

Message Four

Fighting the Spiritual Warfare through Living in Christ's Ascension as the New Creation in Resurrection to Become Christ's Duplication and Counterpart

Scripture Reading: S. S. 4:4, 8, 12-16; 6:4, 10, 13; 8:5-6, 13-14

- S.S. 4:4 Your neck is like the tower of David, / Built for an armory: / A thousand bucklers hang on it, / All the shields of the mighty men.
- S.S. 4:8 Come with me from Lebanon, my bride; / With me from Lebanon come. / Look from the top of Amana, / From the top of Senir and Hermon, / From the lions' dens, / From the leopards' mountains.
- S.S. 4:12 A garden enclosed is my sister, my bride, / A spring shut up, a fountain sealed.
- S.S. 4:13 Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates / With choicest fruit; / Henna with spikenard,
- S.S. 4:14 Spikenard and saffron; / Calamus and cinnamon, / With all the trees of frankincense; / Myrrh and aloes, / With all the chief spices.
- S.S. 4:15 A fountain in gardens, / A well of living water, / And streams from Lebanon.
- S.S. 4:16 Awake, O north wind; / And come, O south wind! / Blow upon my garden: / Let its spices flow forth; / Let my beloved come into his garden / And eat his choicest fruit.
- S.S. 6:4 You are as beautiful, my love, as Tirzah, / As lovely as Jerusalem, / As terrible as an army with banners.
- S.S. 6:10 Who is this woman who looks forth like the dawn, / As beautiful as the moon, / As clear as the sun, / As terrible as an army with banners?
- S.S. 6:13 Return, return, O Shulammitte; / Return, return, that we may gaze at you. / Why should you gaze at the Shulammitte, / As upon the dance of two camps?
- S.S. 8:5 Who is this who comes up from the wilderness, / Leaning on her beloved? / I awakened you under the apple tree: / There your mother was in labor with you; / There she was in labor and brought you forth.
- S.S. 8:6 Set me as a seal on your heart, / As a seal on your arm; / For love is as strong as death, / Jealousy is as cruel as Sheol; / Its flashes are the flashes of fire, / A flame of Jehovah.
- S.S. 8:13 O you who dwell in the gardens, / My companions listen for your voice; / Let me hear it.
- S.S. 8:14 Make haste, my beloved, / And be like a gazelle or a young hart / Upon the mountains of spices.

I. “Your neck is like the tower of David, / Built for an armory: / A thousand bucklers hang on it, / All the shields of the mighty men”—S. S. 4:4:

- S.S. 4:4 Your neck is like the tower of David, / Built for an armory: / A thousand bucklers hang on it, / All the shields of the mighty men.
- A. The neck signifies the human will under God; the Lord considers the submission of our will a most beautiful thing.
- B. The lover of Christ is beautiful in having a will that is submissive to Christ (neck like the tower of David) and that is rich in the defending power (bucklers and shields of the mighty men):
1. If we have a submissive will, a will that has been subdued like a flock of goats on a

mountainside (v. 1b), our will is expressed like the tower of David that holds all kinds of weapons against the attacks.

S.S. 4:1b ... Your hair is like a flock of goats / That repose on Mount Gilead.

2. The lover of Christ has come out of her natural will, and now she is standing in her resurrected will against the enemy—Eph. 6:11, 13.

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,

Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

3. The more our will is subdued, the more we will be transformed—Rom. 12:2.

Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

4. First, our will must be subdued; then it will be strong in resurrection and be like the tower of David, the armory for the spiritual warfare—Eph. 6:10:

Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.

- a. The weapons for spiritual warfare are kept in our subdued and resurrected will—2 Cor. 10:3-5.

2 Cor 10:3 For though we walk in flesh, we do not war according to flesh;

2 Cor 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful before God for the overthrowing of strongholds,

2 Cor 10:5 As we overthrow reasonings and every high thing rising up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought unto the obedience of Christ.

- b. The bucklers and shields that protect us against the arrows of the enemy are kept in the tower of the subdued and resurrected will of the Lord's seeking one.

II. **“Come with me from Lebanon, my bride; / With me from Lebanon come. / Look from the top of Amana, / From the top of Senir and Hermon, / From the lions' dens, / From the leopards' mountains”—S. S. 4:8:**

S S 4:8 Come with me from Lebanon, my bride; / With me from Lebanon come. / Look from the top of Amana, / From the top of Senir and Hermon, / From the lions' dens, / From the leopards' mountains.

- A. The experience of Christ's death and resurrection has brought the seeking one into His ascension, and now she is on the mountaintop of Christ's ascension and is living in ascension—Eph. 1:20; 2:5-6.

Eph 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,

Eph 2:5 Even when we were dead in offenses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)

Eph 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

- B. Christ calls His lover to live with Him in His ascension, as He had called her to remain in His cross—S. S. 2:14:

S.S. 2:14 My dove, in the clefts of the rock, / In the covert of the precipice, Let me see your countenance, / Let me hear your voice; / For your voice is sweet, / And your countenance is lovely.

1. Christ asks His lover as His bride to look with Him from His ascension (Lebanon), the highest place of the truth (Amana) and of Christ's victory in His fighting (Senir, meaning "soft armor, " and Hermon, meaning "destruction") and from the heavenly places of the enemies (the lions' dens and the leopards' mountains)—4:8.

S.S. 4:8 Come with me from Lebanon, my bride; / With me from Lebanon come. / Look from the top of Amana, / From the top of Senir and Hermon, / From the lions' dens, / From the leopards' mountains.

2. When the lover of Christ is living in ascension, she and Christ are living in one condition, the condition of ascension, to be a couple; they are the same in life and nature, perfectly matching each other.

C. In Christ's ascension is His victory; there is no more fighting, for the enemy has already been defeated, and we wear soft armor to enjoy our victory in Christ; the position of prayer is ascension, that is, a heavenly position—Rom. 8:37; Eph. 2:6.

Rom 8:37 But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us.

Eph 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,

III. Through her living in Christ's ascension as the new creation in resurrection, Christ's transformed bride becomes a garden for Christ's private enjoyment—S. S. 4:12-16.

S.S. 4:12 A garden enclosed is my sister, my bride, / A spring shut up, a fountain sealed.

S.S. 4:13 Your shoots are an orchard of pomegranates / With choicest fruit; / Henna with spikenard,

S.S. 4:14 Spikenard and saffron; / Calamus and cinnamon, / With all the trees of frankincense; / Myrrh and aloes, / With all the chief spices.

S.S. 4:15 A fountain in gardens, / A well of living water, / And streams from Lebanon.

S.S. 4:16 Awake, O north wind; / And come, O south wind! / Blow upon my garden: / Let its spices flow forth; / Let my beloved come into his garden / And eat his choicest fruit.

IV. When the overcoming lover of Christ becomes one with God to be God's dwelling place, in the eyes of God she is as beautiful as Tirzah and as lovely as Jerusalem; however, to the enemy she is as terrible as an army with banners—6:4, 10:

S.S. 6:4 You are as beautiful, my love, as Tirzah, / As lovely as Jerusalem, / As terrible as an army with banners.

S.S. 6:10 Who is this woman who looks forth like the dawn, / As beautiful as the moon, / As clear as the sun, / As terrible as an army with banners?

A. The lover of Christ is beautiful and comely before the Lord, as solid as the heavenly city and as serene as the sanctuary; at the same time, she displays the glory of her victory before the enemy and the world—v. 4:

S.S. 6:4 You are as beautiful, my love, as Tirzah, / As lovely as Jerusalem, / As terrible as an army with banners.

1. Weapons are the most important thing to an army in battle, but unfurled banners, signifying the glory of victory, are the most important thing in victory—Exo. 17:15.

Exo 17:15 And Moses built an altar and called the name of it Jehovah-nissi;

2. Banners indicate a readiness to fight and are also a sign that the victory has been won—Isa. 59:19.

Isa 59:19 So they will fear the name of Jehovah from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the adversary comes like a flood, The Spirit of Jehovah will lift up a standard against him.

B. A life within the veil is not only a life before the Lord but also a life before the enemy—S. S. 6:4; Heb. 10:19; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 6:10-12:

S.S. 6:4 You are as beautiful, my love, as Tirzah, / As lovely as Jerusalem, / As terrible as an army with banners.

Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brothers, boldness for entering the Holy of Holies in the blood of Jesus,

2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.

Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,

Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

1. God has no intention that the lovers of Christ possess the heavenly beauty without possessing a warring nature—2 Cor. 11:2; 10:4-6.

2 Cor 11:2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

2 Cor 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful before God for the overthrowing of strongholds,

2 Cor 10:5 As we overthrow reasonings and every high thing rising up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought unto the obedience of Christ.

2 Cor 10:6 And we are ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

2. The overcoming lover of Christ not only has a future that is full of hope and a life that is absolutely heavenly, but she also is a victor who constantly triumphs in her victory—S. S. 3:7-8.

S.S. 3:7 There is Solomon's bed; / Sixty mighty men surround it, / Of the mighty men of Israel. S.S. 3:8 All of them wield the sword and are expert in war; / Each man has his sword at his thigh / Because of the night alarms.

C. The lovers of Christ should be lovable and terrible at the same time; however, many believers have lost their loveliness before the Lord and their terribleness before the enemy—6:4, 10.

S.S. 6:4 You are as beautiful, my love, as Tirzah, / As lovely as Jerusalem, / As terrible as an army with banners.

S.S. 6:10 Who is this woman who looks forth like the dawn, / As beautiful as the moon, / As clear as the sun, / As terrible as an army with banners?

D. The building of God is always an army; when we become a city to the Lord, we are an army to the enemy—v. 4:

S.S. 6:4 You are as beautiful, my love, as Tirzah, / As lovely as Jerusalem, / As terrible as an army with banners.

1. Building cannot be separated from spiritual warfare; wherever the building is, there is the

battle—Neh. 4:1-23.

- Neh 4:1 And when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he became angry and was greatly enraged; and he mocked the Jews.
- Neh 4:2 And he spoke to his brothers and the army of Samaria and said, What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the dust heaps, though they are burned?
- Neh 4:3 And Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, Even their stone wall that they are building, if a fox were to go up on it, he would breach it.
- Neh 4:4 Hear, O our God, for we are despised; and turn their reproach upon their own head, and give them as spoil in the land of captivity;
- Neh 4:5 And do not cover their iniquity and do not let their sin be blotted out before You, for they made provocations before the builders.
- Neh 4:6 So we built the wall; and all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a heart to work.
- Neh 4:7 And when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabians and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the restoration of the walls of Jerusalem was advancing, that the breaches were beginning to be closed up, they became very angry;
- Neh 4:8 And all of them conspired together to come and fight against Jerusalem and cause confusion in it.
- Neh 4:9 But we prayed to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.
- Neh 4:10 And Judah said, The strength of the burden bearers fails, And the debris is great; And we are not able To build the wall.
- Neh 4:11 And our adversaries said, They will not know, nor even see, until we come into their midst and slay them and cause the work to stop.
- Neh 4:12 And when the Jews who dwelt near them came, they said to us ten times, They will come up against us from all the places that you turn to.
- Neh 4:13 So I set men in the lowest places behind the wall, on the exposed areas, and I set the people by families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.
- Neh 4:14 And when I saw the situation, I rose up and said to the nobles and the rulers and the rest of the people, Do not be afraid of them; remember the great and awesome Lord, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your houses.
- Neh 4:15 And when our enemies heard that their counsel was known to us and that God frustrated it, we all returned to the wall, each man to his work.
- Neh 4:16 And from that day half of my servants labored in the work, and half of them held the spears and the shields and the bows and the armor; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah.
- Neh 4:17 Those who built the wall and those who carried burdens took the loads with one hand doing the work and with the other holding a weapon.
- Neh 4:18 And as for the builders, each had his sword strapped to his side, and so they built; and he who sounded the trumpet was beside me.
- Neh 4:19 And I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, The work is great and large, and we are separated on the wall, each far from the other.
- Neh 4:20 In whatever place you hear the sound of the trumpet, gather yourselves to us there. Our God will fight for us.
- Neh 4:21 So we labored in the work; and half of them held spears from the start of dawn until the stars came out.
- Neh 4:22 I also said to the people at that time, Let every man and his servant spend the nights inside Jerusalem so that they may be a guard for us by night and work by day.
- Neh 4:23 So neither I nor my brothers nor my servants nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes; each had his weapon at his right hand.

2. Fighting always accompanies the building, and the building always brings in the victory in the battle—Matt. 16:18-19.

Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Matt 16:19 I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of the heavens, and whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in the heavens, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in the heavens.

3. This is the consummation of the Christian life; the uttermost completion that the seeking lover of Christ can attain is to be a city as an army.

E. A terrible army signifies that the Lord's overcomers terrify God's enemy, Satan—S. S. 6:4, 10:

S.S. 6:4 You are as beautiful, my love, as Tirzah, / As lovely as Jerusalem, / As terrible as an army with banners.

S.S. 6:10 Who is this woman who looks forth like the dawn, / As beautiful as the moon, / As clear as the sun, / As terrible as an army with banners?

1. Satan is afraid of only one kind of people—those who do not love their soul-life—Rev. 12:11.

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.

2. The enemy is terrified of Bethel, the house of God—Gen. 35:1-5.

Gen 35:1 And God said to Jacob, Rise up, go up to Bethel, and dwell there; and make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.

Gen 35:2 Then Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, Put away the foreign gods that are among you, and purify yourselves, and change your garments.

Gen 35:3 And let us rise up and go up to Bethel, that I may make an altar there to the God who answered me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.

Gen 35:4 So they gave Jacob all the foreign gods which were in their hand and the rings which were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the oak that was near Shechem.

Gen 35:5 And as they journeyed, the terror of God was upon the cities that were around them, so they did not pursue the sons of Jacob.

3. The enemy is frightened by the church that is built up as the city of God—Neh. 6:15-16; Psa. 102:12-16.

Neh 6:15 So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth day of the month of Elul, in fifty- two days.

Neh 6:16 And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations that surrounded us were afraid and fell very low in their own eyes, for they knew that this work was done with the help of our God.

Psa 102:12 But You, O Jehovah, abide forever; And Your memorial is from generation to generation.

Psa 102:13 You will arise and have compassion on Zion, For it is time to be gracious to her; the appointed time has come.

Psa 102:14 For Your servants take pleasure in her stones, And show favor to her soil.

Psa 102:15 And the nations will fear the name of Jehovah, And all the kings of the earth, Your glory;

Psa 102:16 For Jehovah has built up Zion; He has appeared in His glory.

4. The demons and the evil angels are terrified of the one new man created by Christ on the cross—Eph. 2:15-16; Col. 2:14-15.

- Eph 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,
 Eph 2:16 And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.
 Col 2:14 Wiping out the handwriting in ordinances, which was against us, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.
 Col 2:15 Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

5. Satan is not afraid of individualistic Christians, even if they number in the thousands, but is terrified of the church as the Body of Christ, the corporate warrior fighting against him and his kingdom—Eph. 6:10-20.

- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
 Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
 Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
 Eph 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
 Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth and having put on the breastplate of righteousness
 Eph 6:15 And having shod your feet with the firm foundation of the gospel of peace;
 Eph 6:16 Besides all these, having taken up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one.
 Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
 Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,
 Eph 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known in boldness the mystery of the gospel,
 Eph 6:20 For which I am an ambassador in a chain, that in it I would speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

V. On the day of His wedding, Christ will marry those who have been fighting the battle against God’s enemy for years; that is, Christ will marry the overcomers, who have already overcome the evil one—Rev. 19:7-9, 11-16:

- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
 Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
 Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
 Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
 Rev 19:12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written which no one knows but Himself.
 Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.
 Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
 Rev 19:15 And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He

will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

Rev 19:16 And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, King Of KINGS And Lord Of LORDS.

- A. When Christ comes to fight against Antichrist and his army, He will come as the Son of Man, and as the Son of Man, He will need a counterpart to match Him and complete Him; this counterpart will be His bride—14:14; 19:7-9:

Rev 14:14 And I saw, and behold, there was a white cloud, and on the cloud One like the Son of Man sitting, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.

Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.

Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.

1. Eventually, the overcomers will be a bride collectively to marry Christ; after their wedding, this bride will become an army to fight alongside Christ, her Husband, to defeat Antichrist and his followers—vv. 11-16.

Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

Rev 19:12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written which no one knows but Himself.

Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.

Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

Rev 19:15 And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

Rev 19:16 And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, King Of KINGS And Lord Of LORDS.

2. When Christ, the Bridegroom, sees that we have reached maturity, He will marry the bride and then come with her to defeat Antichrist and his army and to terminate human government—Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45.

Dan 2:34 You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.

Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Dan 2:44 And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever.

Dan 2:45 Inasmuch as you saw that out of the mountain a stone was cut without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will happen afterward; and the dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy.

- B. The overcomers who constitute the bride of Christ fight the battle against all the enemies of God and defeat them—Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21:

- Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
- Rev 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall by no means be hurt of the second death.
- Rev 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except him who receives it.
- Rev 2:26 And he who overcomes and he who keeps My works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations;
- Rev 3:5 He who overcomes will be clothed thus, in white garments, and I shall by no means erase his name out of the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
- Rev 3:12 He who overcomes, him I will make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall by no means go out anymore, and I will write upon him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which descends out of heaven from My God, and My new name.
- Rev 3:21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.

1. The overcomers fight against the self—the inward adversary and the most difficult foe—slaying it by the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God—Eph. 6:17-18.

- Eph 6:17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
- Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

2. The overcomers resist and defeat the principle of antichrist and the characteristics of antichrist—1 John 2:18, 22; 2 John 7; 2 Thes. 2:3-12.

- 1 John 2:18 Young children, it is the last hour; and even as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come; whereby we know that it is the last hour.
- 1 John 2:22 Who is the liar if not he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son.
- 2 John 7 For many deceivers went out into the world, those who do not confess Jesus Christ coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.
- 2 Thes 2:3 Let no one deceive you in any way, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of perdition,
- 2 Thes 2:4 Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or an object of worship, so that he sits in the temple of God, setting himself forth, saying that he is God.
- 2 Thes 2:5 Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I said these things to you?
- 2 Thes 2:6 And now you know that which restrains, so that he might be revealed in his own time.
- 2 Thes 2:7 For it is the mystery of lawlessness that is now operating, but only until the one now restraining goes out of the way.
- 2 Thes 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord Jesus will slay by the breath of His mouth and bring to nothing by the manifestation of His coming),
- 2 Thes 2:9 The coming of whom is according to Satan's operation in all power and signs and wonders of a lie
- 2 Thes 2:10 And in all deceit of unrighteousness among those who are perishing, because they did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved.
- 2 Thes 2:11 And because of this God sends to them an operation of error that they might believe the lie,

- 2 Thes 2:12 So that all who have not believed the truth but have taken pleasure in unrighteousness might be judged.
3. The overcomers war the good warfare against the differing teachings and to carry out God's economy—1 Tim. 1:3-4; 6:3-5, 12, 20-21; 2 Tim. 2:3-4.
- 1 Tim 1:3 Even as I exhorted you, when I was going into Macedonia, to remain in Ephesus in order that you might charge certain ones not to teach different things
- 1 Tim 1:4 Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God's economy, which is in faith.
- 1 Tim 6:3 If anyone teaches different things and does not consent to healthy words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the teaching which is according to godliness,
- 1 Tim 6:4 He is blinded with pride, understanding nothing, but is diseased with questionings and contentions of words, out of which come envy, strife, slanders, evil suspicions,
- 1 Tim 6:5 Perpetual wranglings of men corrupted in mind and deprived of the truth, supposing godliness to be a means of gain.
- 1 Tim 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith; lay hold on the eternal life, to which you were called and have confessed the good confession before many witnesses.
- 1 Tim 6:20 O Timothy, guard the deposit, turning away from profane, vain babblings and oppositions from what is falsely called knowledge,
- 1 Tim 6:21 Because of which some, professing this, have misaimed regarding the faith. Grace be with you.
- 2 Tim 2:3 Suffer evil with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
- 2 Tim 2:4 No one serving as a soldier entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please the one who enlisted him.
4. The overcomers engage in the warfare of life against death and reign in life over death—Matt. 16:18; 1 Tim. 6:19; 2 Tim. 1:10; 1 John 3:14; Rom. 5:17, 21.
- Matt 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
- 1 Tim 6:19 Laying away for themselves a good foundation as a treasure for the future, that they may lay hold on that which is really life.
- 2 Tim 1:10 But now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who nullified death and brought life and incorruption to light through the gospel,
- 1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brothers. He who does not love abides in death.
- Rom 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- Rom 5:21 In order that just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
5. The overcomers conquer the destructive satanic chaos and triumph in the constructive divine economy; instead of being delivered out of the present chaos, they conquer the chaos by the processed and consummated Triune God as the all-sufficient grace—2 Tim. 1:9, 15; 2:1, 17-18; 4:22.
- 2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages
- 2 Tim 1:15 This you know, that all who are in Asia turned away from me, of whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes.
- 2 Tim 2:1 You therefore, my child, be empowered in the grace which is in Christ Jesus;
- 2 Tim 2:17 And their word will spread like gangrene, of whom are Hymenaeus and Philetus,

- 2 Tim 2:18 Who concerning the truth have misaimed, saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and overthrow the faith of some.
- 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you.

VI. In the maturity of Christ’s life, the lover of Christ becomes the Shulammitte, signifying that she has become the reproduction and duplication of Christ to match Him for their marriage—S. S. 6:13; cf. 8:13-14; Rev. 22:20:

- S.S. 6:13 Return, return, O Shulammitte; / Return, return, that we may gaze at you. / Why should you gaze at the Shulammitte, / As upon the dance of two camps?
- S.S. 8:13 O you who dwell in the gardens, / My companions listen for your voice; / Let me hear it.
- S.S. 8:14 Make haste, my beloved, / And be like a gazelle or a young hart / Upon the mountains of spices.
- Rev 22:20 He who testifies these things says, Yes, I come quickly. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

A. To say that we are the same as God in the Godhead is a great blasphemy, but if we say that we cannot be the same as God in life, nature, expression, and function, this is unbelief; the Bible tells us repeatedly that God’s intention is to be one with us and to make us one with Him—21:2; 22:17a; cf. Heb. 4:2.

- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Rev 22:17a And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! ...
- Heb 4:2 For indeed we have had the good news announced to us, even as they also; but the word heard did not profit them, not being mixed together with faith in those who heard.

B. The Shulammitte is likened to the dance of two camps, or two armies (Heb. mahanaim), in the sight of God; after Jacob saw the angels of God, the two armies of God, he named the place where he was Mahanaim and divided his wives, children, and possessions into “two armies”—S. S. 6:13; Gen. 32:1-2:

- S.S. 6:13 Return, return, O Shulammitte; / Return, return, that we may gaze at you. / Why should you gaze at the Shulammitte, / As upon the dance of two camps?
- Gen 32:1 And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.
- Gen 32:2 And Jacob said when he saw them, This is God's camp. So he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

1. The spiritual significance of the two armies is the strong testimony that we more than conquer, we “super-overcome,” through Him who loved us, according to the principle of the Body of Christ—Rom. 8:37; 12:5.

- Rom 8:37 But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us.
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

2. God does not want those who are strong in themselves; He wants only the feeble ones, the weaker ones, the women and children—1 Cor. 1:26-28; 2 Cor. 12:9-10; 13:3-5.

- 1 Cor 1:26 For consider your calling, brothers, that there are not many wise according to flesh, not many powerful, not many wellborn.
- 1 Cor 1:27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world that He might shame those who are wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world that He might shame the things that are strong,
- 1 Cor 1:28 And the lowborn things of the world and the despised things God has chosen, things which are not, that He might bring to nought the things which are,

- 2 Cor 12:9 And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather boast in my weaknesses that the power of Christ might tabernacle over me.
- 2 Cor 12:10 Therefore I am well pleased in weaknesses, in insults, in necessities, in persecutions and distresses, on behalf of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am powerful.
- 2 Cor 13:3 Since you seek a proof of the Christ who is speaking in me, who is not weak unto you but is powerful in you.
- 2 Cor 13:4 For indeed He was crucified out of weakness, but He lives by the power of God. For indeed we are weak in Him, but we will live together with Him by the power of God directed toward you.
- 2 Cor 13:5 Test yourselves whether you are in the faith; prove yourselves. Or do you not realize about yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you, unless you are disapproved?
3. God needs a people who are one with Him, a people who are submissive to Him, signified by the plaited hair (S. S. 1:11), and obedient to Him with a flexible will, signified by the neck with strings of jewels (v. 10).
- S.S. 1:11 We will make you plaits of gold / With studs of silver.
- S.S. 1:10 Your cheeks are lovely with plaits of ornaments, / Your neck with strings of jewels.
4. Those who are counted worthy to be overcomers will be the weaker ones who depend on the Lord—Eph. 3:8; Rev. 3:8; Gal. 2:20.
- Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
- Rev 3:8 I know your works; behold, I have put before you an opened door which no one can shut, because you have a little power and have kept My word and have not denied My name.
- Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.
5. When we consider how to arrive at the highest peak of the divine revelation, we should not trust in ourselves but depend on the Lord as love, power, and mercy to make us vessels of mercy, honor, and glory—Rom. 9:16, 21-23; S. S. 8:5-6.
- Rom 9:16 So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.
- Rom 9:21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?
- Rom 9:22 And what if God, wishing to demonstrate His wrath and make His power known, endured with much long-suffering vessels of wrath fitted for destruction,
- Rom 9:23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,
- S.S. 8:5 Who is this who comes up from the wilderness, / Leaning on her beloved? / I awakened you under the apple tree: / There your mother was in labor with you; / There she was in labor and brought you forth.
- S.S. 8:6 Set me as a seal on your heart, / As a seal on your arm; / For love is as strong as death, / Jealousy is as cruel as Sheol; / Its flashes are the flashes of fire, / A flame of Jehovah.