

The Great Reward

Revelation 22:12, "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

Brother Branham told of a special vision he had: And while I was laying there thinking that, I heard something just as plain as you hear my voice, as I was telling you, "**Keep pressing on.**" It comes in such a way, just like these visions here: You say it, and you don't know you said it. You're speaking, talking; you don't know you're talking. When I see a vision before somebody, I don't know what I said. Only the way I know it, go back to the tape here and find it. I don't know what I said, 'cause you're somewhere else in another place, maybe forty, fifty years back down somebody's life or way yonder ahead in somebody's life. You don't know; you just don't know you say it. And I said, "I am pressing on." Said, "**Keep pressing on; keep pressing on.**" Said, "**The great reward is at the end of the road.**" (*Heb. 11:6*). [1]

Revelation 2:7, "... To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the Tree Of Life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."

This is the future reward to all overcomers of all ages. When the last call to battle has been sounded, when our armour has been laid down, **then we will rest in the paradise of God** and our portion shall be the Tree of Life, forever. [2]

The first church age was the Ephesian Church Age, from A.D. 55 to 170. Paul was the star (messenger). "Works without love" was God's complaint.

The reward for the overcomer in this age was **the "Tree of Life,** which is in the midst of the paradise of God." (*Rev. 2:7*).

The second church age Smyrna was 170 to 312, Irenaeus being the messenger of the day. And the complaint was tribulations, and a persecuted church. **The reward, "Crown of Life."** (*Rev. 2:10*).

The third church age was Pergamos, Saint Martin being the messenger to that church. The church age was from 312 to 606. The complaint was "false doctrine, Satan's lying, the foundation of the Papal rule, and marriage was church and state together."

The reward was "hidden manna, and a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." (*Rev. 2:17*).

And the fourth church age was Thyatira; Columba being the angel of that church age, the messenger; it was 606 to 1520. And the church age was Papal seducing, the Dark Ages.

And the reward, was "power to rule over the nations, and the Morning Star," to the angel. (*Rev. 2:26-28*).

Now, the fifth church age is the church age of Sardis. And the messenger to this church age was Martin Luther, becomes more familiar, and that church age began in 1520 and ended in 1750; the age of what we call "Reformation Age." And the complaint was "Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead."

And the reward for the little remnant that was left, was to be clothed in white raiment, and their names will not blotted out of the book of life. (*Rev. 3:5*). [3]

The Philadelphia Church Age lasted from 1750 to 1906. This age, due to the meaning of the name of the city, has been called The Age of Brotherly Love, as Philadelphia means, "love of brethren". The messenger to this church age was John Wesley. [4]

And the reward for the overcomer was: "*Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is the new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name*" (*Rev. 3:12*).

Watch what the overcomer is promised in Laodicea. That's the last church age from 1906 till? **There's going to be some overcomers in there.** Watch there. Remember, each church age, the one preceding it, inherits all that the other ones offered. Watch up here. Now, here, it's after they done received all these powers, these new names, and everything written, that He promised, and eat the hidden manna, and all down through. Watch this last church age.

Revelation 3:21-22, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcome, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches."

There's a reward for overcomers! **Press on, lily. If it's in you, lay aside the mud and everything else, and press towards the top.** Yes, sir. "*To sit with Me on My throne.*"

If we suffer for Christ and His Word, we will reign with Him, for He is the Word. Remember, If we suffer for Him and His Word, we'll reign with Him, **in His Word** (*Rom. 8:17*).

I was crossing an old log the other day, down a hollow, and I jumped up on this log. On the outside, it looked good, looked like a big old beech log. But when I jumped on it, oh, a great chunk of it fell off. It was real rotten and dotty. I said, "That's the way the Christians are becoming." They've been dead in sin and trespasses (*Eph. 2:1-7*), so long, till become doty. **They can hold no weight, at all. They don't know what the overcoming means.** I begin to think of this text, then. **Overcome, keep Life in you.** When life went out, that's what brought that log to that condition. See? And it made it worse than ever when it laid in the branch where the water was.

And then, there, you take a Christian, **that's supposed to be a Christian, let the Life of God go from him, and the experience, the joy of serving Christ;** and, living in a church where such is going on, he rots twice as quick, living right under.

So, **if we are trying to follow the Message of the hour**, or at least this part of the Message, **we should live constantly in the Life of Christ**. See? Cause, if it don't, you lay around, and know That, these things that you're supposed to do, and don't do it. The Bible said, "**He that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it's sin.**" (*James 4:17*). Then you become doty, rotten, when you're separated from the Life of God. **So, strive with all that's in you, to stay in the Life of Christ, that you be fruit-bearing** (*Rom. 7:4-6*). [5]

And when they're having revivals in your churches, you go right on to them, because that's the thing to do 'cause you don't know--might be a sinner come to the altar, **and you might be influenced to lead that person to Christ, which will be your great reward across the other side.** [6]

You might hear me preach this Message. You might see the Holy Spirit discern and do great things, and perform miracles. **You might pray, and it would never come to pass. Go on, your reward comes at the end!** (*Rev. 2:10*). Wouldn't that be better right there? Yeah. **See, do Jesus a service!** That's the end-time Message. He has a Bride. **God's looking for character.** [7]

Look at Elijah, the prophet. He went up there and called fire out of heaven (*I Kings 18:25-39*), called rain out of the heaven on the first day; and closed the heavens and done all that (*James 5:17-18*). **Then when the inspiration left him**, he went out in the wilderness and wanted to die. And God found him, forty days later, pulled back in the cave (*I Kings 19:1-13*).

Look at Jonah, the prophet. After giving his message, he went up and sat down on the hill, asked God to let him die. "Let Thy servant depart in peace." (*Jonah 4:1-4*).

People don't understand it. No, no, you won't. Neither can I explain it, nor no other man. **You can't explain God.** God is not known by scientific research. **God is known by faith.** We believe Him. How can you explain? How would it be faith, anymore? **We know God by faith** (*Heb. 11:6*).

The church will never know the labor and the weary, and the toil and trial, **that's tried to bring It, the Message.** He does. **My reward doesn't come from people** (*Col. 3:23-24*). [8]

For if you love those just who love you, as we shook one another's hands, as dearly beloved in the Lord, that's good, **but can you also love the unlovable?** (*Matt. 5:43-48*). **That's the Spirit of Christ in you, loving those who don't love you, then you have the reward of God.** But, now, if you do it as a duty, you're only up in the second cycle. But it's from your heart you really love him, then you're breathing through the thinking man's Filter. And It satisfies a holy man's taste, **that you know, from your heart you forgive everybody, everything**, no matter what taken place (*Mark 11:25-26*). Isn't He wonderful? [9]

Many of us here, Lord, for since little boys, we've put forth every effort that we knowed how, **to serve You.** Lord, don't let our eyes be blinded to this hour.

Open my eyes, Lord, **that I'll see every promise.** May I be able to punctuate it with an "amen," that it's so, everything that God has promised. Grant it, Lord.

Bless these, my brothers and sisters, here. Some of these little women standing here, **gray-headed, who served in taking care of their husbands, while they worked out there in the fields.** And, God, **You'll reward them,** those men who have fought to win the prize and sailed through bloody seas. [10]

If there's any praise to go to the Branham family, let it go to my wife. She is the one that deserves it, my wife, one of the finest Christian women I know in the world. She's among the elect; I'm sure. God ever bless her gallant soul. **Her reward is great on the other side.** [11]

The Coming of the Lord may be today, it may be tomorrow, it may be next year. We don't know when it will be. But there is one thing sure, **we are promised that we'll meet at a Supper in the skies, and the King shall come out and wipe all tears from our eyes,** and say, "Don't worry; it's all over now. Enter into the joys of the Lord, that's been prepared for you since the foundation of the world, when we were ordained to be sons of God, through Jesus Christ. O Father, God, grant this (*Rev. 21:4-6; Matt. 25:21*). [10]

Job saw that final expression, many hundreds of years ahead. But, being a prophet, in the vision he saw the coming of God's great expression.

He could look down and see the resurrection of the seeds. He could see the resurrection of the trees (*Job 14:1-10*). And the resurrection of the sun, after it had served its time, and raised again; served for a day, raised for another day. Flowers for one funeral service, die, and resurrect for another's funeral service. **Everything serving its purpose.** Then he saw, in the distance, the Coming of that Just One, and screamed, "*I know my Redeemer liveth.*" (*Job 19:25-27*).

"*My flesh shall rest in hope,*" said David, "*because He will not suffer His Holy One to see corruption; neither will He leave His soul in hell.*" (*Psalms 16:9-10*). He saw that day, that perfect expression of God, what He was going to do; to make known, to man, **that death is not the end of the road.**

This is not the end. **This is the beginning. It's the end of sorrow. It's the end of time of decision. But it's beginning of time of joy and reward.** It's not the end of everything. It's just the end of the mortal things, **to begin the immortal thing** (*II Cor. 4:16-18*). [12]

We pray for every need of the church. We pray for our beloved pastor. Oh, God, faithful servant, never tiring, **always ready to go.** Speak to his heart today and **let him know that there's a great reward waiting there for those faithful pastors** when they gather yonder on the other side **with all the redeemed. Bless other pastors, and the missionaries, and the members of the body of Christ everywhere.** [13]

And how I think today of standing here on this platform to speak the Word, and to think that there's men sitting there, not only them men but others with

them, **who were preaching the Gospel before I was born.** And here I am today to stand here. Brethren, I want to say this as a salute to you. You paved the way for what I'm bringing. That's exactly right. God bless those men is my sincere prayer.

Yeah, they stood on the corner and played a guitar, and threw rotten eggs at them, and things like that. Where I come along and get into an auditorium, just running over the highways that they paved. That's right. **God knows every little move, everything's down. I'm sure there'll be a great reward for you someday.** [14]

And now we are happy to know that there is coming a time when the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ (*Rev. 11:15*), **that we shall rule and reign on the earth with Him, a thousand years** (*Rev. 20:4-6*). We're looking forward to that time. And hearing the men speak of their temptations, and how that Satan took our Lord up to the top of the mountain, and in a moment of time showed Him all the governments and kingdoms of the world (*Matt. 4:8-10*), and offered them to Him, but He flatly refused them, because **He knew that someday He was falling heir to them.** And we don't look at things that go on so much temporarily now, **but we look to the end of the road, where the rewards are given** (*I Cor. 3:11-15*). [15]

There's three stages of Ruth. **Ruth deciding**; she was deciding whether she would go back into the homeland or not (just like the Church). **Ruth, serving; when she went out to glean. Ruth, resting; that's what Ruth is doing now** (the Church). **Now Ruth, rewarded**; now that's the next thing happens (**is the reward of the Church**). (*Ruth 4*). [16]

And when Ruth was resting, it was a type of the Church resting in the promises of God! We have the earnest now of our salvation (*Eph. 1:13-14*). **We're not worried whether we're going over there or not, we're going!** That's right. God said so! God promised it and we've got the earnest, done been received, **Christ has accepted us** (*II Cor. 1:21-22*). No way to get away from It now, we're there! Amen! **All we have to do is just wait till He takes...** He's down doing the Kinsman Redeemership. We have the earnest of it right now, **waiting for the time that when He comes back.**

And then what next thing Ruth was, **Ruth was rewarded.**

That's what the Church did. It entered into justification, under Luther. Then it went into sanctification, under Wesley. Went into the baptism of the Holy Ghost, in this last days. **And now resting with the earnest of our inheritance that we know that something happened in us, we've passed from death unto Life** (*John 5:24*), **and waiting, groaning with nature, for that time when we will receive an immortal Life** (*Rom. 8:22-23*), **an immortal fullness; our bodies will be redeemed.** Everything's redeemed, and we're just waiting from Him to return back from the gate. Amen!

Then what? **Ruth was rewarded. That's when we'll be rewarded. That's what this seven-sealed Book is going to open up to us** (*Rev. 10*). What are these

things? **They're mysteries (Matt. 13:10-17). They're not written in the Word, they have to be revealed by the Holy Spirit;** but if you'll notice, actually, they are revealed all down through the Scriptures **but they've been hidden from the people (Matt. 11:25-27).** [17]

Ruth was rewarded. Now, what did they do? **They got married, and through that come this great thing. Then Ruth was rewarded by getting Christ--or getting Boaz for her husband. Which the church is rewarded by...** When the coming of the Lord shall come, on that bright and cloudless morning... We're resting, waiting now. It shall come. Why, it's redeemed. [18]

Question to Brother Branham: *Please explain Matthew 10:41. I would like to know what is a prophet's reward?*

Well now, Jesus said, **"Whosoever receive a prophet in the name of a prophet, receives a prophet's reward."** **A prophet's reward is to be a friend with the prophet.** Whosoever receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man, receives **a righteous man's reward.** Is that right? And if they want to know what a prophet's reward is, **is to be a friend to the prophet.** See? **That's a reward. He's your friend (Matt. 10:40-42).**

Like the Shunammite woman, it might come in handy sometime. See? It did with her (*II Kings 4:8-17*). See, watch God's servants! [19]

A true translation that I proclaim, of prophecy said over Brother Branham, given by Danny Henry in French, February 11th, 1961, at the Full Gospel Business Men's breakfast. Now here's what It said:

"Because thou has chosen the narrow path, the harder way, thou has walked in your own choosing. Thou hast picked the precise and correct way, correct decision, **and it is My way.** (Underlined: "My way," the Holy Spirit speaking back.) Because of this momentous decision, **a huge portion of heaven awaits thee. What a glorious decision thou has made!** This in itself is that which will make, and come to pass, **the tremendous victory in the love Divine."**

Now "in the love Divine"... **How can that be Divine Love if it isn't the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is Divine Love (Rom. 5:5; Rom. 15:30).** [20]

Reference:

[1] "From That Time" (60-0716), par. E-88-89 [2] "Ephesian Church Age", CAB pg. 97 [3] "The Sardisean Church Age" (60-1209), par. 24-28 [4] "Philadelphian Church Age", CAB pg. 288 [5] "How Can I Overcome" (63-0825M), par. 155-159, 41-43 [6] "The Rejected King" (60-0515M), par. 26 [7] "The End Time Evangelism" (62-0603), par. 213 [8] "The Voice of The Sign" (64-0321E), par. 289-292 [9] "A Thinking Man's Filter" (65-0822E), par. 198 [10] "Paradox" (64-0206B), par. 272-274 [11] "The Unchangeable Word of God" (60-0724), par. E-24 [12] "Expressions" (62-0313), par. 43-46 [13] "Joseph Meeting His Brethren" (56-1230), par. E-68 [14] "Jehovah Jireh" (57-0326), par. E-8 [15] "The World Is Falling Apart" (63-0412M), par. 14 [16] "Revelation Chapter 5 Part 1, Bruised Serpent" (61-0611), par. 155 [17] "Revelation Chapter 5 Part 2" (61-0618), par. 116-118 [18] "The Kinsman Redeemer" (60-1002), par. 193 [19] "Questions & Answers" (64-0823E), Q-No. 321, COD pg. 220 [20] "Standing In The Gap" (63-0623M), par. 90-91

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There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.

[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]