

Key words and phrases in Revelation

Without doubt, Revelation has to be one of the most difficult books in the Bible. I have attempted several in-depth studies of this book and end times prophecy, and I know enough to know that I don't much of anything compared to the scope of the teaching. With this paper, I am not trying to do any kind of an exhaustive study of Revelation; but rather, to further my own understanding of the book, I wanted to group together some of the key words and phrases in Revelation to see how the Holy Spirit has used them. This greatly helps me in my study, and I thought it might be of benefit to someone else as well. Welch has some excellent audio expositions of this book contained on this web site, including "Converging Lines of Prophecy" (W104-109), and "Revelation" (W231-244), which I would highly recommend.

Revelation is a book written for the express purpose of encouragement, promise, and warning to those alive at the terrible time of the end. Salvation through grace is not the central theme of this book. Like Matthew, Hebrews, and Philippians, Revelation is greatly concerned with *rewards or loss of rewards* based on works. The overcomer is promised that if he remains faithful unto death, he will be awarded a *crown of life*. The faithful overcomer is also promised a special inheritance of reigning with Christ, entrance into the Heavenly Jerusalem, eating of tree of life, and enjoying God's personal comfort. He is promised not to suffer any loss at second death. Furthermore, if he is faithful, his name will not be blotted out of the special Book of Life (martyrs). Likewise, any believer who fails to remain faithful during this time will suffer loss of these special rewards. Their works will burn away in the lake of fire, because they failed to achieve the crown.

Overcomers

Revelation is addressed to the overcomers of seven specific churches. They can overcome because He overcame.

(Rev 5:5-6 KJV) "And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed (nikao:overcome) to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth."

Overcomers have same character as our Lord. They are slain in apparent weakness, but in so doing actually win a great victory.

"Through weakness and defeat, He won the mead and crown;

Trod all His enemies beneath His feet by being trodden down."

(Rev 17:14 KJV) "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful."

(Rev 2:7 KJV) "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

(Rev 2:11 KJV) "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death."

(Rev 2:17 KJV) "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*."

(Rev 2:26 KJV) "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:"

(Rev 3:5 KJV) "He that **overcometh**, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

(Rev 3:12 KJV) "Him that **overcometh** will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is new Jerusalem*, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him my new name*."

(Rev 3:21 KJV) "To him that **overcometh** will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

(Rev 21:7 KJV) "He that **overcometh** shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

(Rev 15:2 KJV) "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory (nikao: overcome) over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, *and* over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God."

The Beast is given power for a time to overcome the saints.

(Rev 11:7 KJV) "And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall **overcome** them, and kill them."

(Rev 13:7 KJV) "And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to **overcome** them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations."

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Works

Although redemption through the blood of the Lamb is mentioned in Revelation, it is not the central theme of the book. Rather, it is a book written to a specific company of overcomers for a specific time period, and for them it is a book of reward or loss of reward based on works. There is a continual emphasis on works throughout the book. For the unsaved, their works reap the horrible consequences of the wrath of God.

(Rev 2:1-2 KJV) "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; *{2}* **I know thy works**, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:"

(Rev 2:5 KJV) "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and **do the first works**; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

(Rev 2:8-9 KJV) "And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; *{9}* **I know thy works**, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan."

(Rev 2:12-13 KJV) "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; *{13}* **I know thy works** and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's seat *is*: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth."

(Rev 2:18-23 KJV) "And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass; *{19}* **I know thy works**, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and **thy works**; and the last *to be* more than the first. *{20}* Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. *{21}* And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and

she repented not. {22} Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. {23} And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."

(Rev 2:26 KJV) "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:"

(Rev 3:1-2 KJV) "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. {2} Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God."

(Rev 3:7-8 KJV) "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth; {8} I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

(Rev 3:14-15 KJV) "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; {15} I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot."

(Rev 14:12-13 KJV) "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. {13} And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

(Rev 15:3 KJV) "And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints."

(Rev 20:12-13 KJV) "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. {13} And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works."

(Until very recently, I tended to agree with the traditional viewpoint that this verse refers to a general judgment of all the ungodly that were never evangelized during their lifetime. However, now I can see why Welch feels that this refers to a judgment of those saved who failed to overcome during this time period and suffer loss of reward. This is well covered in the aforementioned audio series and is also touched on later in this paper.)

Unsaved also judged according to their works:

(Rev 18:2 KJV) "And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." (Rev 18:6 KJV) "Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double." (Here, Babylon, the mother of all false religions, reaps the ultimate payment for her works.)

(Rev 9:20 KJV) "And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:"

(The whole world seems to be polarized by the time of this book's fulfillment. Like Pharaoh during Egypt's plagues, those who are unsaved and who follow after the beast offer no repentance. Thus, God inflicts ever intensifying plagues culminating in the terrible undiluted wrath of God poured out during the last 7 vials.)

White

This color is associated with righteousness all through Revelation. In fact, the word white occurs 19 times in Revelation, which is more than any other book in the Bible. Christ is ultimately the truly Righteous One, and many other heavenly beings are arrayed in white as well. Also, fine white linen is the garment of angels, and significantly the burial cloth of our Lord. Concerning overcomers, white is closely associated with martyrdom.

Notice in Rev.1:14, the Lord's hair is white as wool; while in Rev. 19:7, the righteous saints wear white linen. Significantly, wool comes from sheep; hence, the perfect Lamb of God has hair as white as wool. Linen comes from flax which is from the earth. Mosaic Law forbade the mixing of linen and wool in the same garment (Deut.22:11). Only Christ combines the "wool of the Lamb and the white linen of the Son of Man."

According to Rev. 19:7-8, the righteousness of the saints is white linen. In the Old Testament, fine linen was the garment of kings (2 Sam.6:14) and priests (Lev. 6:10). How appropriate, since the faithful of Israel are to become a nation of kings and priests in the millennium (Rev.5:10).

(Rev 1:14 KJV) "His head and *his* hairs *were* **white** like wool, as **white** as snow; and his eyes *were* as a flame of fire;"

(Rev 19:7-8 KJV) "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. {8} And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and **white**: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

Christ:

(Rev 14:14 KJV) "And I looked, and behold a **white** cloud, and upon the cloud *one* sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle."

(Rev 19:11 KJV) "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a **white** horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war."

(Rev 20:11 KJV) "And I saw a great **white** throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them."

Angels and heavenly beings:

(Rev 4:4 KJV) "And round about the throne *were* four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in **white** raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold."

(Rev 15:6 KJV) "And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and **white** linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles."

(Rev 19:14 KJV) "And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon **white** horses, clothed in fine linen, **white** and clean."

Overcomers:

(Rev 2:17 KJV) "**He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*.**"

(Rev 3:4-5 KJV) "**Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in **white**: for they are worthy. {5} He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in **white** raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."**

(Rev 3:18 KJV) "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and **white** raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."

(Rev 6:9-11 KJV) "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: {10} And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? {11} And **white** robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they *were*, should be fulfilled."

(Rev 7:9 KJV) "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with **white** robes, and palms in their hands;"

(Rev 7:13-14 KJV) "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in **white** robes? and whence came they? {14} And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them **white** in the blood of the Lamb."

Three and half years:

This period of three and half years is expressed in the following ways in Revelation: times, time and half time; forty and two months, and 1,260 days. During this same period which commences with the "abomination which maketh desolate," there is a time of tribulation which is unequalled in severity. The beast and his false prophet are given ability to rule the world and overcome the saints for the same period. During this same time, some Jewish believers are hidden in the wilderness and apparently miraculously fed, perhaps with actual manna again. Finally, the two witnesses are prophesying and bringing plagues on the earth for this same stated period.

1. "Abomination that maketh desolate" begins the last three and half years of trouble:

(Dan 9:26-27 KJV) "And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall **confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate,** even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."

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2. Time of Trouble as never before:

(Dan 12:1-9 KJV)" And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. 5 Then I Daniel looked, and, behold, there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river." And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? 7 And I heard the man clothed in

linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a **time, times, and an half**; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished. 8 And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? 9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.”

2. Beast Given Power and Authority for same period

(Rev 13:4-6 KJV) “And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.”

3. Jerusalem trodden under foot by Gentiles

Rev 11:1-2 KJV” And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. 2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot **forty and two months.**

4. Certain Jewish believers are hidden and fed:

(Rev 12:13-14 KJV) “And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child. 14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished **for a time, and times, and half a time**, from the face of the serpent.”

Rev 12:6 KJV “ And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there **a thousand two hundred and threescore days.**”

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5. Two Witnesses prophesy and bring plagues:

Rev 11:3-8 KJV “And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a **thousand two hundred and threescore days**, clothed in sackcloth. 4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. 6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. 7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.”

Tree of Life

Remember that access to the tree of life was denied upon the fall of man in Genesis. Paradise is restored during the millennium, but entrance to the Heavenly Jerusalem and right to the tree of life seems to be reserved for the overcomer during this time frame.

(Gen 2:9 KJV) "And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the **tree of life** also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil."

(Gen 3:22-24 KJV) "And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the **tree of life**, and eat, and live for ever: {23} Therefore the LORD

God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. {24} So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the **tree of life**."

(Rev 2:7 KJV) "**He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.**"

(Rev 22:2 KJV) "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the **tree of life**, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations."

(Rev 22:14 KJV) "Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the **tree of life**, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

New Jerusalem

This glorious city descends and is suspended above the earth during the millennium. Entrance into it is closely tied to faithful service, and it is clear that outside this city there is still not a sinless, perfect world.

(Rev 22:14-15 KJV) "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.¹⁵ For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie."

(Rev 3:12 KJV) "**Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.**"

(Rev 21:2 KJV) "And I John saw the holy city, **new Jerusalem**, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

(Rev 21:10-11 KJV) "And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, {11} Having the glory of God: and her light *was* like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;"

(Rev 21:23-27 KJV) "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb *is* the light thereof. {24} And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. {25} And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. {26} And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. {27} And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Rev 22:1-5 KJV) "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. {2} In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. {3} And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: {4} And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads. {5} And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."

Book of life (Book of martyrs)

Welch builds a very strong case for the book of life actually being a book of martyrs. I would refer you to the previously mentioned message series for a closer look at this possibility. A martyr is one who adheres so closely to his testimony that he is *willing* to die for it. Whether he is called upon to die for his faith depends on the circumstances and God's will. If a believer would not be found faithful under trial then his name can be blotted out of the book of life. (Rev.3:5) Having your name removed for the book of life is something that could never occur if salvation were in view.

(Phil 4:3 KJV) "And I entreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life."

(This reference is the only one outside the book of Revelation to the book of life. Welch also proposes that perhaps every believers name starts out in this book, but whether it remains there depends on how well the believer has stuck to the testimony of truth. Whether actual martyrdom is in view depends on outside circumstances beyond the believer's control, but God knows what each of us would do in all circumstances.)

(Rev 3:4-5 KJV) "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. {5} He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."

(Rev 13:7-8 KJV) "And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. {8} And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

(This phrase *from the foundation of the world* in association with martyrdom, occurs in the following verse from Luke and includes all martyred from Abel onward. Other references are Matt.25:34, Heb. 4:3, Rev. 17:8. All of these references are closely associated with faithful works being rewarded.)

(Luke 11:49-51 KJV) "Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and *some of them they shall slay and persecute*: {50} That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; {51} From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation."

(Rev 17:7-8 KJV) "And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. {8} The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."

(Rev 20:11-15 KJV) "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. {12} And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. {13} And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. {14} And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. {15} And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

(Rev 21:25-27 KJV) "And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. {26} And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. {27} And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

(Notice it is the ones who are written in the book of life who have entrance in to the Heavenly Jerusalem, which is

entirely consistent with the rest of the teaching concerning the overcomer.)

(Rev 22:19 KJV) "And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away **his part out of the book of life**, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book."

(Notice how this warning is very specific to the book of Revelation.)

First Resurrection: Former of two

Here in Revelation 20, there is the first resurrection that involves those faithful ones who will share in the millennial reign and all its blessings. The *rest of the dead* seems to refer to the rest of those believers who were not faithful during that terrible time of the tribulation and they suffer loss of reward, and are hurt of the lake of fire which consumes their unworthy works. This is a very unorthodox view, but careful study really seems to point to that. I would refer you W108-109, for a careful examination of this.

(Rev 20:4-6 KJV) "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. {5} But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. {6} Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

(The word for *first* in first resurrection is "protos" and is used to describe the former, usually of two as in Acts 1:1, Heb.9:1. The Greek word for *rest of the dead* in Rev 20:5 is "loipoy" and always means the remaining or others of a certain group, as in Acts 2:37, Rom.11:7, Rev. 2:24, 3:2, 8:13, 8:20, 12:17, 19:21. Therefore the great white throne would apply to the others of *this particular company* not all unbelievers or people of all time.)

(Rev 11-14 KJV) "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. {12} And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. {13} And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. {14} And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."

Second Death: Lake of Fire

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(Rev 19:20 KJV) "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."

(Rev 20:10 KJV) "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." (Notice it is the devil, the beast and the false prophet who alone are tormented in lake of fire.)

Hurt of the Second Death

While it is abundantly clear that the believer's *life* is completely fire-proof, because of the perfect work of Jesus Christ, it is also Scriptural to believe that there is the real possibility of loss of rewards because our works do not stand the test. Whereas the beast and the false prophet are tormented in the lake of fire, is it possible that to be "hurt of the second death" would mean to suffer loss of works and reward? Carefully consider the following passages.

(1 Cor 3:10-15 KJV) "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. {11} For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. {12} Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; {13} Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. {14} If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. {15} If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

(Col 3:23-25 KJV) "And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; {24} Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. {25} But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."

(2 Cor 5:10 KJV) "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

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(Rev 2:11 KJV) "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be **hurt of the second death.**"

The key word in this verse is *hurt*. Therefore it deserves special study to determine its true meaning. Hurt (adikao: not righteous) is most often translated wronged, to do injustice, or to suffer loss, or to be injured.

Here are representative samples:

(Mat 20:13 KJV) "But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?"

(Luke 10:19 KJV) "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

(Acts 7:24 KJV) "And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended *him*, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian:"

(Acts 7:26 KJV) "And the next day he showed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, Sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?"

(Acts 25:10 KJV) "Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest."

(1 Cor 6:7-8 KJV) "Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather *suffer yourselves to be defrauded*? {8} Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that *your* brethren."

(2 Cor 7:2 KJV) "Receive us; we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man."

(2 Cor 7:12 KJV) "Wherefore, though I wrote unto you, *I did it* not for his cause that had done the wrong, nor for his cause that suffered wrong, but that our care for you in the sight of God might appear unto you."

(Gal 4:12 KJV) "Brethren, I beseech you, be as I *am*; for I *am* as ye *are*: ye have not injured me at all."

(Col 3:25 KJV) "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."

(Phile 1:18 KJV) "If he hath wronged thee, or oweth *thee* ought, put that on mine account;"

(Rev 22:11 KJV) "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still."

So then, those who overcome will "not suffer wrong" at the second death. In other words, they won't lose anything.

(Rev 20:6 KJV) "Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

(Notice it the second death may have power over those not faithful during this awful period, but no where does it say these lose their lives in this lake of fire.)

(Rev 20:13-15 KJV) "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. {14} And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. {15} And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

(Notice they are *judged by their works*. Salvation is not judged by works; otherwise none of us would stand. But works are tested and judged by fire.)

(Rev 21:8 KJV) "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Notice again, it doesn't say that they burn; but rather, that *they have their part* in the second death. Moreover, every adjective used in this verse to describe those who have their part in the lake of fire is used of believers in the New Testament.

Fearful: 2 Tim.1:7, Mark 4:39; *unbelieving*: Heb.3:1,12; *abominable*: Rev.21:7; murderers: 1 Pet.4:14-15, Gal.5:21, Eph. 5:3-5; *whoremongers*: 1 Cor.6:9-11, Eph.5:5, Heb.12:15-17, Gal.5:20; *idolators*: 1Cor. 10:7, Eph. 5:5; *liars*: Col.3:9, James 3:14)

Conclusion

I have probably raised more questions than I have answered with this study. However, I believe that sound Bible study has to begin with diligent gathering of information in order to compare spiritual with spiritual. Also, we must consider the context of each passage and try the things that differ. I realize that many of my current conclusions about Revelation are at wide variance with the orthodox view of this book. But are we willing to examine things as they stand or only how they measure up to traditional thought? Moreover, I am not stating anything in this study dogmatically; because every time I study this book afresh, I change my mind on various issues therein. My only hope is that this study is of some use to the reader as a small tool for further study. May the Lord grant us wisdom whenever we consider His holy word.

Karen George

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