1) THE OVERCOMERS

-An important key towards understanding the plan of God for His people- and for you!

2) The Overcomers is taught throughout the Bible from Genesis (3:15) to Revelation (21:7)

3) IN GENESIS 3:15 God said to the snake (and to Satan), "I will place hostility between you and the woman, between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike you on the head, and you will strike him on the heel."HOSTILITY - ENMITY – CONFLICT - HATRED

4) THERE WILL BE ALWAYS BE HOSTILITY- ENMITY- CONFLICT & WARFARE BETWEEN SATAN and THE SEED OF THE WOMAN (CHRIST & THE OVERCOMERS, Rom.16:20)

-This was prophetic of the coming of Christ- and of all the overcomers, Rom.16:20!

5) In the Book of Exodus, WHEN A DELIVERER WAS TO BE BORN IN EGYPT, PHAROAH HAD ALL THE MALE CHILDREN KILLED.

6) WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM, KING HEROD HAD ALL THE YOUNG MALE CHILDREN KILLED

7) This conflict will come to its fullness in the Last Days! Revelation 12:1-5 tells us about a woman giving birth, while the dragon (Satan) sought to devour the child- but failed (READ)

8) Revelation 12: 9-12 tells us:

Rev. 12:9-12 tells us: “And the great dragon was cast out, the old serpent called Devil, and Satan, who deceives the whole world…. And I heard a great voice saying in Heaven….the accuser of our brothers is cast down, who accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony…. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and those who tabernacle in them.

9) REJOICE, THOSE WHO TABERNACLE IN THE HEAVENS! This is written about the Last Days just before the Second Coming- the overcoming saints who are abiding in heavenly places with Christ will be rejoicing, and victorious over Satan! In the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles, which was at the end of their year, God’s people were to go outside their homes and camp out in booths or tabernacles. This is prophetic of the end of the Church Age, when Christians- and the Body of Christ- are to come to full maturity, and become Overcomers who abide (or *tabernacle*) in heavenly places with Christ, above the power of Satan!

10) THOSE WHO TABERNACLE IN THE HEAVENLIES WILL OVERCOME THE SERPENT/ DRAGON/ SATAN/ (The Cow God / the police chief / the Barrio captain etc.!)

11) Ephesians 1:20-23 tells us that all the body of Christ, the Church, should be seated in heavenly places above all the principalities & powers of Satan, with Satan under our feet. But the realistic fact is, many Christians are carnal and earthbound- and the lowest (most carnal) part of the body of Christ will be attacked by Satan, just as the serpent would strike the heel of the woman’s seed.

12) Rev.12:12 REJOICE, YOU WHO DWELL (TABERNACLE) IN THE HEAVENS- BUT WOE TO THOSE ON THE EARTH! For the Devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has but a little time.” (cast down by Michael and the holy angels, Rev.12:7)

13) Satan will be very angry! Desperate! His time will be short! His last opportunity to win!

14) IN REV.13:4-7 IN THE LAST DAYS THE FORCES OF SATAN WILL SEEK TO CONTROL THE WORLD- AND THEY WILL TEMPORARILY OVERCOME THE SAINTS DWELLING ON THE EARTH! (Satan will not control the overcomers abiding in the heavenlies, but he will overcome the carnal, earthbound Christians in the Last Days.)

“It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

15) As we enter deeper into the Last Days, conflict is increasing around the world- terrorism, drug addiction, moral corruption, financial collapse, interracial conflicts, political instability, etc.

16) WE MUST OVERCOME SIN & SATAN- OR WE WILL BE OVERCOME BY SIN & SATAN!

**REPEAT TO YOUR NEIGHBOR: OVERCOME, OR BE OVERCOME!**

17) A QUESTION: Why didn’t God destroy Satan right after He had sinned? Why has God allowed Satan to repeatedly attack the saints?

18) -Satan attacked Adam & Eve, Gen.3:1-6 callapse

-Satan attacked Job, Job 1:8-12 & 2:4-7

Job 1:8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

Job 1:9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?

**Job 1:10** Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

Job 1:11 But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

Job 1:12 And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

-Satan attacked David, 1 Chron. 21:1 **“**Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel.”

-Satan attacked Peter, Luke 22:31-32 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail”

-Satan attacks the Last Days Church, Revelation chapters 12 & 13

-Satan will attack the multitudes near the end of the Millennium, Revelation 20:7-8 “Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

19) IN THIS EVIL, FALLEN WORLD, WE EACH HAVE THE CHALLENGE- THE OPPORTUNITY- THE NECESSITY- OF OVERCOMING SIN & SATAN!

20) God wants His sons & daughters to grow up and not remain like babies!

21) In 1 Jn.2:12 immature Christians are compared to babies, but in 1 Jn.2:14b maturing Christians are compared to being like young men: “I have written to you, young men, Because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, And you have overcome the wicked one.”

22) GOD WANTS HIS SONS & DAUGHTERS TO GROW UP & OVERCOME SIN AND SATAN!

23) Exodus 15:3 “The Lord is a Man of War” –to become more like God, we need to become good soldiers of Christ! “Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.”

24) Babies can be lazy- do nothing! But a soldier must be able to endure great difficulties!

25) IN THIS EVIL, FALLEN WORLD, WE EACH HAVE THE CHALLENGE- THE OPPORTUNITY- THE NECESSITY- OF OVERCOMING SIN & SATAN!

WE MUST BECOME VICTORS OR VICTIMS!

WE MUST RISE UP- OR FALL DOWN!

WE MUST OVERCOME - OR WE WILL BE OVERCOME!

REV.13:7-8 “It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in D Book of Life of the Lamb slain from D foundation of d world.”

26) TWO CHAPTERS OF THE BIBLE MOST CLEARLY TEACH US HOW WE CAN EACH BECOME OVERCOMERS: REVELATION 2 & 3 – Christ’s letters to the 7 churches.

27) To every church, Christ warns them of their failures and of the attacks of sin & Satan that they would face. THEN THE RISEN CHRIST ENCOURAGED EACH CHURCH TO RISE UP- BECOME OVERCOMERS- AND OBTAIN THE GREAT PROMISES OF GOD!

IN THESE 7 LETTERS OF CHRIST TO THE CHURCHES, WE CAN SEE GOD’S EVALUATION OF ALL THE PROBLEMS IN THE VARIOUS CHURCHES THAT WE NEED TO OVERCOME:

**28) THE SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF THE 7 CHURCHES OF REVELATION 2 & 3**

**REV. 2:1-7 EPHESUS, THE LOVELESS CHURCH**

**REV. 2:8-11 SMYRNA, THE PERSECUTED CHURCH**

**REV. 2:12-17 PERGAMOS, THE COMPROMISING CHURCH**

**REV. 2:18-29 THYATIRA, THE CORRUPT CHURCH**

**REV. 3:1-6 SARDIS, THE DEAD CHURCH**

**REV. 3:7-13 PHILADELPHIA, THE MISSIONARY CHURCH**

**REV. 3:14-22 LAODICEA, THE LUKEWARM CHURCH**

29) THESE ARE THE CHALLENGES THAT THE OVERCOMERS MUST FACE: RESTORING OUR FIRST LOVE (Ephesus) , ENDURING PERSECUTION (Smyrna), REJECTING COMPROMISE (Pergamos), JUDGING CORRUPTION (Thyratira), SURVIVING DEAD CHRISTIANITY (Sardis), BECOMING MISSIONARIES (Philadelphia), OVERCOMING BEING LUKEWARM (Laodicea)

30) BUT THE REWARDS FOR THE OVERCOMERS ARE MUCH GREATER THAN THE TRIALS: EAT OF THE TREE OF LIFE! LIVE FOREVER! EAT OF THE HIDDEN MANNA! RULE THE NATIONS! OUR NAME WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE! BECOME PILLARS- LEADERS- IN THE HOUSE OF GOD! SIT WITH CHRIST ON HIS THRONE!

31) PAUL SAID IN ROMANS 8:18 “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

32) GOD HAS EVALUATED THAT ALL THE SUFFERINGS OF THE WORLD FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS CANNOT BE COMPARED WITH THE POSITIVE RESULTS THAT THE OVERCOMERS WILL GAIN FOR ALL ETERNITY!

33) BUT MAY WE ALSO SEE A CLEAR VISION OF GOD’S PROMISES- AND THE FUTURE REWARDS AWAITING THE OVERCOMERS!

A VISION WORTHY OF LIVING FOR! A GOAL WORTH DYING FOR! TO BECOME THE OVERCOMERS!