

# STEP PARALLELISM OF THE OVERCOMER PROMISES

## REWARDS AVAILABLE TO THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD IN REVELATION 2–3

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TYPE OF REWARD	PARALLELISM	REWARDS	RECIPIENTS	RELATIONSHIP
PROVISION: FOOD	1 I will grant to <i>eat of the tree of life</i> , which is in the <i>Paradise of God</i> (2:7b).	TREE OF LIFE (ETERNAL LIFE)	FOR ALL	LESS INTIMACY, ACCESS, AND PRIVILEGES
ETERNAL SECURITY	2 shall <i>not be hurt by the second death</i> (2:11b).	NO SECOND DEATH	FOR ALL	LESS INTIMACY, ACCESS, AND PRIVILEGES
SPECIAL HONORS: TEMPLE SERVICE	3 to him I will give some of the <i>hidden manna</i> , and I will give him a <i>white stone</i> , and a <i>new name written on the stone</i> which no one knows but he who receives it (2:17b).	MANNA, WHITE STONE, NEW NAME	FOR SOME	MORE INTIMACY, ACCESS, AND PRIVILEGES
HIGHEST HONOR: INNER CIRCLE	4 to him I will give <i>authority over the nations</i> ; and he shall <i>rule them</i> with a rod of iron, as the vessels of the potter are broken to pieces, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him <i>the morning star</i> (2:26–28).	RULE WITH CHRIST, MORNING STAR	FOR FEW	MOST INTIMACY, ACCESS, AND PRIVILEGES
PROVISION: CLOTHING	1' shall thus be <i>clothed in white garments</i> (3:5a);	WHITE GARMENTS	FOR ALL	LESS INTIMACY, ACCESS, AND PRIVILEGES
ETERNAL SECURITY	2' and I will <i>not erase his name from the book of life</i> , and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels (3:5b–c).	BOOK OF LIFE (NO SECOND DEATH), CONFESS HIS NAME	FOR ALL	LESS INTIMACY, ACCESS, AND PRIVILEGES
SPECIAL HONORS: TEMPLE SERVICE	3' I will make him a <i>[stone] pillar</i> in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will <i>write upon him the name of My God</i> , and the <i>name of the city of My God</i> , the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and <i>My new name</i> (3:12).	[WHITE STONE] PILLAR, NEW NAMES	FOR SOME	MORE INTIMACY, ACCESS, AND PRIVILEGES
HIGHEST HONOR: INNER CIRCLE	4' I will grant to him to <i>sit down with Me on My throne</i> , as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne (3:21).	RULE WITH CHRIST	FOR A FEW	MOST INTIMACY, ACCESS, AND PRIVILEGES

### NOTES

- Positional overcomers are saints who overcome all obstacles to salvation in *cosmos diabolicus* (1 John 5:4–5) but are least in the Kingdom (Matt 5:19; Luke 7:28); experiential overcomers are saints who overcome many enemies in spiritual warfare (Rev 2:26–28; 3:21) and are greatest in the Kingdom (Matt 5:19; 18:4; cf. 2 Tim 2:12; Rev 20:4). With our armor and offensive weapons we can overwhelmingly conquer all spiritual enemies (Rom 8:37).
- Scope*: these promises for overcoming are made to the least in the Kingdom (1 and 1'; 2 and 2'), to the more faithful (3 and 3'), and to the greatest in the Kingdom (4 and 4'). They are made only to saints living in the Church Age.
- The step parallelism funnels down from blessings given to all overcomers (1 and 1'; 2 and 2'), to special honors and privileges given to faithful overcomers (3 and 3'), and to the highest honor of all given only to the most worthy—receiving diadems and the authority to rule with Christ in the Millennial and Eternal Kingdoms (4 and 4').
- Since each step in step parallelism has the same or opposite subject (cf. Luke 6:20–26; 11:9–10) or the same semantic pattern (Isa 55:10–11), the more obscure step 3 likely refers to temple access and service as in the corresponding 3'. If so, the white stone with “a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it” may be an ID tag with a password that gives its owner permanent access to serve in the millennial temple. In ancient Israel priests and Levites were examined to see if their ways and works were righteous, and, if approved, they were given ‘the stone of the sanctuary’ that entitled them to serve in the temple (צִוְמָרָא דְמִקְדָּשָׁא Zohar in Lev. fol. 8.1). In this view the white stone memorializes a life lived on earth that qualifies for priestly service in the future temple. For the relationship between faithfulness in temple service, rewards, and future temple service, see Ezekiel 44:10–16.
- The new name given by Jesus to Simon is Cephas (‘Rock’ in Aramaic) or Peter (‘Rock’ in Greek). He will be the bedrock on which the Church is built (Matt 16:18; John 1:42). Cephas and Peter were not used as personal names before.
- Note the difference between *receiving* a white stone with a new personal name written on it (3) and *being like* a [stone] pillar in the millennial temple with three more names written not on the pillar but on him (3'). Cf. Rev 22:4.
- Jesus promised to confess the names of all believers before his Father: “Everyone therefore who shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven” (Matt 10:32). So this is not a special honor.
- 3 and 3' are priestly honors conferred on royal-priests; 4 and 4' are kingly honors conferred on royal-priests.