

The Believer's Victory

Even in Tribulation, Believers Have Victory (Revelation 7)

144,000 – vs. 4-8

- ❖ The tribe of Dan is not included in this listing but in Ezekiel's millennial role call – Eze. 48
 - Dan was first tribe to go into idolatry and is believed to be the tribe the antichrist comes from – Jud. 18:30; Dan. 11:37; Jer. 8:16
- ❖ What we know about the 144,000 from reading the Rev. 7 & 14:
 - They are from all the tribes of the children of Israel – vs. 4
 - They represent specific tribes – vs. 4-8
 - They are protected and have victory through tribulation – Rev. 14:1
 - They sing a song no man could learn but them – Rev. 14:3
 - They are devoted and faithful – Rev. 14:4-5
 - They are first fruits unto God and the Lamb – Rev. 14:4
 - Rom. 11:1, 26

The Great Multitude (vs. 9-17)

- ❖ This multitude cannot be numbered – Rom. 11:25
- ❖ There will be diversity in heaven – vs. 9; Rev. 5:9; Acts 10: 9-35
- ❖ They all will wear white and have victory – Rev. 3:5, 18; 4:4
- ❖ Vs. Salvation belongs to our God – Psa. 3:8

7-Fold Praise

- ❖ Vs. 12: Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power and might be unto our God for ever and ever...

Questions about this multitude? (Vs. 13-14)

- ❖ Vs. 13: Who are these in white: Rev. 7:9
 - Where did they come from? Rev. 7:14
 - Came out of great tribulation
 - Have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb – Isa. 1:18; Zech. 3:3-5; Heb. 9:14
- ❖ Vs. 15: they now serve God day and night in his temple
 - They serve in heaven
 - God dwells among them – Isa. 4:5-6; Rev. 21:3
- ❖ Vs. 16: God will keep and preserve them just as He does us now –
 - Hunger no more – Psa. 121:5; Isa 49:10
 - Sun shall not strike them – Psa. 121:6; Rev. 21:4
- ❖ Vs. 17: The Lamb shall feed them – Psa. 23:1; Mat. 2:6
 - God shall wipe away all tears – Isa. 25:8; Mat. 5:4; Rev. 21:4

You and I Have Victory

- ❖ Our victory is in Christ Jesus – Rom. 8:31-32; 1 John 5:4; Joshua 10:8
- ❖ We are overcomers because of what Jesus has done for us – John 16:33
- ❖ It is crucial that we understand who we are in Christ and what He has done for us – Eph. 1:15-23
- ❖ Our victory is distinct from the world we live in
 - Though we experience the everyday life challenges of the world, we have a hope that the world does not have – Rom. 8:11
- ❖ We all can have victory when we experience the liberating power of Jesus -
 - Once were bound but we have been loosed to serve the Lord – Gal. 5:1
 - Once were lost in in sin but now free to serve the Lord – Rom. 6:6
- ❖ Our freedom is not a show but a reality because God really wants to use us
 - Ask the blind man in John 9:1-3
 - Ask Lazarus in John 11:38-44; 12:1-3
 - Ask Paul in Acts 26
 - Ask me today
- ❖ Because our victory is not of this world, it can not be understood by many of this world
 - World wants an image of victory, but God wants you to know the surety of victory
 - David did not look like he could have victory against Goliath – 1 Sam. 17:26-39
 - Israel did not look like it would have victory at Jericho – Joshua 6
 - Elisha did not look like he had victory when surrounded by Arameans – 2 Kgs. 6:14-17

We Have Victory after Setbacks

- ❖ Believers are not immune from suffering loss or defeat – Job 1:1-21
 - Children and Possessions – 1:13-21
 - Health – 2:1-10
 - Going through is never easy – Job 3
 - Grieving and being accused by so called friends – Job 4-12
 - Rebuking the naysayers and shifting the narrative – Job 13-41
 - God brings about victory – Job 42
- ❖ Some of the greatest people that God used suffered defeats along their journey
 - David and Bathsheba – 2 Sam. 11-12
 - Elijah fell apart but got back up – 1 King 17
 - John Mark left Paul and Barnabas when things go difficult – Acts 12:11-13, 25; 13:1-5, 13 (caused division between Paul and Barnabas – Acts 15:36-41)
 - Peter denied Christ – From: Mat. 14:28-29; 16:16 To: Mat. 26:34-35; Mark 14:66-72
- ❖ You can suffer failures on your way to ultimate victory
 - David's wisdom in Psalm 37:23-29
 - Joseph's wisdom in Gen. 50:20
 - Psalm 119:67
- ❖ God uses setbacks to:
 - Reach us and lead us to repentance – 1 Sam. 12
 - Teach us – Joshua 7:1-13
 - Humble us – Deut. 8:1-10
 - Prepare us – 1 Chronicles 15; 2 Sam. 6:12-14
 - Build us
 - Look at the later Peter – Luke 24:34; John 21:15-17; Acts 2:14-36
- ❖ Don't make things deeper than they are – just own it. – Psa. 51
- ❖ Don't exhaust yourself trying to win a battle and end up losing the war
 - Requires strategy – Pro. 16:1-3
 - Requires study – Pro. 9:10
 - Requires being principled – Mat. 5:1-12
 - Requires dedication to the cause – 1 Sam. 17:28-30
 - Require change –
 - Repentance means change – Acts 2:38
 - Conversion means change – Luke 22:32
 - Transformation means change – Rom. 12:1-2

- ❖ Everything that looks like a defeat isn't
 - Jesus being denied by men – Isa. 53-5
 - A view around David's table – Psa. 23:5
 - Joseph's journey – Gen. 50:20-21

Victory Over Hell, Death and the Grave

- ❖ What about death
 - Can be a great victory or the ultimate defeat – it's up to you – John 11:25-26; 8:51; 1 Cor. 15:42-45; Psa. 49:15
 - For the believer, it's a crossover to life – John 5:24; Hos. 13:14; 1 Cor. 15:54-55
 - For the unbeliever, it's eternal destruction and damnation – 2 Thes. 1:6-10; Mark 16:16
- ❖ Ultimate victory – Rev. 1:18; Eph. 4:8; Rev. 21:4-7; Rev. 12:11; Rev. 11:15

EXERCISE:

What have you learned about the believer's victory so far?

What have you been struggling with?

What has God said about your struggle and ultimate victory?

How can you share your victory in Jesus with others?

Victory in the Garden

Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:40-46

- ❖ Knowing of victory and being willing to do what is necessary to walk in it are not the same
- As we approach what Jesus did in the garden of Gethsemane, we will approach it through a series of questions:
- ❖ What is the garden of Gethsemane?
 - ❖ What did Jesus do there that is so significant to us?
 - ❖ What lessons can we take from the garden?
 - What about purpose?
 - What about Jesus the man vs. Jesus the Son of God?
 - What about relationships with others and our inner circle?
 - ❖ What is your resolve when you faced with a purpose that includes pain and promise?

Strategy after the Cross – Declaring the Victory

In order to move forward in victory, we need a Kingdom strategy.

- ❖ The angels declared victory at the tomb – Luke 24:1-10
 - Don't wait – start where they laid you...
- ❖ Declare it to the least likely – Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene
 - Note who saw Jesus first – Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18
 - Mary Magdalene – Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2-3
- ❖ Declare it to them void of revelation – the 2 on the road to Emmaus – Luke 24:13-35
 - Those that are talking about Jesus but are missing Jesus in the moment
 - Talking about what happened but not what is happening
 - One was Cleopas and other unnamed
 - They didn't know it was Jesus until He broke bread with them
- ❖ Declare it to the 10 – John 20:19-23
 - Note they were together, but afraid for their lives – John 20:19
 - Jesus came into the room even though the doors were locked
- ❖ Declare it to Thomas – John 20:24-29
 - The one who missed the meeting but is filled with doubts
 - The one who has the potential to dampen the fire of the others
 - A whole week of doubting, questioning, unsureness
 - A week later, they kept coming together and Jesus showed up again...
- ❖ Declare it to over 500 – 1 Cor. 15:6
 - Note that Paul says many of them were alive at the time he wrote this letter
- ❖ Declare at Meeting in Galilee – Mat. 28:16-18
 - Jesus had informed them prior – Mat. 26:32; Mark 14:28
 - When they doubted, Jesus came closer – vs. 17-18
- ❖ Declare on shore at Galilee – John 21:1-24
- ❖ Declare at Ascension

Strategy after the Cross – Declaring the Victory

(continued)

Christ Ascension – Acts 1:1-26;

❖ Jesus shows Himself alive – Acts 1:3

➤ Mat. 28:9-10, Luke 24:36-43, 1 Cor. 15:6

❖ After 40 days

➤ Jesus promises they will receive the Holy Spirit – John 14:18; Acts 1:8

▪ His promise confirms the strategy after the Cross – declare His victory and witness to others

➤ After promising the Holy Spirit, He was taken up – Mark 16:19; Mark 14:62

➤ 2 angels appear dressed in white – Acts 1:10-11; Luke 24:4; John 20:12; Mat. 28:5

➤ He's coming back again –

▪ John 14:2-3

▪ Acts 1:10-11

▪ Rev. 22:20

▪ 1 Thes. 4:13-18

❖ Though the victory is sure, we have work to do – Acts 1:12-26