

(Intro Slide)

**“It won’t be easy,
but it will be
worth it.”**

READ SLIDE

-- How do we motivate people to delay gratification and even embrace difficulty?

-- We often say things like . . . **READ SLIDE**

-- Coaches tell their players to remember what it feels like to win, or lose, so that they can work hard to have that positive feeling or avoid that negative one.

TR: We all have choices to make, and as I tell young ladies, “You can get married any time you want. Just lower your standards.” “Stop . . .

**“What are you
holding out for?”**

Conqueror or Coward

. . . holding out for God’s man.

-- When we consider how we think about eternity, the picture in our mind is critical. Is it good enough to wait for? To hold out for?

-- When temptations come our way, and we choose to be either a conqueror or a coward . . .

-- . . . critical to our motivation, to get up out of the mud or to stay out of it in the first place, . . .

-- . . . is what we hope we are holding out for.

TR: Revelation 21 presents a picture of the New Heavens and the New Earth, the final destiny of Christ-followers, as . . .

A Conqueror's Heritage

A Heritage of NEW

4

... READ SLIDE

TR: Turn with me to Revelation 21

Revelation 21:1-2 page 1143

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- The sea is no more, that source of chaos and evil.

TR: Our heritage is of . . .

A Heritage of NEW

- *NEW Heaven & NEW Earth*

... READ SLIDE

-- The first heaven and earth pass away – some think completely new ...

TR: ... or others think new like Paul's description of the new body ...

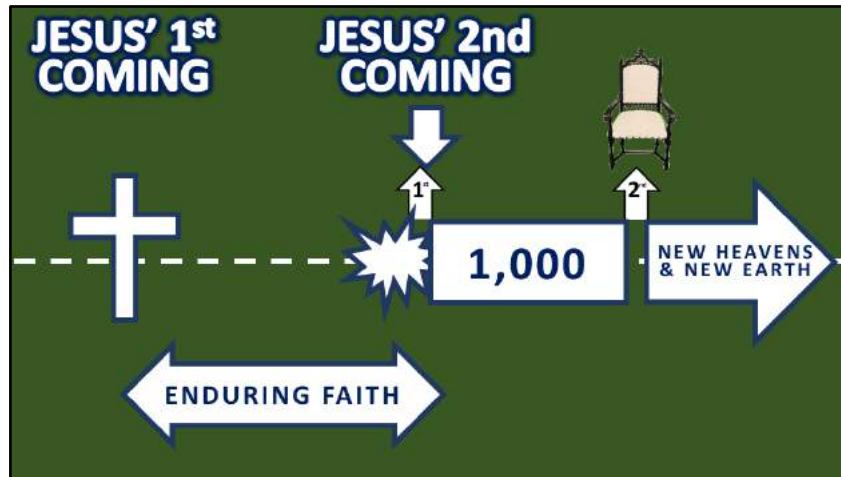
1 Corinthians 15:42-44

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is **imperishable**.⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in **glory**. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in **power**.⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a **spiritual** body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

ESV

**... that there is continuity and yet great discontinuity ...
READ SLIDE**

TR: Remember WHEN we are talking about, compared to Revelation 20, last week



Review Slide

TR: Verse 2 told us that our heritage of new will also include the . . .

A Heritage of NEW

- *NEW Heaven & NEW Earth*
- *NEW Jerusalem*

READ SLIDE

- This city seems to be described in this chapter as **BOTH** a place and a person.
- It is prepared like a bride for the groom.
- It is something completely new because it descends from heaven.

TR: Our heritage of new is the fulfillment of the greatest of all of God's promises . . .

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God."

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- We were created for a relationship with God.

TR: A relationship that is no longer tarnished by sin . . . verse
4

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: The heritage that you and I are holding out for is one that will have a . . .

A Heritage of NEW

- *NEW Heaven & NEW Earth*
- *NEW Jerusalem*
- *NEW experience of God's presence*

. . . READ SLIDE

-- In Rev. 20 we read of death and Hades being thrown into the lake of fire.

-- Here we read that death shall be no more.

-- And because death will be no more, there will no longer be mourning nor crying nor pain!

TR: We often hear advertising tell us about “new and improved.” But, there will be no improving on this NEW.

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- For whom are these words trustworthy and true?
-- For the first century readers and us . . . who have to hold out for heaven, as we face the temptation to be cowards and not conquerors.

TR: Making all things new will be done by God. And that means it is a certainty.

And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

ESV

READ SLIDE

- The A and the Z of the Greek alphabet . . .
- The beginning and the end . . .
- . . . He has declared it is done.

TR: Our heritage of new is made "NEW" . . .

A Heritage of NEW

- *NEW Heaven & NEW Earth*
- *NEW Jerusalem*
- *NEW experience of God's presence*
- *NEW . . . by God Himself*

READ SLIDE

-- At the cross, Jesus said, "It is finished" – referring to God's plan to provide for our redemption through His sacrifice on the cross.

-- In Rev. 16:17 the voice from the throne said, "It is done!" -- referring to the events ending the present evil order in which we now live.\

-- And here, God says, "It is done." More literally, "They are done." - Referring to all the events of world history.

TR: This heritage of new is also described as a result of drinking the water of life, verse 6b

To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. **⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage,** and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: But not all will have this heritage, as verse 8 tells us.

Revelation 21:8 page 1143

“But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: The heritage of new is . . .

A Heritage of NEW

- *NEW Heaven & NEW Earth*
- *NEW Jerusalem*
- *NEW experience of God's presence*
- *NEW . . . by God Himself*
- *NEW - for conquerors, not cowards*

. . . READ SLIDE

**-- Isn't it interesting that liars seem to be cowards as well . . .
when we are too afraid to tell the truth.**

**TR: A conqueror's heritage, that we hold out for, isn't just NEW
. . . it is also . . .**

A Conqueror's Heritage

19

A Heritage of NEW
A Heritage of AWESOME

... AWESOME.

-- I know we use that word for things that aren't really that awe-inspiring.

-- But, even the things we think are rightly called awesome will look comparatively awe-ful in light of our eternal heritage.

TR: Look at verse 9

Revelation 21:9-10a page 1143

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain,

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Here we see the person and place of the symbolism. The wife of the Lamb, the believers, are also portrayed as . . .

and showed me the holy city
Jerusalem coming down out of
heaven from God, ¹¹having the
glory of God, its radiance like a
most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear
as crystal.

ESV

. . . a city.
-- READ SLIDE

TR: The city had . . .

Revelation 21:12-13 page 1143

It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—¹³on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.

ESV

. . . READ SLIDE

-- The 12 gates reflect connection with the OT saints through the 12 tribes of Israel.

TR: And also there's a connection to the NT saints . . .

And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

ESV

... through the names of the 12 apostles ... READ SLIDE

TR: This heritage of awesome is awe-inspiring through its ...

A Heritage of AWESOME

- ***AWESOME walls & foundation***

... READ SLIDE

-- With gates on all sides, there is access the city from all directions.

-- The one people of God, with folks from Israel and the Gentile nations,

-- ... from people who looked forward to the cross and those who looked back

TR: In case we aren't in awe yet, the angel didn't just speak.

Revelation 21:15-16 page 1143

And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. ¹⁶The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal.

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 17

He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement. ¹⁸The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 19

Revelation 21:19-20 page 1143

The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 21

And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- These single pearl gates would be some 250 feet in diameter.
- The walls are big but yet tiny for a city as big as this.

TR: The heritage of conquerors is awesome . . . and those who can now look forward to it by faith, can join the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11 . . .

Hebrews 11:10, 16

For (Abraham) was looking forward to **the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.**

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, **for he has prepared for them a city.**

ESV

... where it says ... **READ SLIDE**

TR: The heritage that we hold out for is NEW and it is AWESOME ...

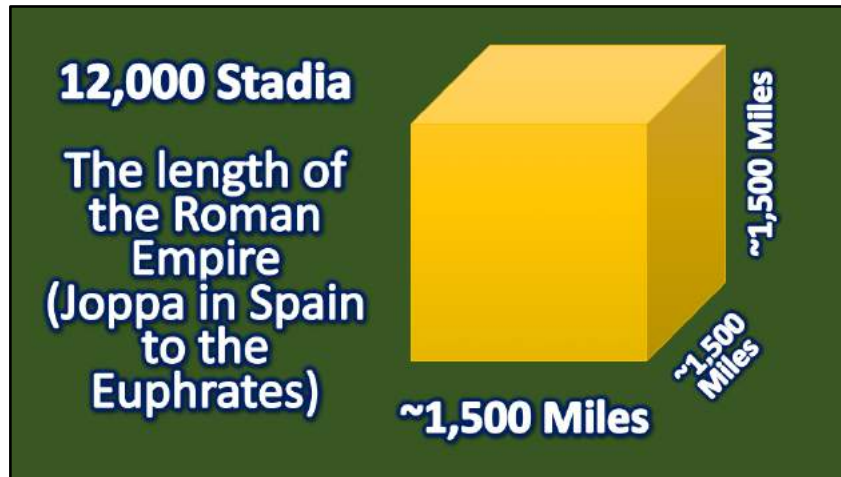
A Heritage of AWESOME

- ***AWESOME walls & foundation***
- ***AWESOME measurements & materials***

... READ SLIDE

- **The materials tell us of glory and beauty.**
- **The measurements magnify that glory and beauty to dimensions that are likely symbolic but certainly awesome.**

TR: Consider what we're taking about here.

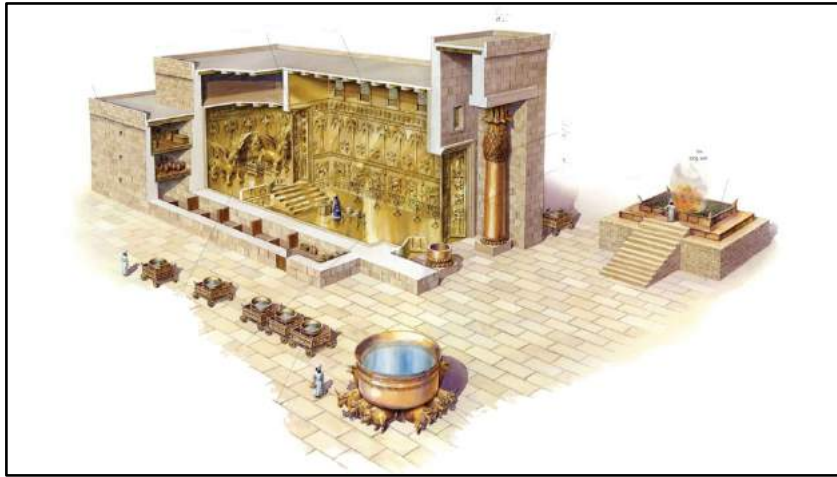


We are talking a cube that is about 1,500 miles in each direction. That's the length of the Roman Empire from West to East.

- Drawings of the city usually focus on the walls, which are tiny compared to the rest of the city.
- And the height is restricted to one skyscraper.
- But, the tallest skyscraper is only 2,717 feet tall. That's 0.51 miles.
- The earth's atmosphere is some 300 miles thick, but most of it is only within the first 10 miles.

-- And the cube design is critical to the symbolism.

TR: Remember the dimensions of the holy of holies.



Whether in the tent-like Tabernacle or the more permanent Temple, the holy of holies was shaped as a perfect cube.

-- God will dwell with His people . . . how beautiful of a picture that His city is a cube.

-- And, I know that city life isn't that attractive to most of us country folks . . .

-- . . . but, I think the imagery of the city is one of community.

-- This will be when Jesus' prayer comes to pass in perfection . . . that we will be one even as Jesus is one with the Father.

TR: This bride, this city the New Jerusalem is awesome in what it has. But also . . .

A Heritage of AWESOME

- ***AWESOME walls & foundation***
- ***AWESOME measurements & materials***
- ***AWESOME in what's missing:***

... READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 22

And I saw **no temple** in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³And the city has **no need of sun or moon** to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: There's more that's missing . . .

By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵and **its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.** ²⁶They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- Instead of bring wealth, the kings bring worship, also known as “glory.”

TR: Verse 27

But **nothing unclean** will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: So, what's missing . . .

A Heritage of AWESOME

- ***AWESOME walls & foundation***
- ***AWESOME measurements & materials***
- ***AWESOME in what's missing:***
*Temple, Sun/Moon, Shut Gates,
Night, and the Unclean*

... READ SLIDE

- **No temple, for the entire place/people is the temple of God's presence.**
- **No need for any source of light other than God's presence.**
- **There will be no shut gates, for there will be no one to keep out.**
- **There will be no night and nothing to fear in the darkness.**
- **There will be nothing unclean, nor anyone detestable or false.**

- **We have symbolism telling us of beauty, glory, protection, community, and holiness.**

TR: And, the best part of the conqueror's heritage is that . . .

A Conqueror's Heritage

*A Heritage of NEW
A Heritage of AWESOME*

*This can be **OUR** heritage!*

38

... READ SLIDE

TR: The text tells us who qualifies for this eternal inheritance.

*This can be **our** heritage*

- *If **OUR** names are in the Lamb's book of life,*

READ SLIDE

TR: That's what verse 27 tells us . . .

But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but **only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

ESV

READ SLIDE

- Is your name in the Lamb's book of life?
- Have you asked Jesus, the Lamb, to write it in?

TR: Another way to think about the qualifications is . . .

*This can be **our** heritage*

- *If **OUR** names are in the Lamb's book of life,*
- *If **OUR** thirst is for spiritual truth, and we ask for a free drink of the water of life,*

READ SLIDE

TR: Look back at verse 6

“To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.”

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Our names need to be in the Lamb’s book, our thirst for spiritual truth has led to the drink of water, and . . .

This can be **our** heritage

- ***If **OUR** names are in the Lamb's book of life,***
- ***If **OUR** thirst is for spiritual truth, and we ask for a free drink of the water of life,***
- ***If **OUR** hearts are those of conquerors and NOT cowards.***

... READ SLIDE

TR: Verses 7-8

“The **one who conquers** will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 8

“But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

ESV

READ SLIDE

- The heritage is for the brave.
- Brave enough to have faith in what Jesus did on cross and to be faithful to Jesus, even if it costs us our lives.

TR: This is the heritage of a . . .

A Conqueror's Heritage

*A Heritage of NEW
A Heritage of AWESOME*

*This can be **OUR** heritage!*

. . . conqueror.

-- Last week we talked about the vision of the end reminding us that God's PROMISES ARE KEPT.

-- Here, now approaching the end of this wonderful Revelation given to John for us, we remember . . .

TR: Remember back to the 7 letters to the church's Asia Minor, what would be modern day Turkey.

Revelation 2:7b, 11b

To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.

ESV

What the ESV translates as “the one who conquers” is translated by other great translations as:

- NLT – “To everyone who is victorious”
- NIV – “To the one who is victorious”
- NASB – “To him who overcomes”
- KJV – “To him that overcometh”

-- READ SLIDE

TR: Each of the letters closes with these promises . . . the third letter concludes with . . .

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

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- hidden manna =

-- white stone with a name on it =

TR: The fourth letter says . . .

Revelation 2:26-28a

The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. ²⁸And I will give him the morning star.

ESV

READ SLIDE

-- [morning star] chance to share in Messiah's authority AND glory.

TR: Then . . .

Revelation 3:5

The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Then

Revelation 3:12

The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: Then, finally . . .

Revelation 3:21

The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- These promises are fulfilled in the 1,000 year kingdom and the final state of the New Heavens and New Earth.**
- They are the promises for ones who conqueror, who overcome, who are victorious.**

TR: This heritage can be yours . . .

*This can be **our** heritage*

- *If **OUR** names are in the Lamb's book of life,*
- *If **OUR** thirst is for spiritual truth, and we ask for a free drink of the water of life,*
- *If **OUR** hearts are those of conquerors, and **NOT** cowards.*

REVIEW SLIDE

- **And if you have done the first two, you will have the strength of heart to be a conqueror.**
- **You are not of the cowards who give in to the sins of NOW.**
- **You are not those who give in to the addictions of the flesh.**

TR: You are among those who . . .



READ SLIDE

- And to make the most of every opportunity in our communities will take courage.**
- We will be intentionally, generously, courageously and together IN.**

TR: Today, in the midst of the allure of the world and its temptations, remember that by God's grace your name tag reads . . .



. . . conqueror, not coward.