

But still more. Heaven has anticipated this joy and this ornament ; for it has already received a Conqueror. Jesus is there in this character, though never till He ascended had heaven known such a character. The Lord God had filled the heavens, and the angels that excel in strength had attended. Some may have been cast down who kept not their first estate, and others have sung together, as when the earth's foundations were laid. But never, we may say, had a Conqueror been there till Jesus ascended. But He, through death, had destroyed him that had the power of death (Heb. ii. 14) ; He had led captivity captive (Eph. iv. 8) ; He had made a show of principalities (Col. ii. 15). After the type of Samson, He had borne the hostile gates to the top of the hill. He had overcome ere He sat down on the Father's throne (Rev. iii. 21). The grave clothes had been left in the empty sepulchre (John xx. 6, 7). As *Conqueror*, therefore, Jesus ascended. Heaven had already known the Living God, but now it had to know the Living God in victory. The Lord returned as in triumph, and filled heaven with a new song, "The Conqueror's Song." And in spirit this song is sung every day by all the saints now gathering.

And we enter heaven and the Kingdom as conquerors also. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne !" (Rev. iii. 21). We rise as shouting, "O death, where is thy sting ? O grave, where is *thy* victory ?—thanks be to God, which giveth *us* the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ !" (1 Cor. xv. 55-57). This is the language of conquerors, as the rising ascending saints will be in their day and way and measure—as their ascended