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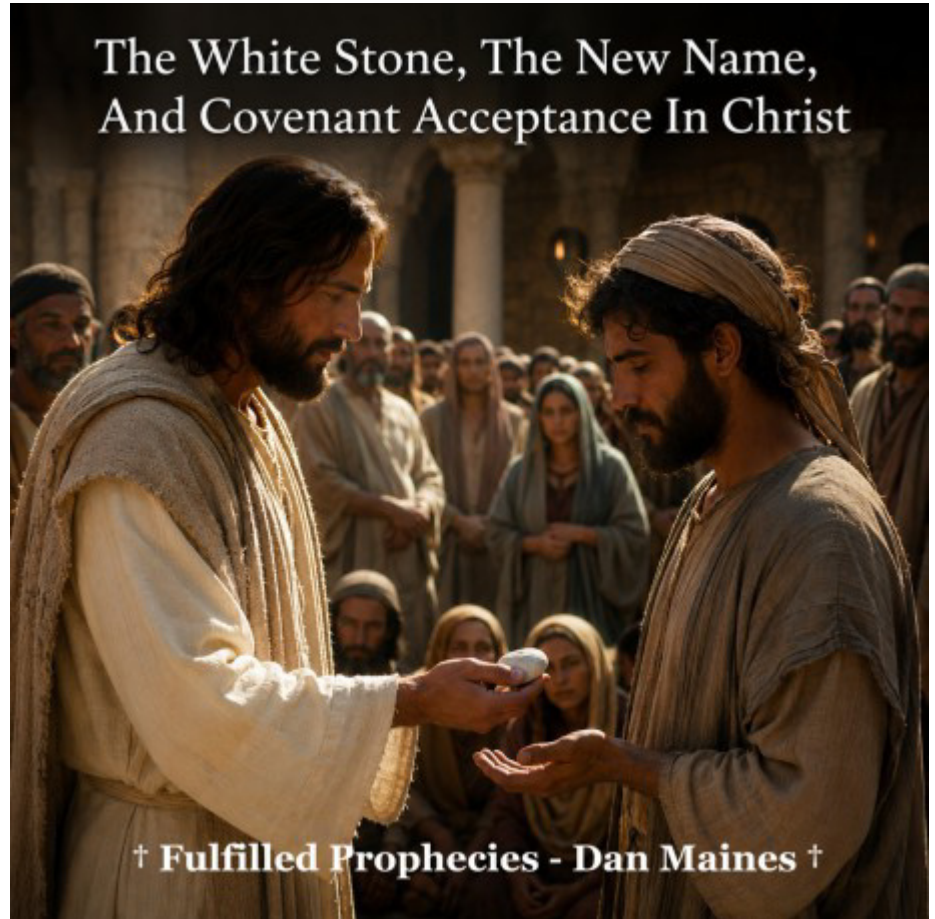
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## The White Stone, The New Name, And Covenant Acceptance In Christ



By Dan Maines

## The White Stone, The New Name, And Covenant Acceptance In Christ

### Introduction

† Most people read about the white stone in Revelation 2:17 and think it's mysterious symbolism with no clear meaning. But the people living in the first century would've immediately understood the covenant and cultural imagery Jesus was using. (Revelation 2:17; Revelation 1:1-3)

† In the ancient world, white stones were connected to acquittal in judgment, acceptance, invitation to feasts, victory, and entrance into special gatherings. Jesus used this imagery to show the overcomers that they were accepted into the New Covenant kingdom. (Romans 8:1; Matthew 8:11-12; Revelation 19:9)

† The white stone wasn't about a future mystical object handed out in heaven thousands of years later. It was covenant language spoken to real first century believers facing persecution and rejection from apostate Israel and pagan Rome. (Revelation 2:13; Revelation 22:6-7; Hebrews 8:13)

† Jesus connected the white stone to hidden manna and a new name because He was revealing a new covenant identity that was found only in Him. The old covenant system was passing away, but believers were receiving entrance into the everlasting kingdom. (John 6:48-51; Isaiah 62:2; Hebrews 12:27-28)

† Pergamum itself was filled with emperor worship, pagan feasts, and pressure to compromise. Jesus was assuring His people that they already possessed acceptance and entrance into the true kingdom of God, not Rome's counterfeit kingdom. (Revelation 2:12-13; Philippians 3:20)

## **Revelation 2:17**

17 The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows except the one who receives it.'

† Jesus was speaking directly to the church in Pergamum, a city filled with emperor worship, pagan temples, and pressure to

compromise with the world system around them. The overcomers were those who remained faithful to Christ during that covenant transition period. (Revelation 2:12-17; Hebrews 8:13)

† Pergamum was called the place where Satan's throne was because of its deep connection to emperor worship and pagan religious power. Christians who refused participation were viewed as traitors and outsiders. (Revelation 2:13; John 15:18-19)

† The hidden manna pointed back to God's provision in the wilderness, but now fulfilled in Christ Himself. Jesus had already declared that He was the true bread from heaven. The old covenant manna sustained physical Israel temporarily, but Christ gives eternal covenant life. (John 6:48-51; Exodus 16:14-15)

† Israel ate manna in the wilderness and still died physically and spiritually in unbelief. But believers in Christ received the true heavenly bread that brought covenant life and fellowship with God. (John 6:49-58; 1 Corinthians 10:1-5)

† The white stone carried the meaning of acquittal and acceptance. In ancient courts, white stones were often used to declare innocence, while black stones signified condemnation. Jesus was declaring His people justified and accepted before God through Him. (Romans 8:1; Romans 5:1; Acts 13:38-39)

† This judicial imagery becomes powerful in light of apostate Israel condemning believers and pagan Rome persecuting them. Christ Himself declared the overcomers acquitted before the heavenly court. (Luke 21:12-15; Romans 8:33-34)

† White stones were also used as invitation tokens to feasts and banquets. In the Roman world, tessera stones functioned as admission tokens into festivals, public feasts, and special

gatherings. (Matthew 22:1-14; Revelation 19:9)

† This connects directly to covenant fellowship and the marriage supper imagery. The overcomers were being welcomed into the New Covenant kingdom while unbelieving Israel was being cast out. (Matthew 8:11-12; Revelation 19:9; Matthew 21:43)

† Jesus was essentially telling persecuted believers that they already possessed entrance into the true covenant feast of God even while the world rejected them. (Luke 12:32; Colossians 1:13)

† The new name written upon the stone represented covenant identity and belonging. Under the old covenant, Israel carried the covenant name outwardly, but in Christ believers received a new covenant identity known intimately between Christ and the believer. (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 3:26-29)

† The name known only to the receiver shows personal covenant relationship. This wasn't merely external religion or temple membership. It was direct union and fellowship with Christ Himself. (John 10:14-15; John 17:20-23)

† The statement that no one knows the name except the receiver doesn't teach mystical secret knowledge like later Gnostic systems. It speaks of intimate covenant belonging and personal relationship between Christ and His people. (John 17:3; 1 John 2:20-21)

## **Isaiah 62:2**

2 The nations will see your righteousness,  
And all kings your glory;  
And you will be called by a new name  
Which the mouth of the LORD will designate.

† Isaiah had already prophesied that God's covenant people would receive a new name. This prophecy wasn't about ethnic Israel remaining under the old covenant forever. It pointed to the New Covenant people formed in Christ. (Isaiah 62:2; Galatians 3:26-29)

† The new name represented transformation and covenant transition. Abram became Abraham, Jacob became Israel, and believers in Christ became a new creation people under a better covenant. (Genesis 17:5; Genesis 32:28; Hebrews 8:6-13)

† Revelation 2:17 fulfills this covenant promise. Jesus wasn't inventing new imagery randomly. He was drawing directly from Old Testament covenant promises that were reaching fulfillment in that generation. (Revelation 2:17; Matthew 5:17; Luke 21:22)

### **Isaiah 65:15**

15 You will leave your name as a curse to My chosen ones,  
And the Lord GOD will put you to death.  
But My servants will be called by another name.

† Isaiah again prophesied of a covenant separation between unbelieving Israel and God's true covenant people. (Isaiah 65:15; Matthew 21:43)

† The old covenant name connected to rebellious Israel would pass away, but God's servants in Christ would receive another name tied to the everlasting covenant kingdom. (Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 12:28)

† This fits perfectly with Revelation where faithful believers inherit the kingdom while apostate Jerusalem faces judgment.

(Revelation 11:8; Revelation 18:20-24)

## **Isaiah 56:5**

5 To them I will give in My house and within My walls a memorial,  
And a name better than that of sons and daughters;  
I will give them an everlasting name which will not be eliminated.

† This promise included Gentiles being brought into covenant fellowship with God. Under the New Covenant, believers from every nation would receive an everlasting covenant identity in Christ. (Isaiah 56:5-8; Ephesians 2:11-19)

† The white stone and new name showed permanence. Unlike the old covenant system that was vanishing away, this covenant relationship would never be removed. (Hebrews 12:27-28; Daniel 2:44)

† Jesus was assuring persecuted believers that even if the world rejected them, He accepted them fully into His kingdom. (Romans 8:31-39; John 6:37)

## **Exodus 28:9-12**

9 And you shall take two onyx stones and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel, 10 six of their names on the one stone and the names of the remaining six on the other stone, according to their birth. 11 As a jeweler engraves a signet, you shall engrave the two stones according to the names of the sons of Israel; you shall set them in filigree settings of gold. 12 And you shall put the two stones on the shoulder pieces of the ephod, as stones of memorial for the sons of Israel, and Aaron shall carry their names before the LORD on his two

shoulders as a memorial.

† The imagery of engraved names upon stones was already deeply connected to covenant representation and priesthood in the Old Testament. (Exodus 28:9-12; Exodus 39:6-7)

† The high priest bore the names of God's covenant people before the presence of God, symbolizing covenant acceptance and representation. (Exodus 28:29-30; Leviticus 16:30)

† Jesus fulfilled and surpassed this imagery as the greater High Priest who permanently brings His people before God. (Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 7:24-27)

### **Exodus 28:36-38**

36 "You shall also make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it, like the engravings of a signet, 'Holy to the LORD.' 37 You shall fasten it on a violet cord, and it shall be on the turban; it shall be at the front of the turban. 38 It shall be on Aaron's forehead, and Aaron shall take away the guilt of the holy things which the sons of Israel consecrate, regarding all their holy gifts; and it shall always be on his forehead, so that they may be accepted before the LORD.

† The engraved priestly imagery connects directly to the white stone and new name in Revelation. (Exodus 28:36-38; Revelation 2:17)

† The white stone symbolized acceptance before God through Christ's priesthood, not through temple sacrifices or Levitical rituals. (Hebrews 10:11-18; Hebrews 7:18-19)

† This becomes even more powerful when remembering Revelation was written during the final years before the destruction of the temple in AD 70. The old priesthood was about to disappear forever. (Hebrews 8:13; Matthew 24:1-2)

† Christ's people now carried covenant acceptance through Him rather than through the earthly temple system. (Ephesians 2:18-22; 1 Peter 2:5)

### **1 Peter 2:9**

9 But you are A CHOSEN PEOPLE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR GOD'S OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

† Believers themselves became the royal priesthood in Christ. Covenant identity was no longer tied to genealogy, temple membership, or earthly Jerusalem. (1 Peter 2:9; Galatians 3:28-29)

† The white stone represented entrance into this priestly covenant standing before God. (Hebrews 10:19-22; Revelation 1:6)

† The overcomers were receiving what apostate Israel was losing, covenant fellowship, acceptance, and kingdom inheritance. (Matthew 21:43; Hebrews 12:28)

### **Revelation 3:12**

12 The one who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of

heaven from My God, and My new name.

† Revelation itself explains the covenant meaning of the new name imagery. (Revelation 2:17; Revelation 3:12)

† The overcomers received the name of God, the New Jerusalem, and Christ Himself because they belonged fully to the New Covenant kingdom. (Hebrews 12:22-24; Galatians 4:26)

† This wasn't about future geography or earthly nationalism. It was covenant identity tied directly to Christ and His fulfilled kingdom. (John 18:36; Luke 17:20-21)

## **Historical References**

† Ignatius spoke repeatedly about believers possessing a new life and identity in Christ that separated them from the old world and old covenant order. (2 Corinthians 5:17; Hebrews 8:13)

† Irenaeus connected the promises to the overcomers in Revelation with the inheritance of the church as God's covenant people. (Revelation 2:17; Galatians 3:29)

† Clement of Alexandria described the white stone as representing divine approval and acceptance from God. (Romans 8:1; Acts 13:38-39)

† Tertullian referred to believers receiving heavenly citizenship and covenant recognition through Christ rather than through earthly temple systems. (Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 12:22-24)

† Victorinus, one of the earliest commentators on Revelation, connected the white stone with victory, divine approval, and

heavenly acceptance. (Revelation 2:17; Revelation 3:5)

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† The white stone reminds us that our acceptance is found completely in Christ and not in religious systems, denominations, buildings, or outward rituals. (Ephesians 1:6; Colossians 2:16-17)

† Believers today still possess that covenant identity and priestly standing before God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 10:19-22)

† The world may reject us, but Christ has already declared His people accepted and acquitted. (Romans 8:33-39; John 16:33)

† Our new name in Christ means we've been transferred from the old realm of death into the kingdom of life. (Colossians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

† The hidden manna reminds us that Christ Himself is our continual source of covenant life, strength, and fellowship. (John 6:35; John 15:4-5)

† The white stone also reminds us that Christianity was never about maintaining the old covenant world. It was about entering the fulfilled kingdom established through Christ. (Hebrews 12:27-28; Luke 16:16)

† We don't need the world's approval because we've already received acceptance from the King of kings. (Galatians 1:10; Romans 5:1)

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** What did the white stone mean in the first century world?

**A:** White stones were commonly associated with acquittal in judgment, acceptance, victory, and admission to feasts or special gatherings. Jesus used familiar first century imagery to show believers they were accepted into His covenant kingdom. (Revelation 2:17)

**Q:** What were tessera stones?

**A:** Tessera stones were admission tokens used in the Roman world for entrance into festivals, feasts, games, and important public events. This helps explain the covenant banquet imagery connected to the white stone. (Matthew 22:1-14; Revelation 19:9)

**Q:** Why was the new name important?

**A:** The new name represented covenant identity and belonging in Christ. It fulfilled Old Testament promises that God's people would receive a new covenant name from Him. (Isaiah 62:2; Isaiah 65:15; Isaiah 56:5)

**Q:** What is the hidden manna?

**A:** The hidden manna points to Christ as the true bread from heaven and the fulfillment of God's provision. Believers feed spiritually upon Christ Himself under the New Covenant. (John 6:48-51)

**Q:** Was the white stone a future heavenly reward only?

**A:** No. Jesus gave this promise to real first century believers facing persecution. The promise concerned covenant acceptance and kingdom entrance during the transition from the old covenant to the New Covenant age. (Hebrews 8:13)

**Q:** How does this connect to priesthood imagery?

**A:** The engraved name imagery connects to the high priest bearing covenant representation before God. In Christ, believers became a royal priesthood accepted before God permanently. (Exodus 28:9-12; Exodus 28:36-38; 1 Peter 2:9)

**Q:** Does the secret name teach mystical hidden knowledge?

**A:** No. The name known only to the believer points to intimate covenant relationship and belonging with Christ, not mystical secret teachings. (John 10:14-15; John 17:3)

**† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

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## **Source Index**

† Revelation 2:17; Isaiah 62:2; Isaiah 65:15; Isaiah 56:5; Exodus 28:9-12; Exodus 28:36-38; Revelation 3:12; John 6:48-58; Romans 8:1; Hebrews 8:13; Hebrews 12:27-28; 1 Peter 2:9

† Ignatius, Letter to the Magnesians; Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book 4; Clement of Alexandria, Stromata; Tertullian, Against Marcion; Victorinus, Commentary on the Apocalypse

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