

## The Alpha and Omega (3)

In Revelation chapter 19, John described his vision of the new heaven and the new earth, as well as the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven as a bride adorned for her husband. He announced that God would wipe away all tears and that there would be no more death, sorrow, crying or pain, because the former things would be passed away and God would make all things new.

It is interesting to note that when Paul wrote to the believers at Corinth, he described what it is to be in Christ, *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 5:17).

In that future scene that John described, a voice from heaven declared that the tabernacle, or dwelling place of God is with men, and God would dwell among them, and they would be His people and be with them and be their God.

Following the promise to banish all tears and pain and sorrow, and to make all things new, the Lord Jesus made this amazing statement, *"It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely"* (Rev. 21:1-6).

We might remember that the Lord Jesus said to the woman of Samaria, *"whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life"* (Jn. 4:14). On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, the Lord Jesus gave the invitation, *"If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water"* (Jn. 7:38).

The one who miraculously provided water for Israel in the wilderness, as proof of His power and provision (Ex. 17:6; Num. 20:11), now, as the Alpha and Omega offers the water of life freely. The Lord through the prophet Isaiah extended a similar invitation, *"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price"* (Isa. 55:1).

Living water is offered to all without price. Living water speaks of salvation and eternal life, through faith in the Lord Jesus, which, while it is free to those who claim it, was provided at tremendous cost. The Lord Jesus died that we might live. He experienced the waters of the wrath of God (Ps. 69:1), that we might experience the water of life freely.

In chapter 22 of the book of Revelation, John described a pure river of water of life flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. On either side of the river were trees providing nourishment and healing for the nations. John says, *"And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it"* (Rev. 22:1-3).

Dear beloved child of God, our Lord Jesus Christ bore the curse for us, so that we might enjoy the blessing of eternal life. When Adam sinned in the Garden Eden, the Lord God cursed the ground saying, *"cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee"* (Gen. 3:17-18). The sacred Scriptures record, *"And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head"* (Matt. 27:29; Mk. 15:17; Jn. 19:2, 5).

In his letter to the Galatians, the apostle Paul quoted from the Old Testament Scriptures, *"Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them"* (Gal. 3:10). Our blessed Lord Jesus bore the curse of a broken law, yet He could

confidently say, *"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart"* (Ps. 40:8).

Paul also reminded us that we have been redeemed from the curse of the law. He wrote, *"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree"* (Gal. 3:13). Luke, the Gospel writer recorded, *"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left"* (Luke 23:33).

Peter wrote, *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree"* (1<sup>st</sup> Pet. 2:24). The psalmist wrote prophetically of Him, *"they pierced my hands and my feet"* (Ps. 22:16). Isaiah also wrote, *"he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors"* (Isa. 53: 12).

Then comes this tremendous promise from the *Alpha and Omega*, *"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son"*. The overcomers may refer to those that remain faithful to the Lord in spite of adversity, trials and persecution. The apostle John wrote that those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God are overcomers, *"Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"* (1<sup>st</sup> Jn. 5:5).

The apostle Paul wrote to assure us that there is no power or personality that can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. He stated, *"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us"* (Rom. 8:37). The Lord Jesus, Himself spoke these words of comfort and assurance, *"In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world"* (Jn. 16:33).

To the overcomer then, is this promise, *"shall inherit all things"*. We are not told what the phrase, *"all things"*, refers to. We do know that, since we are the children of God, we are linked with the Lord Jesus, and as such, are inheritors with Him ((Rom. 8:14-17).

Certainly, we may claim all that is mentioned in the verses prior to the promise, no tears, or sorrow, or pain or death; all of those things will pass away and all things will be made new.

Peter praised God for the prospect of an inheritance, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you"* (1<sup>st</sup> Pet. 1:3-4).

While we do not know, beloved child of God, the full extent of the blessing and glory that awaits us in heaven. Paul quoted from the Old Testament Scriptures (Isa. 64:4), *"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him"* (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 2:9). The Lord Jesus promised, *"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne"* (Rev. 3:21).

But, O, beloved child of God, the most thrilling of all is this promise, *"I will be his God and he shall be my son"*. What can compare with an intimate, eternal relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ? John wrote, *"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is"* (1<sup>st</sup> Jn. 3:2).

*The first and Last, the living One,  
He, the Maker of all things;  
Sovereign Ruler, Supreme Son,*

*Perfect righteousness now brings.*

*In Him beginning and the end,  
Endued with pow'r and with might;  
In whom all grace and virtue blend,  
Ushers in the reign of light.*

*The Lord of all the universe,  
Rightful order doth restore;  
His holiness removes the curse,  
He who all its vengeance bore.*

*Doth living water freely give,  
Flowing from His precious blood;  
By this alone, His servants live,  
Kings and priests unto their God.*

*Let every kindred, tongue and tribe,  
Bow in worship reverently;  
To Him all glory now ascribe,  
Throughout all eternity.*

**Bernie Payne**