

# Abraham, Isaac & Jacob

## The Custodians of the Covenant

### and their Descendants *Part 12*

#### **John 8 AMPC**

*1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.*

*2 Early in the morning (at dawn), He came back into the temple [[a]court], and the people came to Him in crowds. He sat down and was teaching them,*

*3 When the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery. They made her stand in the middle of the court and put the case before Him.*

*4 Teacher, they said, This woman has been caught in the very act of adultery.*

*5 Now Moses in the Law commanded us that such [women—offenders] shall be stoned to death. But what do You say [to do with her—what is Your sentence]?*

*6 This they said to try (test) Him, hoping they might find a charge on which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger.*

*7 However, when they persisted with their question, He raised Himself up and said, Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.*

*8 Then He bent down and went on writing on the ground with His finger.*

*9 They listened to Him, and then they began going out, conscience-stricken, one by one, from the oldest down to the last one of them, till Jesus was left alone, with the woman standing there before Him in the center of the court.*

*10 When Jesus raised Himself up, He said to her, Woman, where are your accusers? Has no man condemned you?*

11 She answered, No one, Lord! And Jesus said, I do not condemn you either. Go on your way and from now on sin no more.

12 Once more Jesus addressed the crowd. **He said, I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me will not be walking in the dark, but will have the Light which is Life.**

13 Whereupon the Pharisees told Him, You are testifying on Your own behalf; Your testimony is not valid and is worthless.

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14 Jesus answered, Even if I do testify on My own behalf, My testimony is true and reliable and valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going; but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.

15 You [set yourselves up to] judge according to the flesh (by what you see). [You condemn by external, human standards.] I do not [set Myself up to] judge or condemn or sentence anyone.

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16 Yet even if I do judge, My judgment is true [My decision is right]; for I am not alone [in making it], but [there are two of Us] I and the Father, Who sent Me.

17 In your [own] Law it is written that the testimony (evidence) of two persons is reliable and valid.

18 I am One [of the Two] bearing testimony concerning Myself; and My Father, Who sent Me, He also testifies about Me.

19 **Then they said to Him, Where is this [b]Father of Yours? Jesus answered, You know My Father as little as you know Me. If you knew Me, you would know My Father also.**

**20 Jesus said these things in the treasury while He was teaching in the temple [[c]court]; but no one ventured to arrest Him, because His hour had not yet come.**

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21 Therefore He said again to them, I am going away, and you will be looking for Me, and you will die in (under the curse of) your sin. Where I am going, it is not possible for you to come.

22 At this the Jews began to ask among themselves, Will He kill Himself? Is that why He says, Where I am going, it is not possible for you to come?

23 He said to them, You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world (of this earthly order); I am not of this world.

**24 That is why I told you that you will die in (under the curse of) your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He [Whom I claim to be—if you do not adhere to, trust in, and rely on Me], you will die in your sins.**

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25 Then they said to Him, Who are You anyway? **Jesus replied, [Why do I even speak to you!] I am exactly what I have been telling you from the first.**

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26 I have much to say about you and to judge and condemn. But He Who sent Me is true (reliable), and I tell the world [only] the things that I have heard from Him.

27 They did not perceive (know, understand) that He was speaking to them about the Father.

**28 So Jesus added, When you have lifted up the Son of Man [on the cross], you will realize (know, understand) that I am He [for Whom you look] and that I do nothing of Myself (of My own accord or on My own authority), but I say [exactly] what My Father has taught Me.**

29 And He Who sent Me is ever with Me; My Father has not left Me alone, for I always do what pleases Him.

**30 As He said these things, many believed in Him [trusted, relied on, and adhered to Him].**

**31 So Jesus said to those Jews who had believed in Him, If you abide in My word [hold fast to My teachings and live in accordance with them], you are truly My disciples.**

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**32 And you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free.**

**33 They answered Him, We are Abraham's offspring (descendants) and have never been in bondage to anybody. What do You mean by saying, You will be set free?**

**34 Jesus answered them, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, Whoever commits and practices sin is the slave of sin.**

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*35 Now a slave does not remain in a household permanently (forever); the son [of the house] does remain forever.*

*36 So if the Son liberates you [makes you free men], then you are really and unquestionably free.*

**37 [Yes] I know that you are Abraham's offspring; yet you plan to kill Me, because My word has no entrance (makes no progress, does not find any place) in you.**

**38 I tell the things which I have seen and learned at My Father's side, and your actions also reflect what you have heard and learned from your father.**

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39 They retorted, Abraham is our father. Jesus said, If you were [truly] Abraham's children, then you would do the works of Abraham [follow his example, do as Abraham did].

40 But now [instead] you are wanting and seeking to kill Me, a Man Who has told you the truth which I have heard from God. This is not the way Abraham acted.

41 You are doing the works of your [own] father. They said to Him, We are not illegitimate children and born out of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

42 Jesus said to them, If God were your Father, you would love Me and respect Me and welcome Me gladly, for I proceeded (came forth) from God [out of His very presence]. I did not even come on My own authority or of My own accord (as self-appointed); but He sent Me.

43 Why do you misunderstand what I say? It is because you are unable to hear what I am saying. [You cannot bear to listen to My message; your ears are shut to My teaching.]

44 You are of your father, the devil, and it is your will to practice the lusts and gratify the desires [which are characteristic] of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a falsehood, he speaks what is natural to him, for he is a liar [himself] and the father of lies and of all that is false.

45 But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me [do not trust Me, do not rely on Me, or adhere to Me].

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46 Who of you convicts Me of wrongdoing or finds Me guilty of sin? Then if I speak truth, why do you not believe Me [trust Me, rely on, and adhere to Me]?

47 Whoever is of God listens to God. [Those who belong to God hear the words of God.] This is the reason that you do not listen [to those words, to Me]: because you do not belong to God and are not of God or in harmony with Him.

48 The Jews answered Him, Are we not right when we say You are a Samaritan and that You have a demon [that You are under the power of an evil spirit]?

49 Jesus answered, I am not possessed by a demon. On the contrary, I honor and reverence My Father and you dishonor (despise, vilify, and scorn) Me.

50 However, I am not in search of honor for Myself. [I do not seek and am not aiming for My own glory.] There is One Who [looks after that; He] seeks [My glory], and He is the Judge.

**51 I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if anyone observes My teaching [lives in accordance with My message, keeps My word], he will by no means ever see and experience death.**

**52 The Jews said to Him, Now we know that You are under the power of a demon (Idjinsane). Abraham died, and also the prophets, yet You say, If a man keeps My word, he will never taste of death into all eternity.**

**53 Are You greater than our father Abraham? He died, and all the prophets died! Who do You make Yourself out to be?**

54 Jesus answered, If I were to glorify Myself (magnify, praise, and honor Myself), I would have no real glory, for My glory would be nothing and worthless. [My honor must come to Me from My Father.] It is My Father Who glorifies Me [Who extols Me, magnifies, and praises Me], of Whom you say that He is your God.

**55 Yet you do not know Him or recognize Him and are not acquainted with Him, but I know Him. If I should say that I do not know Him, I would be a liar like you. But I know Him and keep His word [obey His teachings, am faithful to His message].**

**56 Your forefather Abraham was extremely happy at the hope and prospect of seeing My day (My incarnation); and he did see it and was delighted.**

57 Then the Jews said to Him, You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?

**58 Jesus replied, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, before Abraham was born, I Am.**

**59 So they took up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus, by mixing with the crowd, concealed Himself and went out of the temple [e]nclosure.**

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In part 11 we read that as a result of habitual disobedience God will remove or blot out that person(s) name. So, our name can be blotted out or removed from the Book of Life but not by some external force but as a result of our lack of following God’s Word, habitual obedience, belief in or reliance on Jesus or the Word.

“Once saved always saved” or “Eternal Security” regardless of how we live our life is not true, it is a lie according to Jesus Himself. To say’ “you were never really saved” doesn’t align with God’s Word, your name can’t be blotted out if it was never written in the Book of Life.

**Revelation 3:5 AMPC**

5 Thus shall he who conquers (is victorious) be clad in white garments, and I will not erase or blot out his name from the Book of Life; I will acknowledge him [as Mine] and I will confess his name openly before My Father and before His angels.



### **Exodus 32:30-33 AMPC**

*30 The next day Moses said to the people, You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin. 31 So Moses returned to the Lord, and said, Oh, these people have sinned a great sin and have made themselves gods of gold!*

*32 Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—**and if not, blot me, I pray You, out of Your book which You have written!***

***33 But the Lord said to Moses, Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him [not you] out of My book.***

The Bible gives us the answers or evidence that a child of God, a follower or imitator of Christ can sin and through habitual disobedience can have their name removed or blotted out. There are numerous passages in God's Word warning Christians about the danger of sin and the false teaching of "Once Saved Always Saved" as Paul wrote in Romans chapter 11 to the Gentiles regarding the dangers of what the Jewish people were taught to believe by their religious leaders.

### **Romans 11:20-21 AMPC**

*20 That is true. But they were broken (pruned) off because of their unbelief (their lack of real faith), and you are established through faith [because you do believe]. So do not become proud and conceited, but rather stand in awe and be reverently afraid.*

*21 For if God did not spare the natural branches [because of unbelief], neither will He spare you [if you are guilty of the same offense].*

In part 12 we are going to look at the argument(s) of the Bible passages or evidence offered to show that a child of God cannot so sin as to be lost for all of eternity. It can be very confusing when people use passages to defend "once saved, always saved." You and I need to understand the arguments and how to answer them. Some of these passages do offer hope and security to believers, but they are conditional passages, and these conditions are often overlooked. If we study the verses in light of what we have already learned we will see that, **while they do give security to those who are faithful, they do not teach unconditional "once saved, always saved."**

## Part 2: Evidence Offered to Show that a Child of God Cannot So Sin as to Be Lost

John 10:27 - 29 - "They shall never perish ... no one shall snatch them out of my hand"

### **John 10:27-29 AMPC**

27 The sheep that are My own hear and are listening to My voice; and I know them, and they follow Me.

28 And I give them eternal life, **and they shall never lose it or perish throughout the ages. [To all eternity they shall never by any means be destroyed.] And no one is able to snatch them out of My hand.**

29 My Father, Who has given them to Me, is greater and mightier than all [else]; and no one is able to snatch [them] out of the Father's hand.

### **John 10:27-29 KJV**

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; **and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.**

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

***"They shall never perish ... no one shall snatch them out of my hand"***. This is a wonderful promise. But is it so unconditional that a person's soul cannot be lost no matter how they live?

The context gives conditions - v27, 28.

Note the word "and" repeated. Receiving life and never perishing are tied to hearing Jesus and following him. These are conditions, exactly like we have been studying God's Word, the Truth, the whole Truth.

As the Good Shepherd, Jesus protects His sheep so no one can destroy them, as long as the sheep hear Jesus and follow Him. But what if they cease to hear and follow, as we have learned elsewhere they can do?

"**Pluck**" refers to an outside force.

"Pluck" (KJV) or "snatch" (AMPC, NKJV, ASV) means "to seize, carry off by force" (Thayer), like the thief might do (v10,12). Neither Satan nor any outside force can steal you from the Lord, as long as you meet the conditions.

But we must "resist the devil," and then we have assurance he will flee from us (James 4:7). What happens if, through negligence or willful rebellion, we wander away from the protection of Jesus' fold?

**Sheep can stray from the shepherd's protection.**

**Luke 15:3-7 AMPC**

*3 So He told them this parable:*

*4 What man of you, if he has a hundred sheep and should lose one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness (desert) **and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?***

*5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his [own] shoulders, rejoicing.*

*6 And when he gets home, he summons together [his] friends and [his] neighbors, saying to them, Rejoice with me, because **I have found my sheep which was lost.***

*7 Thus, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven **over one [[a]especially] wicked person who repents ([b]changes his mind, abhorring his errors and misdeeds, and determines to enter upon a better course of life)** than over ninety-nine righteous persons who have no need of repentance.*

**Luke 15:3-7** - 100 sheep belonged to the shepherd (v4,6), ***but one became lost.***

**Acts 20:28-30** - Wolves may enter among the flock, speak perverse things, and ***draw away*** the disciples. They cannot compel us to follow them and be lost. We may still choose to follow the Lord's voice. But false teachers can ***lure us***, attract us, and tempt us.

**1 Peter 5:8 AMPC**

**8 Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [[a]in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour.**

**1 Peter 5:8, 9** - Satan is a roaring lion seeking to devour us. If we do not withstand him, he can capture and destroy us. But we can withstand him if we have faith and vigilance. This is what Jesus promised in John 10. (John 17; 6:37-40; I Pet. 2:25).

If sheep cannot possibly stray, even of their own free will, then this would deny our free moral power to choose. We could not become lost even if we wanted to!

**1 John 3:9 - One begotten of God "does not sin ... he cannot sin"**

**1 John 3:9 KJV**

*9 Whosoever is born of God **doth not commit sin;** for his seed remaineth in him: **and he cannot sin,** because he is born of God.*

**1 John 3:9 AMPC**

*9 No one born (begotten) of God [deliberately, knowingly, and [a]habitually] practices sin, for God's nature abides in him [His principle of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him]; and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God.*

**Let's look at what all of the Bible has to say about this and not just one verse...**

**Acts 3:22-23 AMPC**

*22 Thus Moses said to the forefathers, The Lord God will raise up for you a Prophet from among your brethren as [He raised up] me; Him you shall listen to and understand by hearing and heed in all things whatever He tells you.*

*23 And it shall be that every soul that does not listen to and understand by hearing and heed that Prophet shall be utterly [a]exterminated from among the people.*

We have already shown many passages showing that it is possible for a child of God to sin. Many more verses, even in 1 John and addressed to these same people, show this is true:

**1 John 1:8, 10** - If we say we don't sin, we lie and truth is not in us. This is exactly the condition of many who argue for "once saved, always saved"!

**1 John 2:1, 2** - John wrote so we would avoid sin. Jesus is our propitiation (atonement) if we do sin. If sin is impossible, why write, and why would we need propitiation?

**1 John 2:15-17** - Love not the world. If we do, we don't love the Father (1 Cor. 16:22). Why warn us, if it is impossible to be guilty?

**1 John 5:21** - **Guard yourself from idols.** Why, if it is impossible to be guilty of sin?

**2 Peter 2:14** - Some children of God (v1,15) "cannot cease from sin"!

**If 1 John 3:9 means children of God cannot possibly commit sin, then this passage means these children of God cannot possibly quit sinning!**

Clearly 1 John 3:9 does not mean sin is impossible, else we have contradictions in the Bible. In fact, some people who believe "once saved, always saved," will admit sin is possible.

**"Does not sin" refers to persisting in the practice of sin ...**

So, a child of God is not able to sin? They why did John write this?

### **1 John 1:9 AMPC**

*9 If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness [everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action].*

A true child of God may occasionally commit acts of sin (but it is not their habit), but they must repent, confess, and be forgiven by Jesus' blood (1:9; 2:2). They must not continue in the practice of sin. Why not?

But, many in the 'Once saved always saved' state that, if you are truly predestined or saved **"you cannot sin"**!

Does this mean it is humanly impossible under any circumstances to transgress? To sin, to miss the mark? So, what is the New Testament about? Who is their audience?

"Can" (Gk DUNAMAI) means: "to be able, have power, whether by virtue of one's own ability and resources, or of state of mind, or through favorable circumstances, or by permission of law and custom" (Thayer).

**Examples elsewhere show it does not necessarily mean physical or human impossibility, but rather that law, state of mind, or circumstances do not allow it:**

1 Corinthians 10:21 - You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons (it is not lawful).

Acts 4:20 - We cannot but speak the things we have seen and heard (law and state of mind do not permit it).

Mark 2:19 - Sons of the bridechamber cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them (circumstances make it such that no one would do it).

Hence 1 John 3:9 means that, when one has accepted God's word into his heart and so becomes a child of God, **his attitude and the principles of the word will not allow him to continue practicing sin.** God's Word (the seed) has become the guiding principle of their heart, and it would be inconsistent with God's Word or Law or Precepts to continue practicing sin.

**For example, suppose an employer asks a Christian employee to tell a lie. The Christian replies, "I can't do a thing like that." Is it physically impossible? No, but it is completely contrary to his nature as a child of God. As long as his attitude toward God's word is right, he will not do it.**

### **Passages that Say We Have Eternal Life**

Numerous passages are cited which say we have eternal life: John 10:28; 17:3; 5:24; 3:36; 6:47; 3:16; I John 5:12,13. Some argue that, if we have it, and if it is eternal, then we cannot lose it. If we do, it wasn't eternal.

**We have eternal life now only as a promise or hope.**

**1 John 2:25** - This is the **promise** He has promised us, even life eternal.

**James 1:12** - The crown of life which the Lord **promised** to those who love Him.

**Titus 1:2; 3:7** - The **hope** of eternal life, which God **promised**.

We receive eternal life, in the sense of a present possession, only after earthly life is over and then only if we endure faithfully till life is over.

**Luke 18:30** - We receive eternal life "in the world to come."

**Romans 2:5-7** - Eternal life will be given at the judgment **IF we continue patiently in well doing.** [This is the same time that the wicked will receive eternal punishment - Matt. 25:46. Does this happen in this life?]

**Revelation 2:10** - Be faithful **until death and receive** the crown of life.

**In this life, we "have" eternal life in the sense of a promise or a hope based on faith. But we actually enter eternal life at the judgment if and only if we continue living faithfully till life is over. This is a conditional promise. We will be lost if we fail to meet the conditions.**

**The proof texts, used to defend "present possession" of eternal life, themselves state conditions to be met.**

**John 5:24** - **He who hears and believes.** But we have shown that one can cease doing these.

**John 6:47; 3:16,36** - **He that believes.** But one can cease believing.

**Note: Belief/faith without acts of obedience leads to death - Ja. 2:26**

**John 10:27,28** - Hear Jesus' voice **and follow Him.**

**John 17:3** - Know God. But one can forget God, turn from Him, and cease to know Him (I John 2:3-6; Jer. 3:21,22; Psa. 9:17; 106;12,21,24).

**Note:** also that saving faith requires obedience, and to cease to obey is to cease to have a saving faith - James 2:14-26; Heb. 10:39; chap. 11; Gal. 5:6; etc.

The fact life is "eternal" does not prove we cannot lose it. "Eternal" describes the nature of the life. It has nothing to do with whether it can or cannot be lost.



Example: Suppose someone offers me a watch guaranteed to work for 50 years, but I must do some task in order to receive it. It is still a "50-year watch" regardless of whether or not I do the job and receive it.

There are so many more passages we could study, break down and apply to come up against the false doctrine or life of "eternal security" (regardless of how I live), "once saved always saved", "nothing can take me out of God's hand - not even the way I choose to live" but the last question or argument I want to address is:

**If Jesus' blood saves by itself with no conditions to be met, then why is faith necessary?**

In practice, everyone admits there are some conditions necessary to be saved by Jesus' blood. Most people admit we must believe we need a savior, that only Jesus or He can save us and most agree we must repent and confess Christ as Lord and Savior. (See John 3:16; 8:24; 2 Pet. 3:9; Rom. 10:9,10; 6:3,4; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Mark. 16:16; etc.)

But these are simply conditions we must meet to receive the benefit of Jesus' death. To admit this is to admit Jesus' death alone, without conditions people must meet, will not save until the end.

**Luke 21:34-36 AMPC**

*34 But take heed to yourselves and be on your guard, lest your hearts be overburdened and depressed (weighed down) with the [a]giddiness and headache and [b]nausea of self-indulgence, drunkenness, and worldly worries and cares pertaining to [the [c]business of] this life, and [lest] that day come upon you suddenly like a trap or a noose;*

*35 For it will come upon all who live upon the face of the entire earth.*

*36 Keep awake then and watch at all times [be discreet, attentive, and ready], **praying that you may have the full strength and ability and be accounted worthy to escape all these things** [taken together] that will take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man.*

But if we agree there are conditions people must meet to be saved, then why object when we point out from the Scriptures that these necessary conditions include a faithful life to the end to receive the Promise? These no more deny the power of Jesus' death than do faith, repentance, etc.

The Bible shows that there are conditions children of God must meet to be cleansed by Jesus' blood.

**1 John 1:7-9 AMPC**

*7 But if we [really] are living and walking in the Light, as He [Himself] is in the Light, we have [true, unbroken] fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses (removes) us from all sin and guilt [keeps us cleansed from sin in all its forms and manifestations].*

*8 If we say we have no sin [refusing to admit that we are sinners], we delude and lead ourselves astray, and the Truth [which the Gospel presents] is not in us [does not dwell in our hearts].*

*9 If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just (true to His own nature and promises) and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness [everything not in conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action].*

To be cleansed by Jesus' blood, we must "walk in the light" and "confess our sins." To deny this is to deny the clear teaching of Scripture.

**Acts 8:22 AMPC**

*22 So repent of this depravity and wickedness of yours and pray to the Lord that, if possible, this [a]contriving thought and purpose of your heart may be removed and disregarded and forgiven you.*

A child of God who sinned was clearly told that, to be cleansed of his sin, he must repent and pray. It is Jesus' blood that forgives. But just as there are conditions we must meet to be cleansed and become a child of God, so there are conditions we must meet to be cleansed after we are children of God.

### **Revelation 3:1-6 AMPC**

*1 And to the angel (messenger) of the assembly (church) in Sardis write: These are the words of Him Who has the seven Spirits of God [[a]the sevenfold Holy Spirit] and the seven stars: I know your record and what you are doing; you are supposed to be alive, but [in reality] you are dead.*

*2 Rouse yourselves and keep awake, and strengthen and invigorate what remains and is on the point of dying; for I have not found a thing that you have done [any work of yours] meeting the requirements of My God or perfect in His sight.*

*3 So call to mind the lessons you received and heard; continually lay them to heart and obey them, and repent. In case you will not rouse yourselves and keep awake and watch, I will come upon you like a thief, and you will not know or suspect at what hour I will come.*

*4 Yet you still have a few [persons'] names in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes, and they shall walk with Me in white, because they are worthy and deserving.*

*5 Thus shall he who conquers (is victorious) be clad in white garments, and I will not erase or blot out his name from the Book of Life; I will acknowledge him [as Mine] and I will confess his name openly before My Father and before His angels.*

*6 He who is able to hear, let him listen to and heed what the [Holy] Spirit says to the assemblies (churches).*



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