



W E L C O M E

— THE STUDY OF —
REVELATION

WHICH IS, WHICH WAS, AND WHICH IS TO COME

Revelation 1: 9 (NASB)

I, John, your brother and fellow participant in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Revelation 1: 10-11 (NASB)

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, saying, "Write on a scroll what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

Question?

What does John mean when he tells us that he was "in the spirit"?

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Question?

When is the Lord's day

Revelation 1: 10-11 (NASB)

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Question?

What is John asked to write down?

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Revelation 1: 12-13 (NASB)

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

Revelation 1: 14-15 (NASB)

The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow

What does white symbolize?

Purity

Unblemished

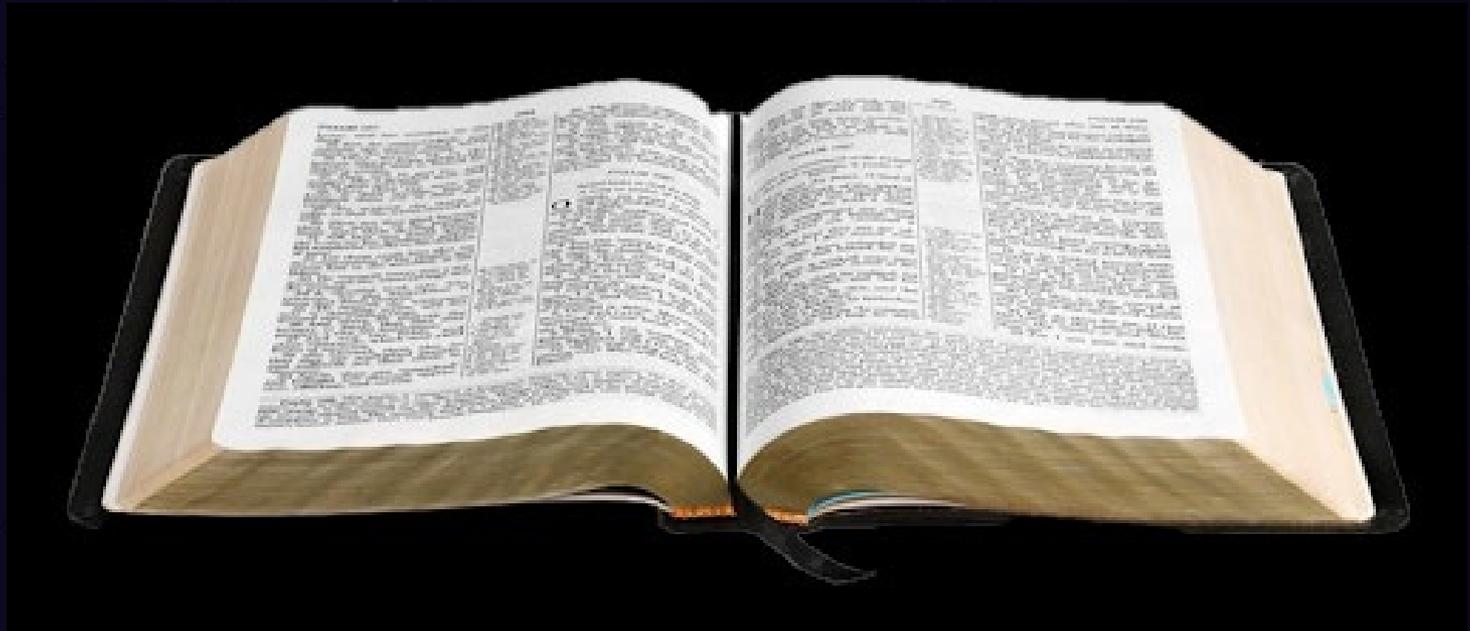
Innocence

Perfection

Righteousness

Light

Untouched by the world



Turn to: Matthew 17: 1-2

Matthew 17: 1-2 (NASB)

Six days later, Jesus took with Him Peter and James, and his brother John, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

his eyes were like blazing fire

What does it mean in our culture today when someone says "I could see the fire in their eyes"?

Intensity

Seriousness

Focused

The eye of the tiger

His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace

What did bronze or brass mean in the old testament?

Strength and judgement.

What does it mean today when someone says they are bringing the brass?

They are bringing the top military leaders for judgement

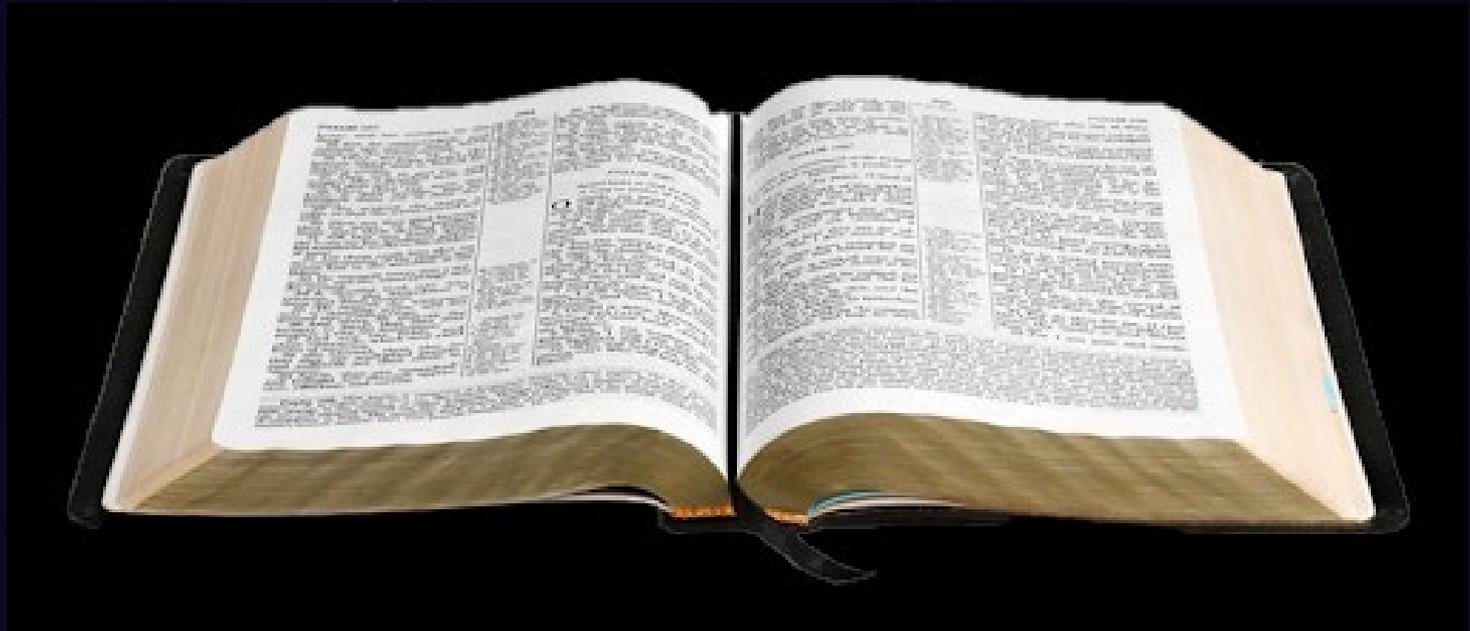
and his voice was like the sound of
rushing waters

What does this mean?

He had a booming, commanding,
authoritative voice. It was not
weak, timid or unsure.

Revelation 1: 16 (NASB)

In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.



Turn to: Hebrews 4: 12

Hebrews 4: 12 (NASB)

For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.



Revelation 1: 17-18 (NASB)

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

*When I saw him, I fell at his feet as
though dead*

Why did John fall at his feet as
though dead?

- Out of Reverence
- John seeing the fire in His eyes likely feared Jesus was about to unleash his judgement

Revelation 1: 17-18 (NASB)

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

And I hold the keys of death and Hades

What is Hades?



Turn to: Luke 16: 19-31

Luke 16: 19-31 (NASB)

"Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, enjoying himself in splendor every day. And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, and longing to be fed from the scraps which fell from the rich man's table; not only that, the dogs also were coming and licking his sores.

Luke 16: 19-31 (NASB)

Now it happened that the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's arms; and the rich man also died and was buried. And in Hades he raised his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his arms.

Luke 16: 19-31 (NASB)

And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus, so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.'

Luke 16: 19-31 (NASB)

But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.

Luke 16: 19-31 (NASB)

And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set, so that those who want to go over from here to you will not be able, nor will any people cross over from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I request of you, father, that you send him to my father's house—

Luke 16: 19-31 (NASB)

for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not come to this place of torment as well.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'

Luke 16: 19-31 (NASB)

But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

And I hold the keys of death and Hades

Hades is a place of torment very similar to Hell where those who

Christ does not know are sent until their final sentence is carried out and they are thrown into Hell.

Many translation transpose Hell and Hades.

Revelation 1: 19-20 (NASB)

"Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Revelation 1: 19 (NASB)

Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.

what you have seen, what is now and what
will take place later

- 1) What you have seen
 - ✓ Chapter 1
- 2) What is now
 - ✓ Chapters 2-3
- 3) What will take place later
 - ✓ Chapters 4-22

Revelation 1: 20 (NASB)

The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Question?

Who are the angels of a church?

When we read the first six words of Revelation Chapter 2 we will see that these letters are written to a person not a spiritual being.

Question?

Who are the messengers of a church?

*The seven stars are the angels of the
seven churches*

I believe you and I and all the members of Christ's Church are messengers or the angels of the Church John is referencing and we are the shining stars in the dark night that he is holding in his hand.

Question?

Where are the stars located?

Revelation 1: 20 (NASB)

The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.



Turn to: John 10: 27-28

John 10: 27-28 (NASB)

My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

What do lampstands do?

What do lamps do?

the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

The Church is the structure supporting the light that shines into the darkness of the world!

What is the significance of the number 7?

Revelation 2: 1 (NASB)

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

Question

Who is speaking?

Message to the Seven Churches

A topographical map of the region of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) showing the locations of the Seven Churches. A light grey line traces a path connecting the cities. The city of Ephesus is highlighted with a red oval.

Pergamum • Thyatira • Sardis • Smyrna • Philadelphia • Ephesus • Laodicea

Ephesus



Ephesus was a very important city to the early Christians. It held one of the seven wonders of the world (The temple of Artemis) and it was multicultural tourist trap like Disneyworld. People from all nations travelled to visit Ephesus.

What better place to make disciples so they would go back and make disciples of all nations! Even Paul, who was known to be always on the move, spent 3 years in Ephesus.

Revelation 2: 1 (NASB)

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

The One who holds the seven stars
in His right hand, the One who
walks among the seven golden
lampstands, *says this:*

and walks among the seven golden
lampstands

This is the Hebrew phrase for moving
in the Churches.

What does it mean today when
someone says Jesus is moving in a
Church?

Also note that in all instances Jesus
knows what is going on. He sees
everything!

Revelation 2: 2 (NASB)

'I know your deeds and your labor and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil people, and you have put those who call themselves apostles to the test, and they are not, and you found them to be false;

you cannot tolerate evil people

What is Jesus telling us that His Church must do here?

Where are these evil people found?

What does it mean to not tolerate?

you cannot tolerate evil people

We must understand the importance of these two chapters to us today. In this passage Jesus is telling us the Church is to be intolerant. It is vital for Churches to understand this as it is extremely counter-culture today.

you cannot tolerate evil people

How is intolerance viewed today?

Revelation 2: 3 (NASB)

and you have perseverance and have endured on account of My name, and have not become weary.

Question

How would you feel if Jesus said these things about our Church?

Ephesus

But...

Revelation 2: 4 (NASB)

*But I have this against you, that
you have left your first love.*

Question

What does it mean to leave your first love?

I think it means his church was on fire for God but now has become an organization or religion and not a church. It is doing things out of habit and tradition without having a relationship with Christ.

This church has lost their relationship with Christ and are just going through the motions. The members of this church just go to church on Sundays because that is what they are supposed to do.

Question

How do you get the love back?

Revelation 2: 5 (NASB)

Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the deeds you did at first, or else I am coming to you and I will remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

Remember that they did have a loving relationship with Christ. Remember that first time when they first became a Christian and were excited about having a relationship with Christ and were hungering for His Word and wanting to learn His Truths!

Question

What happens if they do not
repent?

Revelation 2: 5 (NASB)

Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and I will remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

I will remove your lampstands from its place.

What does this mean?

The Church will be working on their own power and Jesus will no longer be moving in their Church.

Note: this is the only church that Jesus threatens to remove their lampstand. Why do you think that is?

*I will remove your lampstands from its
place.*

Also notice He is not removing
their star from his hand, only the
lampstand.

Revelation 2: 6 (NASB)

But you have this, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Question?

you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans

What does this mean?

Note it is the deeds He hates and not the people.

Nicolaitans

These were those following the false teachings of a man named Nicolas. Roman church historian

Eusebius writes that Nicolas' fundamental doctrine appears to have been "the flesh must be treated with contempt."

Over the years, however, this teaching became twisted teaching the flesh is unimportant, even contemptible, what one does in the flesh is of no consequence. The soul was separate from the flesh.

Spiritual life, growth and ultimately salvation occur in the soul, and since God is spirit, He has no regard for the flesh. Therefore Nicolaitans believed that it did not matter if one satisfies the flesh's desires as it is separate from the spirit.

According to the writings of the Early Church leaders, the Nicolaitans were also so immersed in occultism, Judaism, and Christianity that they had no problem intermingling these belief systems in various concoctions and saw no reason why believers couldn't continue to practice their sexually immoral behaviors associated with these beliefs.

Clement of Alexander wrote the following about the Nicolaitans:

“They abandoned themselves to pleasure like goats, leading a life of self-indulgence.”

Nicolaitans

We know that Jesus hated their deeds so it clearly a behavior we must also hate.

Nicolaitans

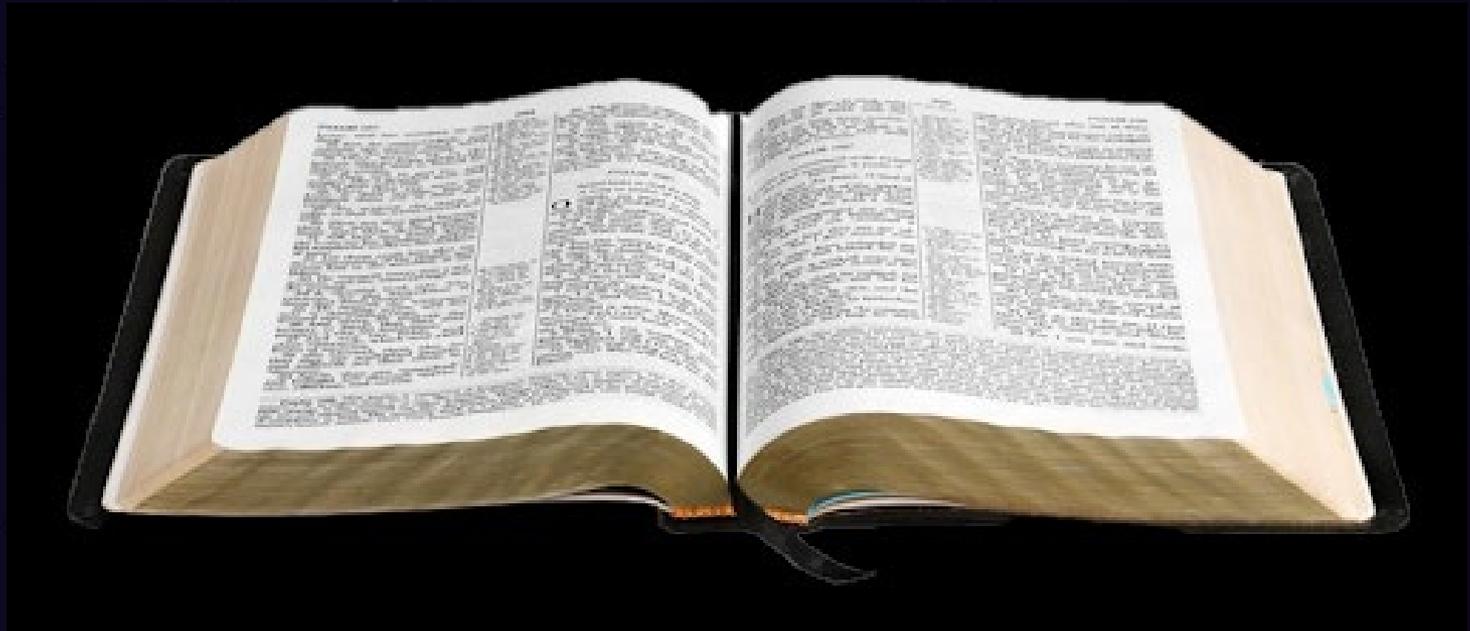
I would suggest we consider the Nicolaitans as referencing a religious doctrine teaching all religions worship the same God or a church that has become corrupted by society or other religions to accept and practice ungodly or sinful behavior.

Revelation 2: 7 (NASB)

The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will grant to eat from the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.'

Question

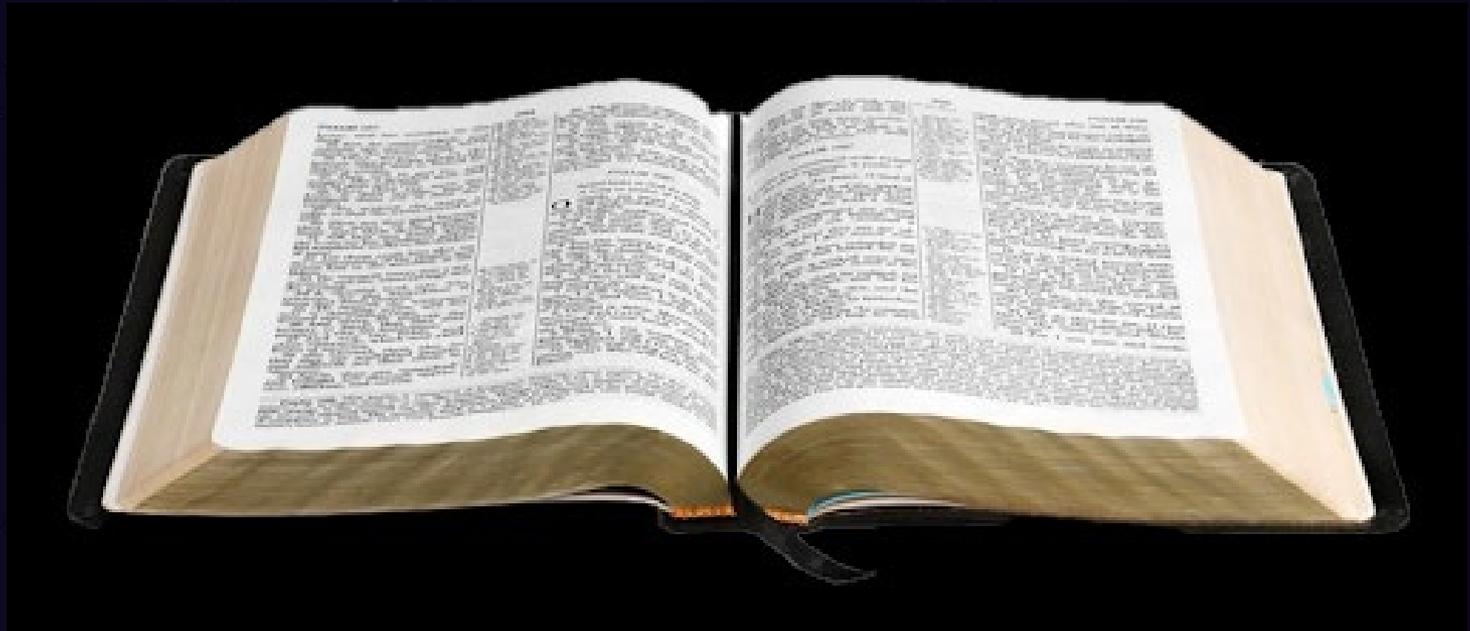
Who is the one who overcomes?



Turn to: Matthew John 16: 33

John 16: 33 (NASB)

*These things I have spoken to you
so that in Me you may have peace.
In the world you have tribulation,
but take courage; I have overcome
the world."*



Turn to: 1 John 5: 1-5

1 John 5: 1-5 (NASB)

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and follow His commandments.

1 John 5: 1-5 (NASB)

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. For whoever has been born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith.

1 John 5: 1-5 (NASB)

Who is the one who overcomes the
world, but the one who believes
that Jesus is the Son of God

Revelation 2: 7 (NASB)

The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will grant to eat from the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Question?

What does the following promise mean to the overcomers?

"I will grant to eat from the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God"