “He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God.”

Since there’s nothing negative in Philadelphia, **what do the overcomers need to overcome?** Overcomers do more than overcome degradation: they consummate God’s economy regarding the building up of the Body of Christ and the preparation of the bride. They don’t merely deal with **negative** thing and reign over them, protecting the church from them, but there’s a great deal on the **positive** side that they care for. Overcomers overcome the degradation of the church, and they build up the Body of Christ to consummate the New Jerusalem. **The overcomers** in Philadelphia, who are becoming God in all that He is and is communicated, are becoming the New Jerusalem in its nature, **in all the aspects of the city** revealed in Revelation; these ones are *saturated* and *permeated* with Christ’s being and person.

As the overcomer is living the recovered church life, something deep in his constitution is taking place: **he maintains the crown** (he lives in the reality of the kingdom), **he has the brotherly love** (he lives in the reality of the Body of Christ), and **his whole being is set toward God’s goal**, the consummating of the New Jerusalem. Once the Lord has the recovered church, He wants saints in the recovered church to consummate the central vision and the high peak of the divine revelation by becoming the New Jerusalem. What the overcomers do is on behalf of the whole church!

Returning to the orthodoxy of the church to be the church in Philadelphia, the church that God desires and causes Him to return quickly, is **not for its own sake**; the purpose of returning to the orthodoxy of the church is so that, after 2000 years, the Lord would have a way to fulfill the desire of His heart. The Lord wants to gain the reality of the Body of Christ expressed in the local churches so that the Bride would be prepared and He would return.

In order for us to not only come back to the orthodoxy of the church but also to be for the fulfillment of God's heart's desire, we need to **see the central vision** of God's economy, which is to experience Christ as life for the producing and building up of the church as the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ is the intrinsic significance of the church; it is the Body of Christ that gives the church its meaning, and apart from the Body, the church has no meaning. **This is the central vision**. We don't merely need to be active in the meetings but have a rich portion of enjoyment of Christ, experience Christ, contact Him, deal with Him day after day so that we may be filled with Him and have a portion of Christ to bring to the church meetings to share with one another by releasing our spirit. *(Excerpt from the Ministry of the Word, the Orthodoxy of the Church)*

God has prepared **all kinds of blessings** in the New Jerusalem. Every **part**, every **aspect**, and every **item** of the New Jerusalem is a blessing prepared by God for His chosen and saved ones. However, God realizes that many of His chosen and saved ones would not be faithful to Him. Hence, He has established **the principle of the overcomers**. God the Lord came in to call the saved ones to overcome all the things that oppose God. Most of the God-called and saved believers would not listen to this call. Therefore, in the millennium the overcoming believers will be rewarded by participating in the enjoyment of the kingdom, but all the defeated ones will miss the reward. *(Excerpt from The God-Men, chapter 3)*

[I]n Revelation 3:12 the Lord promised to write upon the overcomer **His new name**. If we are the kind of person described in this message, we shall surely have new experiences of Christ. Most Christians have only the limited experience of Christ as their Redeemer. Not many have the experience of Christ as their life. Most of those who do experience Christ as life experience this in a shallow way. How long is your experience of Christ? Your experience of Him should not be a mere fraction of an inch; it must be **many miles in length**. Christ is not only our Redeemer and our life—He is our King, Prophet, Priest, light, power, righteousness, holiness, transformation, and many other things. Some hymns in our hymnal list more than fifty items of what Christ is to us. The more you experience Christ, the newer He will be to you, and the more His name will be written upon you. Firstly, Christ as Redeemer is written upon you. Later, Christ as life, light, humility, patience, and love will also be written upon you. His name is inexhaustible. The writing of His name upon you depends upon your experience. The more you experience Him, the longer will be the writing of this name. This is like a movie camera that operates as long as the automobile in which the photographer sits is moving. When the automobile stops, the camera stops as well. No one can say what is the new name of Christ spoken of in this verse because it is simply the designation of your new experience of Christ. When you experience Christ in a certain way, that aspect of Christ will become your **designation**, the new name written upon you. If we would become pillars, we need to be transformed by having Christ added into us again and again. In this way our experience of Christ will be **lengthened**, and we shall say, "Not my will, but His will"; we shall not act on our own, but according to His heart's desire. Then the name of God, the name of the city of God, and the Lord's new name will be written upon us. *(Excerpt from the Life-study of Genesis, ch 87)*

Lord Jesus, make us Your overcomers, those who not only overcome and rule over anything negative for God but who also care for the desire of God's heart, the building up of the church as the Body of Christ for the consummation of the New Jerusalem. May something happen intrinsically and organically in our being as we love the Lord, love the brothers, keep the Lord's word, and not deny His name. May we care for what God cares, and may we have God wrought into us and even written on us so that we may intrinsically and organically become part of the New Jerusalem! (Excerpt from the Ministry of the Word, Returning to the Orthodoxy of the Church)