

## 1 How To Conquer the World?

### 2 Scripture

- Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the Father also loves his child. (1 John 5:1)
- This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. (1 John 5:2)
- This is love for God: to obey his commands. (1 John 5:3a)
- And his commands are not burdensome (1 John 5:3b) for everyone born of God overcomes the world. (1 John 5:4a)

### 3 Scripture

- This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. (1 John 5:4b)
- Who is it that overcomes the world? (1 John 5:5a)
- Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. (1 John 5:5b)

## 4 Napoleon

- "He came from nothing. He conquered everything."
- That's the tagline for Ridley Scott's film Napoleon, released in the fall of 2023.
- Movie critics praised Joaquin Phoenix's portrayal of the French general who terrorized Europe in the early 19th century.

## 5 Napoleon

- In a way, Napoleon came from nothing.
- Born on the remote Mediterranean island of Corsica, he faced discrimination as a young army officer.
- His Italian name was Buonaparte (he later changed it to the French-sounding Bonaparte).

- Due to his questionable reputation earlier in his career, he was one of the few military officers who survived the chaos of the Reign of Terror during the French Revolution.

## **6 Reign of Terror**

- The Reign of Terror was a period of the French Revolution when a series of massacres and numerous public executions took place in response to
  - revolutionary fervor, anticlerical sentiment, and accusations of treason by the Committee of Public Safety.
- From September 5, 1793, to July 27, 1794, there were up to 45,000 deaths, including many priests and nuns who would not swear allegiance to the state or renounce their faith.
- At this time, many churches were desecrated, and there was a decline in all religious observances.

## **7 Reign of Terror**

- In fact, a statue of Reason was erected in Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris in 1793.
- The statue was intended to personify the concept of Reason and replace the cathedral's previous religious symbolism.
- Even the calendar underwent significant changes to reflect the revolutionary spirit.
- The French Republican Calendar removed Sundays and used a calendar with ten-day weeks and 30-day months.
- Many churches resisted the change, and some even closed their doors in protest.

## **8 Napoleon**

- After the Reign of Terror, France experienced a significant power vacuum due to the execution of many leaders.
- When the remaining royalists tried to restore themselves to power, Napoleon ordered his men to load their cannons with grapeshot and turn them on the mob of aristocrats.
- The cobblestones of Paris ran red with blood.

- After the smoke cleared, this fierce Corsican military officer was the most powerful man in France.

9

## 10 Napoleon

- In the coming years, his army would overrun nearly all continental Europe.
- By 1812, his empire stretched from Spain on the west to Poland and Austria on the east.
- But once set in motion, the juggernaut of conquest is hard to stop.
- Rather than quitting while he was ahead, Napoleon boldly sent his army into Russia in late summer, looking for a swift victory.
- The question was could anyone defeat him?

11

## 12 Napoleon

- The Russians like to say General Winter defeated him.
- The soldiers, in their overconfidence,
  - pushed too far ahead,
  - leaving their supply lines vulnerable.
- The Russian soldiers, well-prepared and clad in heavy fur coats, emerged from their strategic hiding places and swiftly overcame the remaining enemies, securing a decisive victory.
- Napoleon's Grand Army invaded Russia with 612,000 soldiers, but only 120,000 returned, losing 492,000 men.
- After facing immense pressure, Napoleon was compelled to step down from his position in France after defeat at the Battle of Leipzig in 1813 and was subsequently sent into exile to the Island of Elba.

### **13 The Napoleonic Wars**

- The Napoleonic Wars, a significant historical period, spanned from 18 May 1803 to 20 November 1815, lasting 12 years, six months, and two days.
- Due to conscription (i.e., draft), artillery improvements, foraging, scorched earth, and limited medicine, soldiers and civilians suffered horrific casualties.
- During the Napoleonic Wars, Napoleon's opponents suffered 4 million military and civilian deaths or casualties.
- The French Empire lost a total of 2 million people, including 306,000 killed in action, 65,000 French allies killed in action, 800,000 killed by wounds, accidents, or disease, and 600,000 civilians killed.

### **14 Napoleon**

- After losing power and being defeated by British General Wellington at the Battle of Waterloo on June 18, 1815, Napoleon spent the rest of his life as a prisoner on a remote island in the South Atlantic.
- During the zenith of his rule, Napoleon was not just a man but a figure of immense power and influence. The people of Europe viewed him as a force capable of conquering the entire world.
- However, like so many others, Napoleon met his Waterloo, as does everyone who forgets what overcoming the world is really all about.
- Napoleon died on May 5, 1821, in exile on the tiny island of St. Helena, a defeated and broken man. He was 51 years old.

### **15 The Obscurity of Jesus Christ**

- There is another man of history who, in a sense, "came out of nowhere," and that is the person, Jesus Christ.
- His birth in a stable in Bethlehem, with only a few shepherds as witnesses, was hardly the grand entrance one might expect for a religious figure of his significance.

- Additionally, his family's flight to Egypt to escape King Herod's massacre of infants only adds to the sense of secrecy and danger that surrounded his early life.
- Even as an adult, Jesus often spoke in parables and used metaphorical language, which could be difficult for many to understand.
- These factors combined to create a sense of mystery and obscurity around Jesus and his teachings.

## 16 The Obscurity of Jesus Christ

- Isaiah says of him, ...
  - He grew up before him like a tender shoot and like a root out of dry ground. (Isaiah 53:2a)
  - He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. (Isaiah 53:2b)
- Again, Isaiah says, ...
  - He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering. (Isaiah 53:3a)
  - Like one from whom men hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (Isaiah 53:3b)

## 17 The Obscurity of Jesus Christ

- Even according to Jesus' own words, ...
  - "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." (Matthew 8:20)
- Even in Jesus' own hometown, it was said,
  - "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas? (Matthew 13:55)

- Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"
- And they took offense at him." (Matthew 13:56-57)

## 18 The Obscurity of Jesus Christ

- When Jesus gave the "good confession" before the High Priest Caiaphas at his trial, it was said, ...
  - "He is worthy of death," ... Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?" (Matthew 26:66-68)
- On the cross, ...
  - Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross if you are the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:39-40)
  - In the same way, the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! (Matthew 27:41-42)

## 19 Grief will Turn to Joy

- During Jesus' "Last Supper," Jesus told his disciples, ...
  - "In a little while, you will see me no more, and then after a little while, you will see me? (John 16:19)
  - Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. (John 16:20a)
  - You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy." (John 16:20b)
- So why would Jesus' disciples have such a change of emotions?

## 20 Grief will Turn to Joy

- However, Jesus' disciples are confused, and Jesus has to explain himself to them, by saying,

- “On that day, you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. (John 16:23)
- Until now, you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask, and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.” (John 16:24)
- “I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)
- So then, what has Jesus overcome and defeated?

## 21 To Overcome

- The Greek word (nikaō) means ...
  - to overcome, or
  - to defeat or conquer, to win a victory over, as in a contest or military conflict.
- The “world” in the context refers to where Satan reigns and the place where godly people face all kinds of temptations, persecutions, and trouble to serve God.
- Jesus, in His infinite wisdom, understands that our earthly journey is fraught with troubles and sorrows. Now, through “his name,” answered prayer will help bring success.
- Thus far, Jesus has overcome the world, and after that night’s temptation in the Garden, the deal will be sealed.
- Jesus would obey the Father no matter what and redeem a people from the control of the Evil One, who too would be overcomers.

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## 23 The Temptation in the Desert

- When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, the Bible says the Holy Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness to be tested by Satan.

- The three areas that Satan tempted Jesus were...
  - "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." (Luke 4:3)
  - "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours." (Luke 4:6-7)
  - If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here." (Luke 4:9)
- When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. (Luke 4:13)

## 24 Satan Using Peter to Tempt Jesus

- From that time on, Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the law and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. (Matthew 16:21)
- Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.
  - "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" (Matthew 16:22)
- Jesus turned and said to Peter,
  - "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns." (Matthew 16:23)

## 25 The Temptation in the Garden

- The other place in Scripture when Jesus was tempted was in the Garden of Gethsemane, right before his crucifixion.
  - Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. (Luke 22:39)
  - On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." (Luke 22:40)

- He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down, and prayed,
  - "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:41-42)

## 26 The Temptation in the Garden

- An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. (Luke 22:43)
- And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. (Luke 22:44)
- When he rose from prayer and returned to the disciples,
  - he found them asleep,
  - exhausted from sorrow. (Luke 22:45)
- "Why are you sleeping?" he asked them. (Luke 22:46a)
- "Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation." (Luke 22:46b)

## 27 The Honor of a Overcomer

- Jesus fulfilled his redemptive mission by overcoming all the worldly and satanic temptations thrown at him.
- As a selfless servant, Jesus did not come to be served but to serve, and he willingly laid down his life as a ransom for many. [See Mark 10:45]
- In the same way, our attitude should be the same as Jesus', and we should overcome the temptation to seek personal glory or honor.
- The honor we should strive for is the honor that is given by God.

## 28 The Honor of a Overcomer

- Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. (Philippians 2:6-7)

- And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! (Philippians 2:8)
- Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

## 29 Summary

- When Jesus spoke to his disciples while they were together at the Garden of Gethsemane, he told them twice to pray so they would not fall into temptation.
- Jesus gave that instruction because he wanted them to be overcomers.
- In fact, in the Lord's Prayer,
  - we have that very instruction as well as Jesus tells us to pray,
  - "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:13)

## 30 Warning!

- Even the Apostle Peter, who did fall into temptation that night when Jesus was arrested and taken away, has a word of exhortation for us.
- He says, ...
  - Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (1 Peter 5:8)
  - Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. (1 Peter 5:9)

## 31 The Honor of a Overcomer

- So then, what will happen to Christians who overcome the world?
  - To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. (Rev. 2:7)
  - He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death. (Rev. 2:11)
  - To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. (Rev. 2:17)
  - To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations. (Rev. 2:26)

## 32 Conclusion

- Napoleon was a renowned general and an esteemed Emperor, but he spent his final days on a remote island in the South Atlantic, where he lived a life of exile.
- Jesus Christ took on the role of a humble servant and served faithfully, offering up his life as a ransom for many, and was exalted.
- Jesus Christ overcame/conquered every temptation, and we can, too, by being faithful to Him.
- They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb (freedom to serve God) and by the word of their testimony (profession of faith); they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. (Rev. 12:11)

## 33 He Who Overcomes!

- He said to me:
  - "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. (Revelation 21:6a)
  - To him who is thirsty, I will give him a drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. (Revelation 21:6b)
  - He who overcomes will inherit all this; I will be his God, and he will be my son." (Revelation 21:7)