

The Story of Jesus: He Overcame the World
(Lesson 88)

Introduction:

1. Peter concluded his second letter with an admonition concerning growth in the knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18).
2. Jesus gave the key to achieving this growth in John 5:39 when He said, "*Search the Scriptures.*"
3. In this lesson we are concentrating on a statement Jesus made in John 16:33 -- "*I have overcome the world.*"
4. In this verse Jesus first mentioned the things He had spoken to the apostles [His words recorded in ch.14-16].
5. Jesus revealed His purpose for saying these things [that the apostles might have peace in Him].
6. Even though the apostles would face tribulation in the world, they could "*be of good cheer.*"
7. They could be of good cheer because Jesus had "overcome" the world.
 - a. By overcoming the world, Jesus had conquered the world, He had prevailed against the world, and He had gained the victory over the world.
 - b. The fact that Jesus overcame the world would be a source of encouragement to the apostles -- it is also a source of encouragement to us.
8. Let us examine . . .

Discussion:

I. SOME WAYS IN WHICH JESUS OVERCAME THE WORLD

- A. Jesus overcame Satan's temptations after He was baptized (Mark 1:9-13).
- B. Jesus overcame difficult experiences, including:
 1. the loss of:
 - a. His forerunner: John (Matthew 14:10-13)
 - b. a close friend: Lazarus (John 11:35-36)
 2. rejection by:
 - a. His disciples (John 6:66)
 - b. His family (John 7:5)
 - c. His countrymen (John 8:59)
 3. betrayal (John 18:3-5)
 4. unjust treatment (John 19:1-3)
 5. being forsaken by His close friends (Matthew 26:56).
- C. Jesus overcame resentment and retaliation (1 Peter 2:21-23).
- D. The Bible shows how we can benefit from the example set by Jesus as He overcame the world (Hebrews 4:15-16; 12:1-3).
- E. In addition to overcoming the world Himself, . . .

II. JESUS WANTS HIS FOLLOWERS TO OVERCOME THE WORLD

- A. According to 1 John 5:4-5, requirements for overcoming the world include "faith," "believing that Jesus is God's Son," and "being born of God."
- B. In His messages to the 7 churches of Asia Jesus revealed the blessings in store for those who overcome.
 1. Revelation 2:7 (Ephesus)
 2. Revelation 2:11 (Smyrna)
 3. Revelation 2:17 (Pergamos)
 4. Revelation 2:26 (Thyatira)
 5. Revelation 3:5 (Sardis)
 6. Revelation 3:12 (Philadelphia)
 7. Revelation 3:21 (Laodicea)
- C. Additional blessings are revealed in Revelation 21:7.