

Mike Hogue
Sept 27, 2026

Our Returning King

A Name Worth Having

Revelation 3:1-6



¹“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, and *yet* you are dead.

Revelation 3:1 (NASB 2020)





¹²Therefore let the one who thinks he stands watch out that he does not fall.

1 Corinthians 10:12 (NASB 2020)

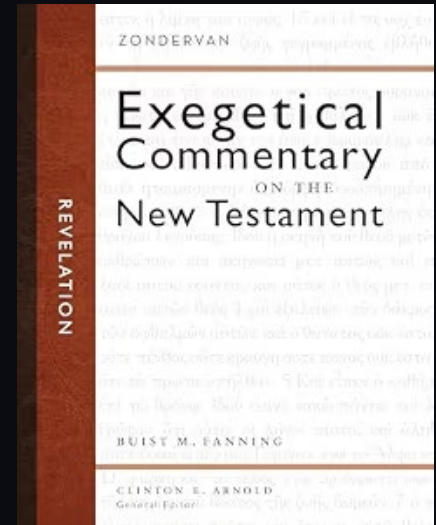
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Revelation 3:1 (NASB 2020)

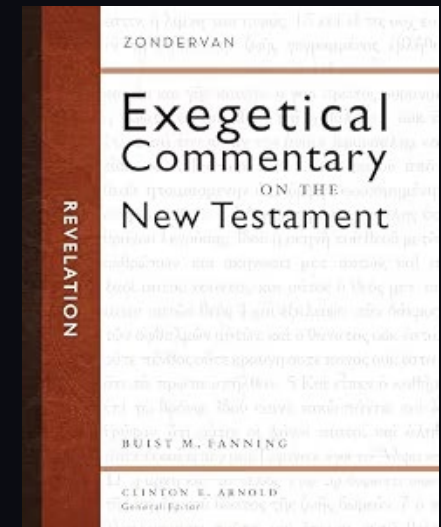
¹“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, **and yet you are dead.**’

Revelation 3:1 (NASB 2020)

The curse of nominalism is that such **an appearance of vitality often prevents real life from ever springing up again**—it inoculates its participants against the real disease. In the religious sphere we get “Churchianity” instead of real Christianity, a form of godliness that denies and resists its true power (2 Tim 3:5).



Our desperate need in that situation whether as corporate churches or individual believers is spiritual revival, to “wake up” to our real condition and stir up the dying embers of our Christian heritage, to “strengthen” what remains of our true vitality and restore the habits that nourish real health (Rev 3:2–3).



⁵holding to a **form of godliness**
although they have denied its power;
avoid such people as these.

2 Timothy 3:5 (NASB 2020)

¹“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have **a name** that you are alive, and *yet* you are dead.

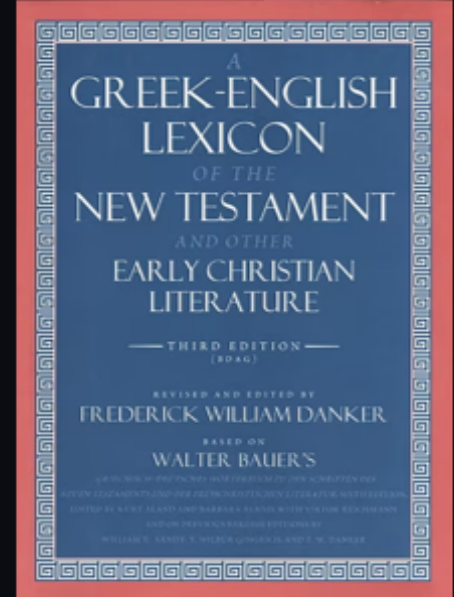
Revelation 3:1 (NASB 2020)

New American Standard Bible (2020) 4 results in 3 verses

Passages	<u>Aligned</u>	Grid	Analysis	Fuzzy
Rev 3:1	know your deeds, that you have a	name	that you are alive, and yet you are	
Rev 3:4	But you have a few	people	in Sardis who have not soiled thei	
Rev 3:5	garments; and I will not erase his	name	from the book of life, and I will co	
	book of life, and I will confess his	name	before My Father and before His a	

ὄνομα (onoma)

- ① proper name of an entity, **name**
- ② a person
- ③ the classification under which one belongs, noted by a name or category, title, category
- ④ **recognition accorded a person on the basis of performance, (well-known) name, reputation, fame**
- ⑤ name in terms of office held, office



⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God does not see as man sees, since **man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**”

1 Samuel 16:7 (NASB 2020)

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A Name Worth Having

Revelation 3:1-6



Revelation 3:1-6

A Name Worth Having

1. _____ the _____ (3:1a)
2. _____ your _____ (3:1b-c)
3. _____ and _____ (3:2)
4. Keep the _____ with _____ (3:3)
5. _____ in _____ (3:4-5a)
6. _____ Jesus' _____ (3:5b-6)

A Name Worth Having

1. Welcome the Wellspring (3:1a)
2. _____ your _____ (3:1b-c)
3. _____ and _____ (3:2)
4. Keep the _____ with _____ (3:3)
5. _____ in _____ (3:4-5a)
6. _____ Jesus' _____ (3:5b-6)

1. Welcome the Wellspring (3:1a)

A. The _____ that _____

B. The _____ He _____

1. Welcome the Wellspring (3:1a)

A. The Spirit that revives

B. The _____ He _____

¹“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: **He who has the seven spirits of God** and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, and *yet* you are dead.

Revelation 3:1 (NASB 2020)

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia:
Grace to you and peace from Him who is, and
who was, and who is to come, **and from the
seven spirits who are before His throne,** ^{5a}and
from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the
firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the
kings of the earth.

Revelation 1:4–5a (NASB 2020)

¹Then the angel who had been speaking with me returned and woke me, like a person who is awakened from his sleep. ²And he said to me, “What do you see?” And I said, “I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, **and its seven lamps on it** with seven spouts *belonging to each of the* lamps which are on the top of it;

Zechariah 4:1–2 (NASB 2020)

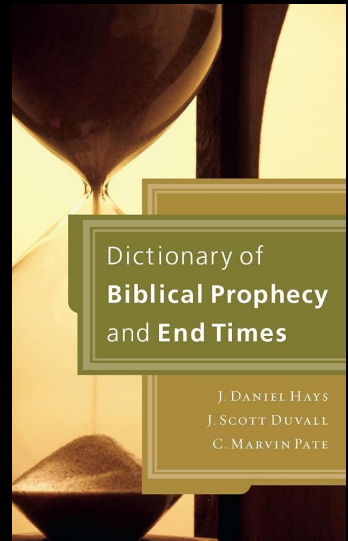
⁵So the angel who was speaking with me answered and said to me, “Do you not know what these are?” And I said, “No, my lord.” ⁶Then he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel, saying, ‘Not by might nor by power, **but by My Spirit,**’ says the LORD of armies.

Zechariah 4:5–6 (NASB 2020)

¹⁰For who has shown contempt for the day of small things? But **these seven** will rejoice when they see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel—**they are the eyes of the LORD roaming throughout the earth.**”

Zechariah 4:10 (NASB 2020)

The expression “seven spirits” occurs four times in Revelation (Rev. 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6). While the phrase could refer to seven angels mentioned elsewhere in the book, most scholars see it as a reference to the Holy Spirit. **The number seven symbolizes perfect wholeness or completeness in Revelation so that the “seven spirits” represent the sevenfold Spirit or the Spirit manifested in his perfect fullness.**



¹¹But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead **will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**

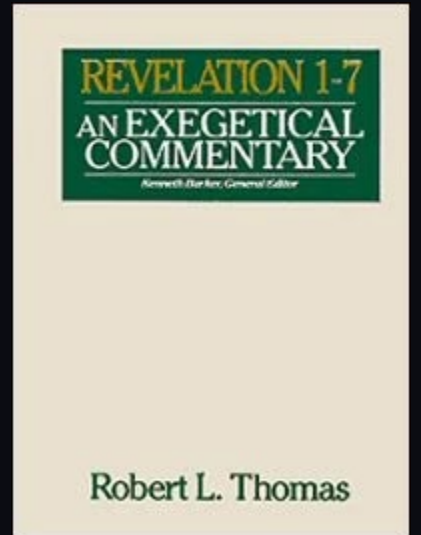
Romans 8:11 (NASB 2020)

⁴Such *is the* confidence we have toward God through Christ. ⁵Not that we are adequate in ourselves *so as* to consider anything as *having come* from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, ⁶who also made us adequate *as* servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, **but the Spirit gives life.**

2 Corinthians 3:4–6 (NASB 2020)



Christ, the life-giver, imparts life through the Spirit. In accord with the Holy Spirit's procession from the Son, it is Christ's part to bestow or withhold the powers of the life-giving Spirit on which the life of the church depends. His power is sufficient to meet every need, even to the point of restoring life to those about to die.



¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within
me.

Psalms 51:10 (NASB 2020)

1. Welcome the Wellspring (3:1a)

A. The Spirit that revives

B. The _____ He _____

1. Welcome the Wellspring (3:1a)

A. The Spirit that revives

B. The stars He rules

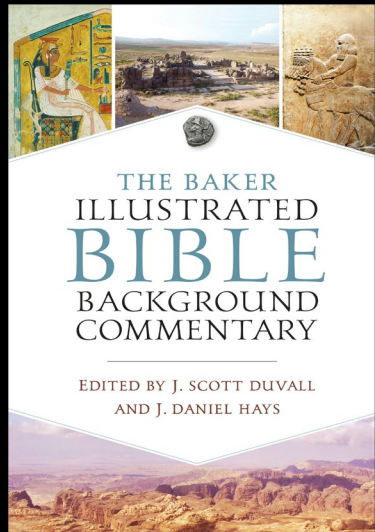
¹“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven spirits of God **and the seven stars**, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, and *yet* you are dead.

Revelation 3:1 (NASB 2020)

¹⁶In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

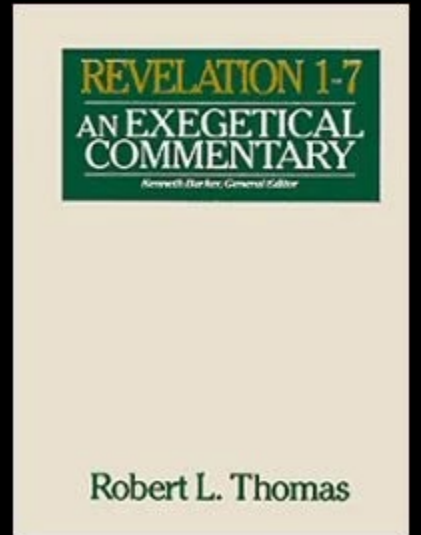
Revelation 1:16 (NASB 2020)

Holds the seven stars in his right hand (2:1). The depiction of the seven stars of Ursa Major on Roman coins began in the period of the Roman Republic. To celebrate the deification of Domitian's infant son after his death, coins were issued in AD 83 that show the child seated on a globe and reaching out to seven stars surrounding him.



Roman coin depicting the seven stars of Ursa Major.

Christ also pictures Himself as holding the seven stars. As pointed out in the earlier discussion of 1:16 and 2:1, where the description or its equivalent is also used, this title speaks of Christ with special reference to His control over the churches.



⁴²And He ordered us to preach to the people, and to testify solemnly that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

Acts 10:42 (NASB 2020)

¹I solemnly exhort *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

2 Timothy 4:1 (NASB 2020)

¹⁶on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of mankind through Christ Jesus.

Romans 2:16 (NASB 2020)

¹⁰For we must all appear before **the judgment seat of Christ**, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds *done* through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NASB 2020)

A Name Worth Having

1. Welcome the Wellspring (3:1a)
2. _____ your _____ (3:1b-c)
3. _____ and _____ (3:2)
4. Keep the _____ with _____ (3:3)
5. _____ in _____ (3:4-5a)
6. _____ Jesus' _____ (3:5b-6)

A Name Worth Having

1. Welcome the Wellspring (3:1a)
2. Weigh your works (3:1b-c)
3. _____ and _____ (3:2)
4. Keep the _____ with _____ (3:3)
5. _____ in _____ (3:4-5a)
6. _____ Jesus' _____ (3:5b-6)

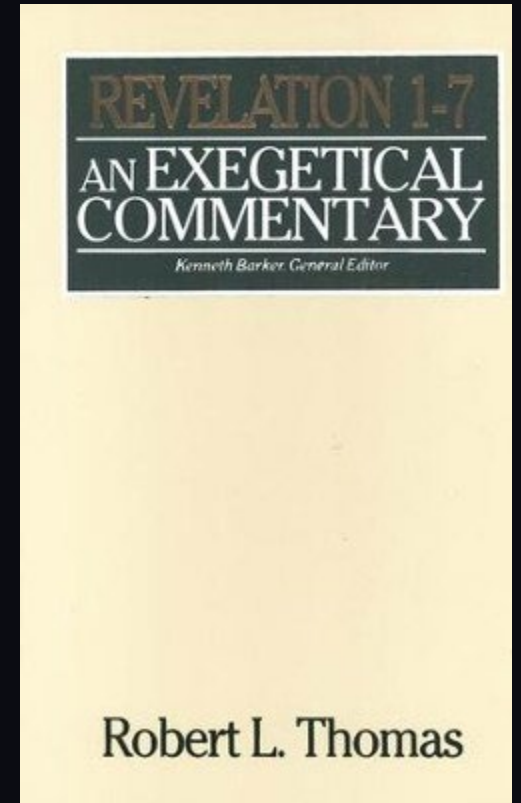
¹“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ‘**I know your deeds**, that you have a name that you are alive, and *yet* you are dead.

Revelation 3:1 (NASB 2020)

²Be constantly alert, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for **I have not found your deeds completed** in the sight of My God.

Revelation 3:2 (NASB 2020)

Peplērōmena (“fulfilled”) could convey the notion that there remained an incompleteness in the full number of their deeds, but the harsh tone of the message demands that it refer to the quality rather than the quantity of the works.



¹⁰For we are His workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good
works, which God prepared
beforehand so that we would walk in
them.

Ephesians 2:10 (NASB 2020)

¹³each one's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and **the fire itself will test the quality of each one's work.**

1 Corinthians 3:13 (NASB 2020)

⁹Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds *done* through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:9–10 (NASB 2020)

A Name Worth Having

1. Welcome the Wellspring (3:1a)
2. Weigh your works (3:1b-c)
3. _____ and _____ (3:2)
4. Keep the _____ with _____ (3:3)
5. _____ in _____ (3:4-5a)
6. _____ Jesus' _____ (3:5b-6)

A Name Worth Having

1. Welcome the Wellspring (3:1a)
2. Weigh your works (3:1b-c)
3. Wake up and work out (3:2)
4. Keep the _____ with _____ (3:3)
5. _____ in _____ (3:4-5a)
6. _____ Jesus' _____ (3:5b-6)

²**Be constantly alert**, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

Revelation 3:2 (NASB 2020)

NASB2020: “Be constantly alert...”

NASB95: “Wake up...”

NET: “Wake up then...”

ESV: “Wake up...”

HCSB: “”Be alert...”

NIV: “Wake up!...”

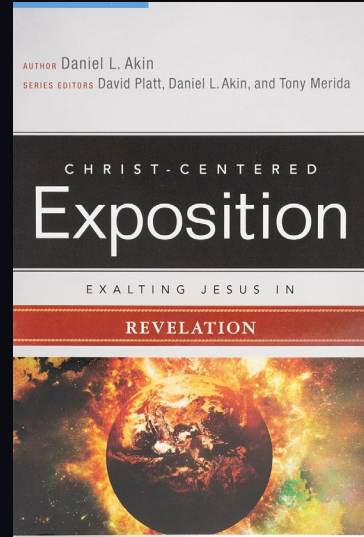
KJV: “Be watchful...”

RSV: “Awake...”





Though the quantity of their works was deficient, it is more likely that it was the quality of their works that was most lacking. They had grown content with a mediocre, halfway, comfortable, and convenient Christianity. Their faith was not radical; it was almost invisible. The lost among whom they lived, worked, and prayed saw nothing different or unique about them. The culture did not oppose them; it simply ignored them as of no real consequence or significance.



³⁵Therefore, **stay alert**—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—

Mark 13:35 (NASB 2020)

⁶so then, let's not sleep as others do,
but let's **be alert and sober.**

1 Thessalonians 5:6 (NASB 2020)

⁸Be of sober *spirit*, **be on the alert**.

Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8 (NASB 2020)

²Be constantly alert, **and strengthen the things that remain**, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

Revelation 3:2 (NASB 2020)

⁵¹When the days were approaching
for His ascension, **He was**
determined to go to Jerusalem;

Luke 9:51 (NASB 2020)

⁸You too be patient; **strengthen your hearts**, for the coming of the Lord is near.

James 5:8 (NASB 2020)



A Name Worth Having

1. Welcome the Wellspring (3:1a)
2. Weigh your works (3:1b-c)
3. Wake up and work out (3:2)
4. Keep the _____ with _____ (3:3)
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4. Keep the word with watchfulness (3:3)
5. _____ in _____ (3:4-5a)
6. _____ Jesus' _____ (3:5b-6)

³**So remember** what you have received and heard; and keep *it*, and repent. Then if you are not alert, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

Revelation 3:3 (NASB 2020)

2 Peter 1:2-9

²Grace and peace be multiplied to
you in the knowledge of God and of
Jesus our Lord,

³for His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

⁴Through these He has granted to us
His precious and magnificent
promises, so that by them you may
become partakers of *the* divine
nature, having escaped the
corruption that is in the world on
account of lust.

⁵Now for this very reason also,
applying all diligence, in your faith
supply moral excellence, and in *your*
moral excellence, knowledge,

⁶and in *your* knowledge, self-control,
and in *your* self-control,
perseverance, and in *your*
perseverance, godliness,

⁷and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.

⁸For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they do not make you useless nor unproductive in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

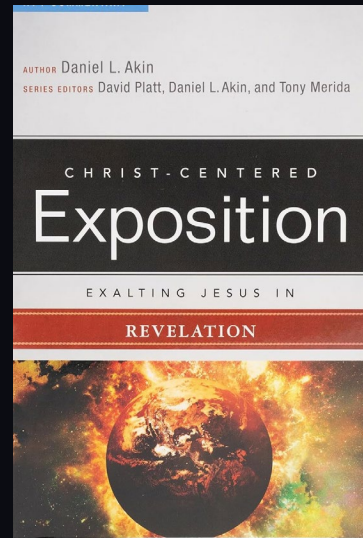
⁹For the one who lacks these *qualities* is blind *or* short-sighted, **having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.**

2 Peter 1:2–9 (NASB 2020)

³So remember what you have received and heard; **and keep *it*, and repent. Then if you are not alert,** I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

Revelation 3:3 (NASB 2020)

With the command to “keep it,” Jesus encourages the church to hold on, to guard what they received and heard. The truth of the gospel and the truths that flow from it are easily lost. It is a precious treasure that should never be taken for granted. We must never let it slip away.



¹For this reason we must **pay much closer attention** to what we have heard, **so that we do not drift away from it.**

Hebrews 2:1 (NASB 2020)

⁴But you, brothers *and sisters*, are not in darkness, so that the day would overtake you like a thief; ⁵for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; ⁶so then, let's not sleep as others do, but **let's be alert and sober**.

⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸But since we are of *the* day, let's be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

1 Thessalonians 5:4–8 (NASB 2020)

A Name Worth Having

1. Welcome the Wellspring (3:1a)
2. Weigh your works (3:1b-c)
3. Wake up and work out (3:2)
4. Keep the word with watchfulness (3:3)
5. _____ in _____ (3:4-5a)
6. _____ Jesus' _____ (3:5b-6)

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1. Welcome the Wellspring (3:1a)
2. Weigh your works (3:1b-c)
3. Wake up and work out (3:2)
4. Keep the word with watchfulness (3:3)
5. Walk in white (3:4-5a)
6. ____ Jesus' ____ (3:5b-6)

5. Walk in white (3:4-5a)

A. With _____ (3:4)

B. With _____ (3:5a)

5. Walk in white (3:4-5a)

A. With clean conduct (3:4)

B. With _____ (3:5a)

⁴But you have a few people in Sardis
who have not soiled their garments;
and they will walk with Me in white,
for they are worthy.

Revelation 3:4 (NASB 2020)

⁸It was given to her to clothe herself
in fine linen, **bright *and* clean**; for the
fine linen is the righteous acts of the
saints.

Revelation 19:8 (NASB 2020)

¹⁴I said to him, “My lord, you know.”
And he said to me, “These are the
ones who come out of the great
tribulation, and **they have washed
their robes and made them white in
the blood of the Lamb.**

Revelation 7:14 (NASB 2020)

¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers *and* sisters has been thrown down, the one who accuses them before our God day and night. ¹¹And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life *even* when faced with death. ¹²For this reason, rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you with great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time.”

Revelation 12:10–12 (NASB 2020)

¹⁰Then I _____ a loud _____ in _____, saying, “Now the _____, and the power, and the _____ of our God and the _____ of His Christ have come, for the _____ of our _____ *and* _____ has been _____ down, the one who _____ them before our _____ day and _____. ¹¹And they _____ him because of the _____ of the Lamb and because of the _____ of their testimony, and they did not _____ their _____ *even* when faced with _____. ¹²For this reason, _____, you _____ and you who dwell in them. Woe to the _____ and the sea, because the _____ has come down to you with great _____, knowing that he has *only* a short _____.”

Revelation 12:10–12 (NASB 2020)

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Revelation 12:10–12 (NASB 2020)

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Revelation 12:10–12 (NASB 2020)

¹⁰Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our _____ *and* _____ has been _____ down, the one who _____ them before our _____ day and _____. ¹¹And they _____ him because of the _____ of the Lamb and because of the _____ of their testimony, and they did not _____ their _____ *even* when faced with _____. ¹²For this reason, _____, you _____ and you who dwell in them. Woe to the _____ and the sea, because the _____ has come down to you with great _____, knowing that he has *only* a short _____.”

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Revelation 12:10–12 (NASB 2020)

5. Walk in white (3:4-5a)

A. With clean conduct (3:4)

B. With _____ (3:5a)

5. Walk in white (3:4-5a)

A. With clean conduct (3:4)

B. With Christ's companionship (3:5a)

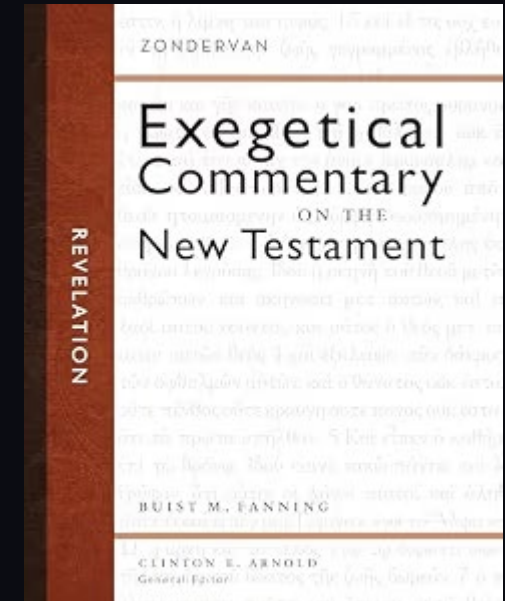
⁴But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

Revelation 3:4 (NASB 2020)

⁵The one who overcomes will be clothed the same way, in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Revelation 3:5 (NASB 2020)

The image of “walking with” Christ while clothed “in white” is a picture of the direct divine communion that his people will enjoy in the new creation and new Jerusalem, when God will dwell among them as their God (21:3) and the redeemed from all nations “will walk” in the light of God and of the Lamb (21:24)



A Name Worth Having

1. Welcome the Wellspring (3:1a)
2. Weigh your works (3:1b-c)
3. Wake up and work out (3:2)
4. Keep the word with watchfulness (3:3)
5. Walk in white (3:4-5a)
6. ____ Jesus' ____ (3:5b-6)

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6. Win Jesus' witness (3:5b-6)

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A. _____ (3:5a)

B. _____ before the _____ (3:5b)

6. Win Jesus' witness (3:5b-6)

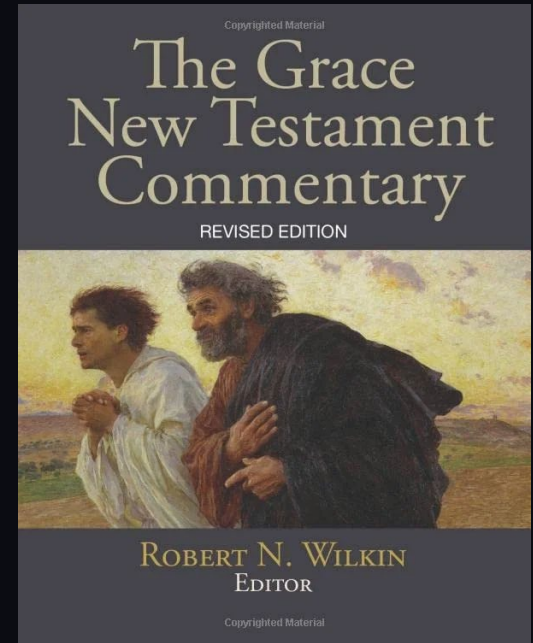
A. Reassured forever (3:5a)

B. _____ before the _____ (3:5b)

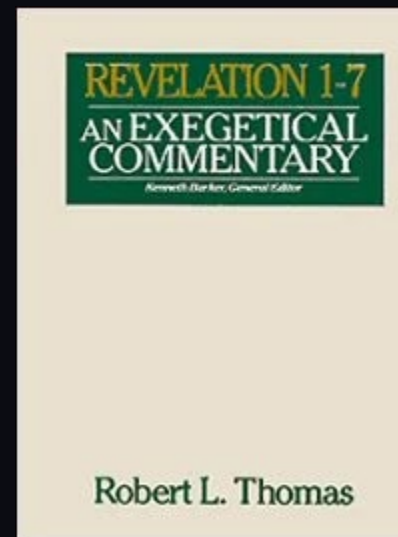
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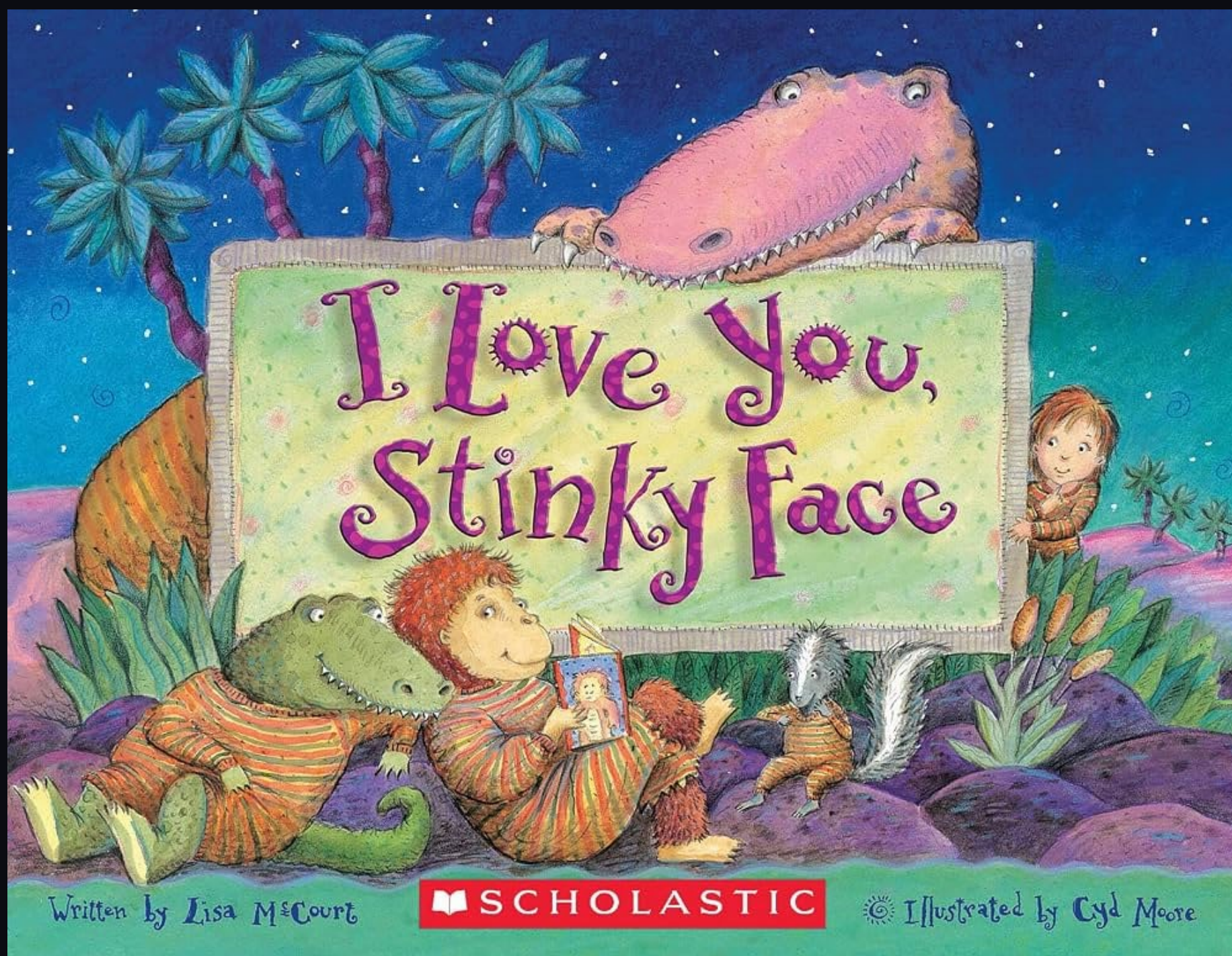
Revelation 3:5 (NASB 2020)

In saying that He “will not blot out” the overcomer’s “name from the Book of Life,” the Lord is not making a veiled threat that unfaithful believers will wind up in hell. Rather, He is using a figure of speech to say, If you are faithful to Me to the end, I will honor you by magnifying your name!



The purpose of the promise is to provide certainty and assurance to those who are “worthy” (cf. v. 4), **not to indicate anything about the fate of those who do not overcome.**





Written by Lisa McCourt

 SCHOLASTIC

 Illustrated by Cyd Moore

1 John 3:18-21

¹⁸Little children, let's not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

¹⁹We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will set our heart at ease before Him,

²⁰that if our heart condemns us, that
God is greater than our heart, and He
knows all things.

²¹Beloved, if our heart does not
condemn us, we have confidence
before God;

1 John 3:18–21 (NASB 2020)

6. Win Jesus' witness (3:5b-6)

A. Reassured forever (3:5a)

B. _____ before the _____ (3:5b)

6. Win Jesus' witness (3:5b-6)

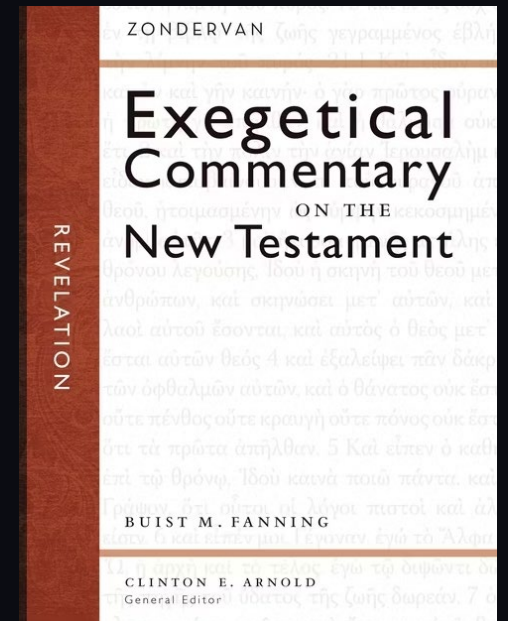
A. Reassured forever (3:5a)

B. Represented before the Father (3:5b)

⁵The one who overcomes will be clothed the same way, in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, **and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.**

Revelation 3:5 (NASB 2020)

The word “confess” in this context means to profess allegiance, to acknowledge loyalty or personal association with someone, and it speaks of Christ vouching for the overcomer in the future judgment.



³²“Therefore, everyone who confesses Me before people, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 10:32 (NASB 2020)

A Name Worth Having

1. Welcome the Wellspring (3:1a)
2. Weigh your works (3:1b-c)
3. Wake up and work out (3:2)
4. Keep the word with watchfulness (3:3)
5. Walk in white (3:4-5a)
6. Win Jesus' witness (3:5b-6)

Application

Application

Do others perceive you differently than Jesus does? Let your life match the name Jesus is already willing to call you by!