**Conquering through Faithfulness to the Lamb**

Whole Bible Series

Sermon 55: Revelation

McDonald Bible Methodist

Pastor Joey Ratcliff

June – July 11, 2021

**SERMON NOTES**

*John receives a highly symbolic vision, relevant to the church of His day, symbolic of the age-old conflict of the church, and predictive of future events, but with one message for them all: be faithful to the Lamb! (1)*

1. **Seven Churches: Faithfulness vs. Compromise** (2-3)
2. Ephesus: Patient endurance but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ commitment (2:2-5)
3. Smyrna: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through tribulation and poverty (2:9-10)
4. Pergamum: Suffered martyrdom, but defiled by sin (2:13-15)
5. Thyatira: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but tolerating false teaching (2:19-20)
6. Sardis: Prosperous, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_: wake up! (3:1-3)
7. Philadelphia: Obedient, faithful, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3:8-10)
8. Laodicea: Self-reliant and proud, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (3:15-17)

*Interlude: God reigns in heaven. The Lamb has* ***conquered*** *and is worthy to initiate the end. (4-5)*

*To each church, Jesus gives a promise to “the one who* ***conquers****.”*

1. **Sets of Sevens: Faithfulness vs. Succumbing**

**7 Seals:** Conquest, war, famine, death, cries for justice, earthquake, 7 trumpets (6-8:5)

*Interlude: God seals His people on earth (7:1-8) and is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by His people in heaven (7:9-17)*

**7 Trumpets:** Hail, blood, poison, darkness, demon locusts, horsemen executioners, God’s kingdom revealed (8:6-11:19)

*Interlude: 2 “witnesses” testify, are killed by the enemy, and are resurrected, resulting in many giving \_\_\_\_\_\_ to God. (11:1-14)*

**7 Signs:** Battle between Satan and God’s people (12), dominion of God-opposing earthly kingdoms (13), the song of the saints (14a), reaping of the saints (14b), treading of God’s wrath (14c).

*Interludes: Angels announce a call to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! (14:6-13)*

*God is worshipped in heaven as the holy king of the nations! (15)*

**7 Bowls of wrath:** Sores, blood, blood, scorching heat, darkness, assembly of nations, Day of the Lord (16)

*Interlude: God’s judgements are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_! (16:5-7)*

*The people of the Lamb “****conquer****” by faithfully bearing witness through suffering (11:13;12:11)*

1. **Three Final Scenes Recapped**
2. The fall of Babylon: God-opposing kingdoms will be destroyed (17-19)

*Interlude: God’s people rejoice and feast as a result of evil’s defeat (19:1-10)*

1. Millennial reign and final judgement (20)

*Jesus’ message: I am coming soon (22:7, 12, 20)*

1. Heaven \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to earth (21-22)

**Questions for Small Groups or Individual Study**

1. There are two key questions that are addressed in Revelation. Who reigns? And who will we worship? Discuss how we see these questions throughout the book.
2. What message do chapters 4-22 have for the churches in chapters 2 and 3 (see interludes)?
3. When Jesus says three times in chapter 22, “I am coming soon,” what action is He calling for?

**Prayer from Revelation:** “Jesus, help me to be faithful to you, to never compromise or succumb, and to be willing to bear witness to You, no matter the circumstances.”

**Answers:** waning, **Faithful,** Growing, **dead,** empowered, **wretched,** worshipped, **glory,** endure, **just,** comes