

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 17

THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA

*PERSEVERING IN OBEDIENCE
UNTIL THE END*

(REV. 3:7-13)



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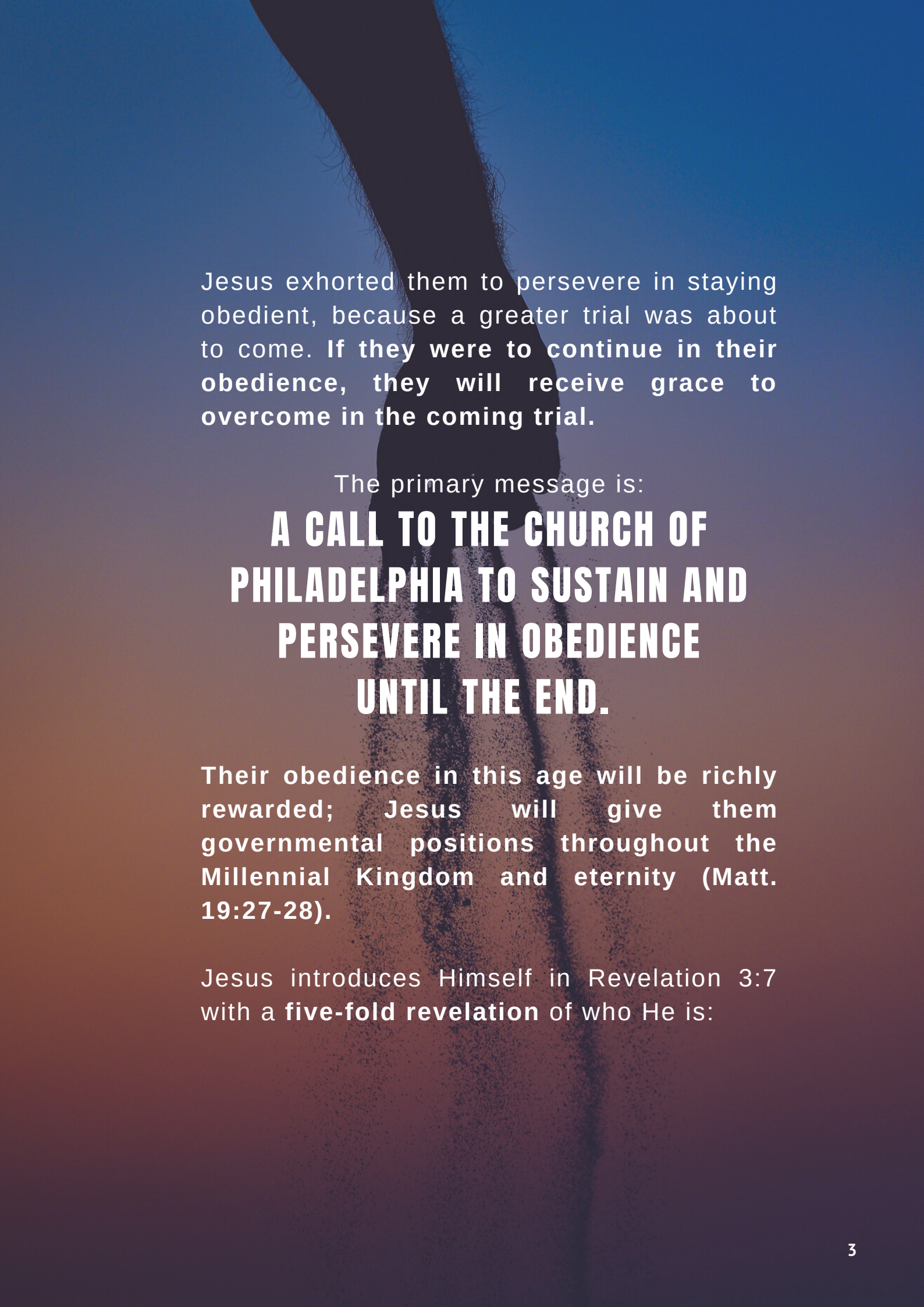


Do you know that the temptation to quit is one of the most common temptations facing believers?

THE OVERCOMER IS ONE WHO PERSEVERES AND DOES NOT QUIT.

That is why Jesus gave one of the highest affirmations to the Church of Philadelphia, **who have kept His Word, not denied His name, and have kept His command to persevere.**

When Jesus said, "*I know your works*" in Revelation 3:8, He was saying that He knew that they had remained faithful and obedient despite the pressures and persecutions they were going through.



Jesus exhorted them to persevere in staying obedient, because a greater trial was about to come. **If they were to continue in their obedience, they will receive grace to overcome in the coming trial.**

The primary message is:

**A CALL TO THE CHURCH OF
PHILADELPHIA TO SUSTAIN AND
PERSEVERE IN OBEDIENCE
UNTIL THE END.**

Their obedience in this age will be richly rewarded; Jesus will give them governmental positions throughout the Millennial Kingdom and eternity (Matt. 19:27-28).

Jesus introduces Himself in Revelation 3:7 with a **five-fold revelation** of who He is:



1. HE WHO IS HOLY

As God – it is referring to the transcendence of who God is. Meaning that Jesus is worthy of our all, our obedience and our sacrifice.

As a man – Jesus can understand the price, the sacrifice and the pain that we go through when we pursue obedience in God, because He Himself had stayed obedient even unto death!

2. HE WHO IS TRUE

Jesus is reliable and trustworthy. All His promises are Yes and Amen.

3. HE WHO HAS THE KEY OF DAVID

The key of David is the ultimate key of authority. The background of the key of David is Isaiah 22:15-25 where Eliakim was given the key to all the resources of Israel for a season.

Jesus, who is the descendant of David, has all the authority forever. He has every ability to release or shut all resources to the kingdom. He has the authority to decide who will rule and reign with Him and their roles.



4. HE WHO OPENS

Jesus is the One who opens the doors for us, both in this age or the Age-to-come, be it doors of opportunities or influence (Acts 14:27; 2 Cor. 2:12; Col. 4:3), doors in the Spirit unto the revelation of God's heart (Matt. 11:27), or Jesus releasing the destiny and plan of God in our lives.

5. HE WHO SHUTS

Jesus is the one who can shut all hostility and the scheme of the enemy that comes against us.

Jesus gave the Church of Philadelphia **eight promises** if they overcome in persevering in obedience:

1 He will set an open door before us (Rev. 3:8).

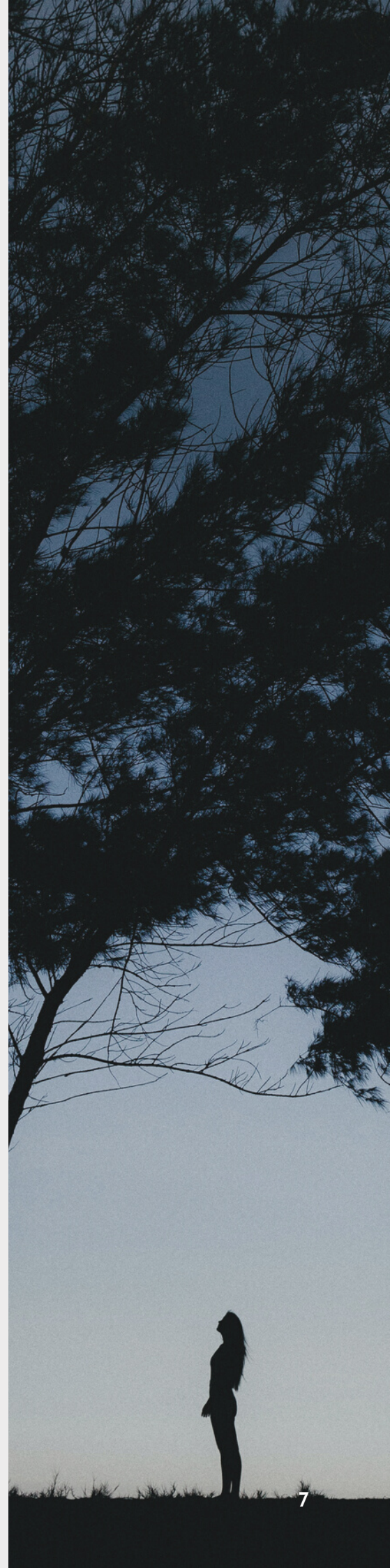
It is an invitation of Jesus to the governmental positions of honour in His eternal government


Jesus, who holds the key of David, is opening the door for us to partner with Him to rule and reign.

It is an invitation of Jesus to have access to the revelation of God's heart.

2 He will make those who persecute us come and worship before our feet (Rev. 3:9; Isa. 45:14; 49:23; 60:14).

This speaks of the vindication of God, for the faithful and the obedient.





In the Age-to-come, **God will vindicate us openly in a way that will totally blow our minds.**

3

He will make them know that He has loved us (Rev. 3:9).

The Father will publicly declare His love for us.

4

He will keep us from the hour of trial (Rev. 3:10).

With regards to the Great Tribulation, many have wondered if this verse meant that we will be removed from the scene before the trial comes, or that we will be preserved in the midst of the Great Tribulation.

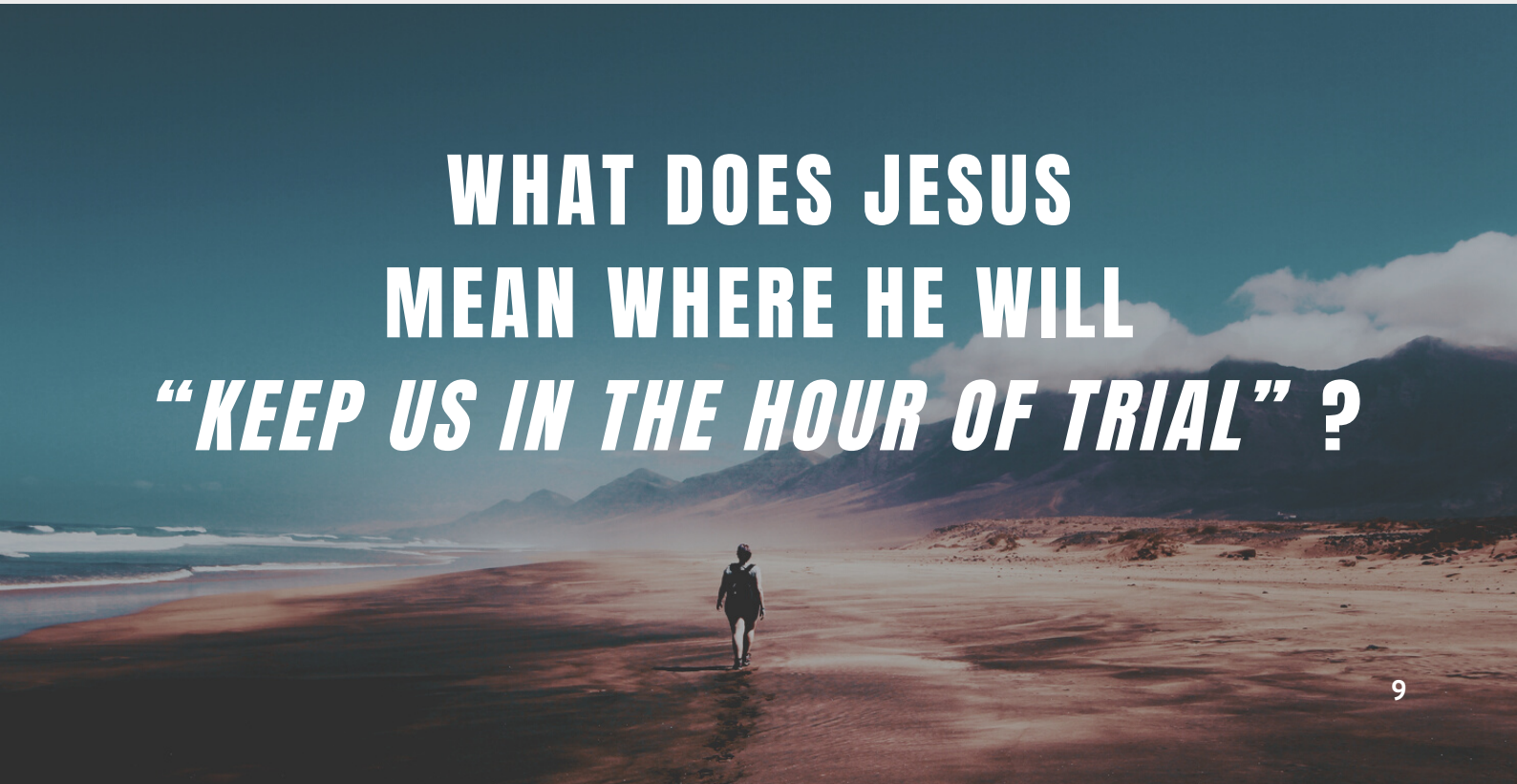
There are two reasons why this verse is not about God removing us from the scene:

If this verse is about God rapturing us away before the Tribulation, **this letter will be irrelevant**, as it is about Jesus exhorting us to persevere in obedience until the end.

That is why Jesus, in His final prayer in John 17 before He went to the cross, **did not ask the Father to take us out of the world, but He asked that we will be preserved here in victory** (Jn. 17:15).

If we were to be raptured before the Tribulation, it **will contradict many scriptures which tell us that saints will be martyred in the Great Tribulation** (Dan. 7:21-25; 8:24; 11:33-35; Rev. 6:9-11).

Scripture is consistent in telling us that there will be martyrs in the Great Tribulation.

A person is walking away from the viewer on a vast, flat, reddish-brown landscape that stretches to the horizon. The sky is a deep blue with some white clouds. The overall mood is one of solitude and contemplation.

**WHAT DOES JESUS
MEAN WHERE HE WILL
“KEEP US IN THE HOUR OF TRIAL” ?**



JESUS WILL KEEP US SPIRITUALLY.

Jesus will keep us spiritually. He will enable us to faithfully obey God in the midst of tribulation and not give in to compromise.

JESUS WILL KEEP US FROM JUDGMENT, FROM THE WRATH OF GOD.

The seals, trumpets and bowls are released on the rebellious. God will keep His saints who are faithful and obedient.

At the end of the day, **our great reward is not being kept from harm.**

Our greatest reward is having the grace and power to love wholeheartedly and being obedient even in the midst of the greatest persecution!



5

He will make us a pillar in the temple (Rev. 3:12).

Pillars play an important role in bearing the weight of a building. They were used in ancient times to honor a deceased person. Jesus is saying that He will reward His overcoming saints with positions of authority, responsibility, and honour in the Millennial Kingdom and eternity.

6

He will write on us the name of His God.

Jesus will release a greater revelation of God's heart and mind to us.

7

He will write on us the name of the city of His God.

This means three things:

- I. We will have **authority in the city.**
- II. We have **access to the city.**
- III. We will have the **ability to understand what this city is about.**

8

He will write on us His new name.

Jesus will reveal Himself in a deeper way to those who overcome.



There is an important warning in Revelation 3:11. We can lose the crowns that are due to be given to us if we do not stay faithful and obedient.



Hence a season of obedience is not good enough. We have to stay with it, stick with it and keep pressing in hard until the end.

***HIS REWARDS WILL
OVERWHELM US. IT WILL
BE WELL WORTH IT!***



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