

LETTERS TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES:
Victory Promises & Hearing Commands

The Message to Ephesus

7 Ὁ ἔχων οὖς ἀκουσάτω τί τὸ πνεῦμα λέγει ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις.

Τῷ νικῶντι δώσω αὐτῷ φαγεῖν ἐκ τοῦ ξύλου τῆς ζωῆς, ὃ ἐστὶν ἐν τῷ παραδείσῳ τοῦ θεοῦ.

The Message to Smyrna

11 Ὁ ἔχων οὖς ἀκουσάτω τί τὸ πνεῦμα λέγει ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις.

Ὁ νικῶν οὐ μὴ ἀδικηθῆῖ ἐκ τοῦ θανάτου τοῦ δευτέρου.

The Message to Pergamum

17 Ὁ ἔχων οὖς ἀκουσάτω τί τὸ πνεῦμα λέγει ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις.

Τῷ νικῶντι δώσω αὐτῷ τοῦ μάννα τοῦ κεκρυμμένου καὶ δώσω αὐτῷ ψῆφον λευκὴν, καὶ ἐπὶ τὴν ψῆφον ὄνομα καινὸν γεγραμμένον ὃ οὐδεὶς οἶδεν εἰ μὴ ὁ λαμβάνων.

The Message to Thyatira

26 Καὶ ὁ νικῶν καὶ ὁ τηρῶν ἄχρι τέλους τὰ ἔργα μου, δώσω αὐτῷ ἐξουσίαν ἐπὶ τῶν ἐθνῶν 27 καὶ ποιμανεῖ αὐτοὺς ἐν ῥάβδῳ σιδηρᾷ ὡς τὰ σκεύη τὰ κεραμικὰ συντρίβεται, 28 ὡς κἀγὼ εἴληφα παρὰ τοῦ πατρὸς μου, καὶ δώσω αὐτῷ τὸν ἀστέρα τὸν πρωϊνόν.

29 Ὁ ἔχων οὖς ἀκουσάτω τί τὸ πνεῦμα λέγει ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις.

The Message to Sardis

5 Ὁ νικῶν οὕτως περιβαλεῖται ἐν ἱματίοις λευκοῖς καὶ οὐ μὴ ἐξαλείψω τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ ἐκ τῆς βίβλου τῆς ζωῆς καὶ ὁμολογήσω τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ ἐνώπιον τοῦ πατρὸς μου καὶ ἐνώπιον τῶν ἀγγέλων αὐτοῦ.

6 Ὁ ἔχων οὖς ἀκουσάτω τί τὸ πνεῦμα λέγει ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις.

The Message to Philadelphia

12 Ὁ νικῶν ποιήσω αὐτὸν στῦλον ἐν τῷ ναῷ τοῦ θεοῦ μου καὶ ἔξω οὐ μὴ ἐξέλθῃ ἔτι καὶ γράψω ἐπ' αὐτὸν τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ θεοῦ μου καὶ τὸ ὄνομα τῆς πόλεως τοῦ θεοῦ μου, τῆς καινῆς Ἱερουσαλὴμ ἡ καταβαίνουσα ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἀπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ μου, καὶ τὸ ὄνομά μου τὸ καινόν.

13 Ὁ ἔχων οὖς ἀκουσάτω τί τὸ πνεῦμα λέγει ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις.

The Message to Laodicea

21 Ὁ νικῶν δώσω αὐτῷ καθίσει μετ' ἐμοῦ ἐν τῷ θρόνῳ μου, ὡς κἀγὼ ἐνίκησα καὶ ἐκάθισα μετὰ τοῦ πατρὸς μου ἐν τῷ θρόνῳ αὐτοῦ.

22 Ὁ ἔχων οὖς ἀκουσάτω τί τὸ πνεῦμα λέγει ταῖς ἐκκλησίαις.

The Message to Ephesus

7 Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.

The Message to Smyrna

11 Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Whoever conquers will not be harmed by the second death.

The Message to Pergamum

17 Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

To everyone who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give a white stone, and on the white stone is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it.

The Message to Thyatira

26 To everyone who conquers and continues to do my works to the end,

I will give authority over the nations;

27 to rule them with an iron rod,

as when clay pots are shattered—

28 even as I also received authority from my Father. To the one who conquers I will also give the morning star.

29 Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

The Message to Sardis

5 If you conquer, you will be clothed like them in white robes, and I will not blot your name out of the book of life; I will confess your name before my Father and before his angels.

6 Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

The Message to Philadelphia

12 If you conquer, I will make you a pillar in the temple of my God; you will never go out of it. I will write on you the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem that comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

13 Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

The Message to Laodicea

21 To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

22 Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

Who is to enter Heaven?

1. The “overcomer” as signaled by both ὁ νικῶν (2:7, 11, 26; 3:5, 12, 21) and Τῷ νικῶντι (2:17). Both are present participle forms from the verb νικάω specifying those victorious over the Devil and temptation.
2. The ὁ νικῶν is defined as ὁ τηρῶν ἄχρι τέλους τὰ ἔργα μου (2:26), **the one keeping until the end my works**. To be an ‘overcomer’ means faithfully doing what Christ tells us to do consistently through our spiritual journey.
3. The established formula pattern of this saying that is attached toward the end of each of the seven messages helps pave the way for chapters four and five that describe in dramatic apocalyptic language what Heaven is like.

What will happen when we enter Heaven:

Ephesus (2:7)

1. **We are granted permission by Christ “to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God”** (φαγεῖν ἐκ τοῦ ξύλου τῆς ζωῆς, ὃ ἐστὶν ἐν τῷ παραδείσῳ τοῦ θεοῦ.).

Smyrna (2:11)

2. **We “will not be harmed by the second death”** (οὐ μὴ ἀδικηθῆ ἕκ τοῦ θανάτου τοῦ δευτέρου.).

Pergamum (2:17)

3. **We will receive “some of the hidden manna,”** (τοῦ μάννα τοῦ κεκρυμμένου), **and “a white stone, and on the white stone is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it”** (ψηφον λευκὴν, καὶ ἐπὶ τὴν ψηφον ὄνομα καινὸν γεγραμμένον ὃ οὐδεὶς οἶδεν εἰ μὴ ὁ λαμβάνων.)

Thyatira (2:26-28)

4. **We will be given “authority over the nations; to rule them with an iron rod, as when clay pots are shattered— even as I also received authority from my Father,”** (ἐξουσίαν ἐπὶ τῶν ἐθνῶν καὶ ποιμανεῖ αὐτοὺς ἐν ῥάβδῳ σιδηρᾷ ὡς τὰ σκεύη τὰ κεραμικὰ συντρίβεται, ὡς κἀγὼ εἴληφα παρὰ τοῦ πατρὸς μου,) **and also “the morning star”** (τὸν ἀστέρα τὸν πρωϊνόν).

Sardis (3:5)

5. **We will “be clothed like them in white robes”**

(οὕτως περιβαλεῖται ἐν ἱματίοις λευκοῖς). **Christ “will not blot your name out of the book of life”** (οὐ μὴ ἐξαλείψω τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ ἐκ τῆς βίβλου τῆς ζωῆς). **And He “will confess your name before my Father and before his angels”** (ὁμολογήσω τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ ἐνώπιον τοῦ πατρὸς μου καὶ ἐνώπιον τῶν ἀγγέλων αὐτοῦ.).

Philadelphia (3:12)

6. **We will be made “a pillar in the temple of my God; you will never go out of it”** (στῦλον ἐν τῷ ναῷ τοῦ θεοῦ μου καὶ ἔξω οὐ μὴ ἐξέλθῃ ἔτι). **Christ “will write on you the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem that comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name”** (γράψω ἐπ’ αὐτὸν τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ θεοῦ μου καὶ τὸ ὄνομα τῆς πόλεως τοῦ θεοῦ μου, τῆς καινῆς Ἰερουσαλὴμ ἢ καταβαίνουσα ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ ἀπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ μου, καὶ τὸ ὄνομά μου τὸ καινόν.)

Laodicea (3:21)

7. **We will be given “a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne”** (καθίσαι μετ’ ἐμοῦ ἐν τῷ θρόνῳ μου, ὡς κἀγὼ ἐνίκησα καὶ ἐκάθισα μετὰ τοῦ πατρὸς μου ἐν τῷ θρόνῳ αὐτοῦ).