

## ***Session 8 Pillars, Manna, Vindication, and Treasure in Heaven***

### **I. JESUS WILL MAKE SOME TO BE A PILLAR IN GOD’S TEMPLE (REV. 3:12)**

- A. Jesus promised to make overcomers a pillar in the heavenly temple. Some will be pillars who hold a position of authority, responsibility, and honor in the temple of God during the Millennium.  
***<sup>12</sup>He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the...name of...the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven... (Rev. 3:12)***
- B. We may consider pillars in the Scripture and in history to gain some insight into what is implied by heavenly pillars. Pillars are functional in bearing the weight of a building and ornamental in beautifying a building. They are often used to honor the memory of an honorable person or a significant event. Pillars speak of strength, permanence, honor, beauty, and remembrance. Pillars vary in size, location, design, building material, and events or story associated with them.
- C. Paul referred to Peter, James, and John as pillars in the Church. This spoke of their significant role, position of authority, and honor in the kingdom. They were standard bearers in the kingdom. Peter was also called “a rock”—this name related to his role in the Church (Mt. 16:18).  
***<sup>9</sup>When James, Cephas [Peter], and John, who seemed to be pillars... (Gal. 2:9)***
- D. The pillars in the Lord’s temple built by Solomon may give us insight into this promise. Solomon put two large bronze pillars at the porch of the temple (1 Kgs. 7:13-22; 2 Chr. 3:17). He named one pillar *Jachin* (stability) and the other *Boaz* (strength). They stood about 40 feet in height and were beautified with gold, chains, pomegranates, and lilies illuminated with fire, recalling the two glorious pillars of fire and cloud that led Israel in the wilderness (Ex. 13:21-22; 14:19-24; 33:9).  
***<sup>15</sup>And he [Hiram] cast two pillars of bronze, each one eighteen cubits high...<sup>21</sup>Then he set up the pillars by the vestibule of the temple...called its name Jachin and...Boaz. (1 Kgs. 7:15-22)***
- E. Pillars of remembrance in devotion to God will be erected in Egypt in the end times (Isa. 19:19).  
***<sup>19</sup>In that day there will be an altar...in the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the LORD... (Isa. 19:19)***
- F. In the ancient world, when one served their city in special way, a pillar was built in their honor. It honored those who did heroic deeds of courage. We see pillars in our culture—historical sites like the Lincoln or Washington memorials or statues in a city square honoring a war hero, etc.
- G. Pillars in God’s temple in the age to come refer to Lord’s devoted servants who will probably serve very near to Jesus and may carry much weight of serving in the government with Him.
- H. ***He shall not go out***: This speaks of permanence—since a pillar remains where it is. The overcomer’s place of honor is permanent; like a pillar they remain forever serving near to Jesus. Some angels are described as standing before God. The living creatures are also before God.  
***<sup>2</sup>I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets... (Rev. 8:2)***

### **II. JESUS WILL WRITE ON SOME THE NAME OF THE NEW JERUSALEM (REV. 3:12)**

- A. Jesus promised to write “on” overcomers the name of the New Jerusalem (Rev. 3:12). This seems to include giving them special responsibility in and insight into the New Jerusalem—a mysterious and glorious City.
- <sup>12</sup>He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the...name of...the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven... (Rev. 3:12)***
- B. Historically some are given the “key to a city” or are called a father of a city in honor of their service to that city. This honor points to one’s authority, service, and understanding of a city.

### III. JESUS WILL GIVE TO SOME HIDDEN MANNA TO EAT (REV. 2:17)

- A. Jesus promised to give hidden manna to overcomers. This includes having an increased capacity to receive revelation of the Word. This is fulfilled in part in this age and in fullness in the age to come.
- <sup>14</sup>...you have there [in Pergamos] those who hold the doctrine of Balaam...to commit sexual immorality...<sup>17</sup>To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat... (Rev. 2:14-17)***
- B. Jesus is the true manna from heaven (Jn. 6:48-58). We eat spiritually by receiving more of Jesus, and possibly this will also include eating heavenly manna in a physical way. Heavenly manna nourishes and strengthens God’s people with greater understanding of Jesus.
- <sup>49</sup>Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead...<sup>51</sup>I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever... (Jn. 6:49-51)***
- C. During Israel’s journey in the wilderness, God sustained them with manna or “angel’s food” (Ps. 78:25).
- <sup>25</sup>Men ate angels’ food [manna]; He sent them food to the full. (Ps. 78:25)***
- D. In the Old Testament, manna was “hidden” only after it was put in the golden pot in the ark of the covenant in the holy of holies (Ex. 16:32-36; Heb. 9:1-5). The high priest alone could see this hidden manna once a year, on the Day of Atonement.
- E. What will we eat in heaven? I assume the food will be free, healthy, organic, and non-fattening :). Scripture mentions 12 types of fruit that grow on the tree in the New Jerusalem. I assume that this refers to 12 categories of fruit, perhaps each with many varieties in taste, smell, texture, etc. There are over 7,000 varieties of apples, 2,000 varieties of peaches, and 1000 varieties of bananas.
- <sup>2</sup>...the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. (Rev. 22:2)***
- F. We will eat bread and drink wine in the Lord’s supper in the age to come.
- <sup>30</sup>“...that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones...” (Lk. 22:30)***

### IV. JESUS WILL GIVE TO SOME FOOD IN THE MIDST OF PARADISE (REV. 2:7)

- A. Jesus promised to give overcomers the privilege of eating food in the midst of Paradise (Rev. 2:7). All believers will eat from the tree of life (Rev. 22:14). In addition to this, there is a special privilege of eating from the tree that is in the “midst” of Paradise.

***4“...you have left your first love...<sup>5</sup>repent and do the first works...<sup>7</sup>To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” (Rev. 2:4-7)***

***14Those who do His commandments...have the right to the tree of life... (Rev. 22:14)***

- B. The Paradise of God and the New Jerusalem refer to the same place. We only find the phrase “the Paradise of God” once in Scripture. Garden of Eden characteristics such as the river of life and the tree of life (Rev. 22:1-2) are also part of the description of the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:9-22:5)

- C. The New Jerusalem is about 1500 miles in each direction (Rev. 21:16). I assume there are many diverse expressions of God’s glory, kingdom activity, and proximity to God’s throne in the New Jerusalem. There may be diverse experiences in different parts of the city. Scripture does not give us details on this diversity, but it may be a key to the privilege of being in the midst of Paradise.

***16The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles; its length and width and height are equal. (Rev. 21:16, NAS)***

- D. Adam walked with God “in the midst” of the garden of Eden which probably was vast.

***9The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden [of Eden]... (Gen. 2:9)***

## **V. JESUS WILL VINDICATE SOME BEFORE THEIR ENEMIES (REV. 3:9)**

- A. Jesus promised to vindicate overcomers before those who persecuted them in this age (Rev. 3:9). In other words, unbelievers will witness Jesus’ love towards the very people that they persecuted. Jesus will manifest His zeal for His people in this way.

***9“I will make them [your persecutors in this age] come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.” (Rev. 3:9)***

- B. Jesus prayed that the world (unbelievers) would know that the Father loved the saints in the way that He loves Jesus (Jn. 17:23).

***23“...that the world may know that You...have loved them as You have loved Me.” (Jn. 17:23)***

- C. This principle occurs among those living on earth during the Millennium (Isa. 45:14; 49:23; 60:14).

***14Also the sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you, and all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet. (Isa. 60:14)***

- D. Jesus will serve His people (Lk. 12:37). Jesus taught a parable concluding with a promise that the master—speaking of Himself—will serve His people, thus expressing how He feels about them.

***37Blessed are those servants whom the master, when He comes, will find watching...I say to you that He will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will...serve them. (Lk. 12:37)***

## **VI. JESUS WILL GIVE TO SOME HEAVENLY GOLD, RICHES, AND TREASURE**

- A. Jesus urged His people to gain treasure in heaven—this treasure may include many different things that are valuable and precious to His people. He spoke often on heavenly treasure (Mt. 5:12; 6:4, 6, 18, 20; 10:41-42; 16:27; 19:21; Mk. 9:41; 10:21; Lk. 6:23, 35; 12:21, 33; 18:22; Rev. 3:18; 22:12).

**<sup>20</sup>Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. (Mt. 6:20)**

**<sup>21</sup>...sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven... (Mt. 19:21)**

- B. Laying up treasures in heaven is not simply a figurative saying. There is real treasure in heaven that is gained. We are exhorted to gain heavenly treasure or to build a “bank account” in heaven.

**<sup>16</sup>He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully... <sup>18</sup>So he said, ‘...I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.” <sup>20</sup>But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you...’ <sup>21</sup>So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God... <sup>33</sup>Provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens ...” (Lk. 12:16-33)**

1. Being wealthy in this age is a blessing of God if used properly, but money now is not the highest wealth that is available to you. There is lasting wealth in the age to come.
2. Jesus, the wealthiest man in history, advises His people to get treasure and gold from Him in the age to come. Many believers do not pay much attention to this important subject.

- C. Jesus exhorted believers to “buy gold” or to engage in the God-ordained process of acquiring gold in context to a deep relationship with Him. In “buying gold” from God, no one earns it, but they “invest themselves in a costly way” to position themselves to receive it.

**<sup>18</sup>“I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich.” (Rev. 3:18)**

- D. Isaiah spoke of “buying” without money by coming to the Lord and hearing Him (Isa. 55:1-3).

**<sup>1</sup>“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money...<sup>3</sup>and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live. (Isa. 55:1-3)**

- E. The wealth and treasure of individual believers will vary in the age to come. Some will have great treasure, others will have very little, and some will even suffer loss, but will be saved (1 Cor. 3:15).
- F. Acquiring treasure and gold, and becoming rich may include aspects of our heavenly mansion (its size, location, and design), heavenly crowns, garments, and jewels related to our dedication to God.
- G. Acquiring heavenly gold might speak of status (royalty), honor for noble and heroic achievements (trophies/medals), as well as expressing affection, like a diamond ring for a couple getting married. Some men give their wife jewels to express how they feel about her. Does Jesus include jewels or precious stones in His promise that our life choices can result in gaining treasure in heaven?