

REVEALED Special Study– The Lamb Has Already Overcome

The Lamb has already overcome.

This statement is at the heart of **Revelation's message of hope**. While the book describes **suffering, persecution, and spiritual warfare**, its central encouragement is this:

The battle is already won.

The Lamb **has already overcome**, meaning:

1. **Jesus has already conquered through His death and resurrection.**
2. **The Church's endurance is not about achieving victory—it's about living in the victory Christ has already won.**
3. **Our struggles are temporary, but Christ's triumph is eternal.**

Revelation calls believers to **faithful endurance** by fixing their eyes on this truth:

- **We are not fighting for victory—we are fighting from victory.**

1. The Lamb Has Already Overcome (Revelation 5:5-6, 12:11)

A. The Paradox of Victory: The Lion Who is a Lamb

The **turning point** of Revelation occurs in **Revelation 5**, when John weeps because **no one is worthy to open the scroll of history**. But then, one of the elders tells him:

"Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered (nikaō), so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." (Revelation 5:5, ESV)

John expects to see a **Lion**, a powerful conquering king. Instead, he sees something completely unexpected:

"And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain." (Revelation 5:6, ESV)

This **redefines what true victory looks like**:

- **Jesus has conquered, not by force but by sacrifice.**
- **His death was not a defeat—it was the means of victory.**
- **The Lamb reigns precisely because He was slain.**

The encouragement for believers is clear:

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- If the **Lamb's victory** came through **faithfulness in suffering**, then our **victory comes the same way**.
- We do not need to **fear tribulation**, because **Jesus has already conquered** through it.

B. The Lamb's Victory is Shared by His Followers (Revelation 12:11)

Later in Revelation, believers are described as overcoming **in the same way that Jesus did**:

"And they have conquered (nikaō) him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death." (**Revelation 12:11, ESV**)

This verse reveals **how the Church overcomes the enemy**:

1. **By the blood of the Lamb** – Jesus' death has already secured victory over Satan.
2. **By the word of their testimony** – Believers overcome **not by force, but by faithfully bearing witness to Christ**.
3. **By not loving their lives even unto death** – They conquer **by refusing to give in to fear or compromise**.

This means:

- **The Church's endurance is rooted in Jesus' completed work.**
- **Satan has already lost—his power is only in deception and intimidation.**

Michael Gorman: The Church Overcomes by Following the Lamb

Michael Gorman, in *Reading Revelation Responsibly*, explains:

"The Lamb's victory is not just **for** the Church—it is a model **for** the Church. Just as Jesus overcame through faithfulness, the Church is called to conquer in the same way—not by violence or political power, but by unwavering testimony and sacrificial love." (*Reading Revelation Responsibly*, p. 125)

This is the ultimate encouragement: **The Lamb has already won, and we share in His victory when we remain faithful.**

2. What Does it Mean That the Lamb Has Overcome?

A. Jesus Has Already Defeated the Powers of Evil

- In Revelation, **the Dragon (Satan), the Beast (worldly power), and Babylon (corrupt culture)** all seem strong.
- But **Jesus has already conquered them through His cross and resurrection.**

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“Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.”
(John 12:31, ESV)

This means:

- The Church does **not need to fear Satan’s schemes**, because **his fate is sealed (Revelation 20:10)**.
- Evil will **not have the final word**—the Lamb reigns.

B. The Victory of the Lamb Guarantees the Future Victory of the Church

- In **Revelation 19**, Jesus **returns as the Rider on the White Horse**, showing that His victory will be fully realized.
- In **Revelation 21-22**, the New Jerusalem descends, and God makes **all things new**.

Because **the Lamb has already won**:

- We can endure suffering, knowing that **our future is secure**.
- We can remain faithful, knowing that **Babylon will fall, but the New Jerusalem will last forever**.

N.T. Wright: The Already-But-Not-Yet Victory

N.T. Wright, in *Revelation for Everyone*, writes:

“Revelation reminds us that Jesus has already won the decisive victory, but the world has not yet caught up. The call to endurance is the call to **live now in the light of the victory that is already guaranteed**.” (*Revelation for Everyone*, p. 142)

3. How This Encourages Us Today

A. We Don’t Fight for Victory—We Fight from Victory

Because **the Lamb has already overcome**:

- **We do not need to fear suffering.**
- **We do not need to compromise under pressure.**
- **We can endure, knowing that victory is already won.**

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33, ESV)

B. Worship is an Act of Resistance

- Worship in Revelation **is not passive—it is a declaration of victory**.

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- When believers worship, they **proclaim the Lamb's reign in defiance of the world's powers.**
- The **Beast demands allegiance**, but the Church declares, **"Worthy is the Lamb!"**

C. Faithfulness is the Path to Overcoming

- Jesus calls His followers to **conquer as He conquered (Revelation 3:21).**
- This means **staying faithful in hardship, resisting deception, and holding onto the truth.**
- Our endurance **is not in vain—Jesus has already secured the reward.**

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer... Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10, ESV)

4. Conclusion: Why This Matters

"The Lamb has already overcome," means:

1. **Jesus' death and resurrection secured victory over Satan, sin, and death.**
2. **The Church's suffering is not a sign of defeat but a part of sharing in Jesus' victory.**
3. **The enemy may still deceive and persecute, but his ultimate defeat is certain.**
4. **Faithfulness leads to ultimate triumph—because Jesus has already won.**

Final Thought:

The Lamb reigns. The battle is won. We endure—not to achieve victory, but to live in the victory Christ has already secured.

"To 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." (Revelation 3:21, ESV)