

THE VICTOR'S REWARD

Introduction: These 7 promises together form by far the completest description to be found in all the word of God of what good things God has prepared for them that love him.

- I. Rev. 2:7 (Ephesus) To eat the fruit of the tree of life - Privilege lost in Garden of Eden.
- A. Meaning of this: glorious immortality, eternal life.
 - B. The reason for it
 - 1. Cannot tolerate wicked men. Rev. 2:2
 - 2. Patiently endures burdens. 2:3
 - C. Precautions for one who would be a victor
 - 1. Be mindful of your love for Him.
 - 2. Repent
- II. Rev. 2:11 (Smyrna) - Shall not be hurt by 2nd Death.
- A. Meaning of this
 - 1. Death, afflictions pertain to expulsion from paradise in Garden of Eden.
 - 2. you may be persecuted & have to give your life for Christ, but you can't be hurt in 2nd death.
 - 3. they may hurt your body but not your soul.
 - B. Reason for this: Reward for suffering.
 - C. Also promises crown of life.
- III. Rev. 2:17 - (Pergamum) - Hidden manna, white stone
- A. Meaning of this
 - 1. Christ himself is the manna of life.
 - 2. Tradition that Joash hid the ark & manna
 - 3. Sustenance in the wilderness
 - 4. Engraved & shining jewel in Aaron's breastplate admits us as priests to presence chamber of God.
 - 5. Judges gave acquittal or pardon by white pebble.
 - B. Reason for: True to Christ; did not deny Him
 - C. Cautions
 - 1. Some clung to false teachings
 - 2. Repent

IV. Rev. 2: 26 (Thyatira) - Authority over the nations, and Morning Star.

A. Meaning of this

1. Authority + judicial administration upon nations; type in Joshua's, David's + Solomon's victories and reigns.
2. Possibly refer to exalted position of saints joined with Christ in the judgment of the world, which heralds + brings the final consummation as the morning star the day.

B. Reasons for this reward: love, faith, service, patient endurance.

C. Caution: Hold fast what you possess -

V. Rev. 3: 5 (Sardis) - "shall be clothed in white garments and walk with Christ in white."

A. Meaning

1. White garments - righteousness of Christ.
2. Linked with the events which are to end this world at the resurrection, the opening of the books, official acknowledgment of those whose names are there.

B. Reasons for: have not soiled their garments.

C. Cautions -

1. Rouse yourself + keep awake
2. Remember lessons you have learned
3. Repent

VI. Rev. 3: 12 (Philadelphia) - To be made a pillar in the sanctuary of God, with name of God, the new Jerusalem, + new name of Christ written on him -

A. Meaning: - Takes its elements from the setting up of a new kingdom, + a new city, the rights of celestial citizenship, + a temple not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

B. Reasons for: "have kept my word + not disowned me."

C. Caution: hold fast to that which you already possess.

VII. Rev. 3: 21 (Laodicea) - "the privilege of sitting down beside me on my throne"

A. This is the highest point of dominion + settlement

B. For one who will humbly recognize his own poverty, blindness, + nakedness, + open the door to Christ.

C. Cautions - against lukewarmness + pride.

Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone