

**VICTORY THROUGH THE PROMISED SON WHO LIVES IN US**  
**Revelation 12; text Revelation 12: 10 and Galatians 2: 20**  
**September 13, 2020**

What does it mean for us that Christ has won the victory over sin and death and how do we express that victory in our lives?

**I. Victory as Salvation from Sin and Satan**

**A. If we are to understand our victory, we must understand our sin and how it brought death to us.**

1. **To sin is to be disobedient to God.**
2. **After Adam and Eve sinned against God by eating of the tree from which he commanded them not to eat, the immediate affect was separation from God, the source of life.**
3. **Separated from the source of life meant death.**

Genesis 2:17 (NIV) but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

**B. We must also understand that our sin put us under Satan's destructive control.**

1. **As sinners we do not resist Satan's temptations.**
2. **Our text refers to Satan as a dragon, as a fearsome beast bent on destruction.**
3. **God made the world good, but Satan brings evil, suffering, and death.**
4. **And he often does so by tempting people to do acts that hurt themselves, others, and all creation.**

Revelation 12:3 (NIV) Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads.

- a. **These seven crowns show his powerful rule.**
- b. **Some of his power and rule comes through the people whom God put in authority over the world.**

Revelation 12:4 (NIV) His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth.

- c. **Many commentators understand these stars as fallen angels whom Satan has sent to influence the people of the earth.**

Revelation 12:7-9 (NIV) And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

**C. To understand the nature of our victory we must also understand what Satan and his rebel angels were doing in heaven.**

1. **The name Satan means accuser.**
2. **Zechariah 3 demonstrates how Satan used this power as accuser.**
  - a. **It is a picture of a court scene in heaven.**
  - b. **Joshua, the high priest, stood before God representing God's people Israel, who after 70 years of Babylonian rule were now under the thumb of the Persians.**

Zechariah 3:1 (NIV) Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.

- c. **Satan was there as prosecuting attorney, pointing out Israel's sin and saying, "These people deserve to punishment, death, destruction. They brought it on themselves."**
- d. **That's what he did with Adam, Eve, and their children.**
- e. **And our just God must concur.**

Questions:

- 1) **Is it easy or difficult for me to live the Christian life? Why do I say that?**
- 2) **Why should Adam and Eve's disobedience affect me?**
- 3) **If the devil tempts me to sin, why am I still to blame? Even though the devil tempts me, am I acting freely when I sin? How can that be? What are some evidences of Satan and his demons using human beings to cause evil and add to the suffering of this world?**
- 4) **Why doesn't God just overlook my sin? How do we nonetheless still see evidence of God's mercy and grace in spite of our sin?**
- 5) **Sometimes we wonder why God allows bad things to happen to good people. But are there any who are really good? (See Romans 3:10-18) Is Satan correct in accusing me before God? Why or why not?**

**II. God's Promised Salvation**

**A. After Adam and Eve sinned God promised he would destroy Satan's power and save his people.**

1. **He did it when he cursed the serpent (Satan) who tempted them to sin.**

Genesis 3:15 (NIV) And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

2. **God promised to do this through the son of the woman.**

Revelation 12:1-2 (NIV) A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.

- a. **Not only was she the first one tempted by Satan; she became the mother who bore the promise of victory and life.**
- b. **From her would come one who would crush Satan's head.**

**B. Later in Genesis, God called Abraham, and gave him a promise that from his descendants "all the nations of earth will be blest." (Genesis 12: 3, 18: 18, and 22: 18)**

1. **Abraham's children were called out of the world to be God's people of promise.**
  - a. **In that sense they were the church of the Old Testament.**
  - b. **Church or ekklesia in Greek means called-out ones.**

2. **They were given the role of the woman from whom God's promised son will come.**

**C. God sent the Son he promised.**

1. **His name is Jesus, meaning in the Greek language, "The Lord saves."**

2. The Hebrew name for Jesus is Joshua (which also means "The Lord Saves.")
3. That prophecy referred to earlier from Zechariah 3 of Joshua the high priest pointed ahead to what Jesus did.

**Questions:**

- 1) Instead of destroying the human race after Adam and Eve ruined it with their disobedience, God gave them the promise of salvation through the descendant son of the woman who would crush Satan's head. What does that tell you about God?
- 2) What does it tell you about God that he chose to send that promised son from the descendants of Abraham, the Israelites, a small insignificant people who often rebelled him?
- 3) Read Zechariah 3. How do I think this vision point ahead to what Jesus did for me?

**III. How the Son Jesus, Overcame Satan**

**Revelation 12:11 (NIV)** They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

- A. **Jesus, is the Lamb of God who shed his blood on the cross to take away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)**
  1. Satan used King Herod to kill all the babies in Bethlehem in a failed attempt to kill Jesus.
  2. Eventually he did have Jesus killed on the cross.
  3. In doing so, he unwittingly carried out God's salvation, so that God's protecting angels led by Michael could throw him and his demons out of heaven once and for all.
  4. With their sin gone, Satan lost his power to accuse all who trust in Jesus.
  5. After securing that victory Jesus was snatched up to heaven, and he rules there guiding all things to God's appointed end.
- B. **Jesus victory is followed by the victory of his people.**

**Revelation 12:11 (NIV)** They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

1. The "they" are all those who have confessed their sin and trust in Jesus as their Savior, all those who make up his true church.
2. Their testimony is the testimony of a new victorious life that reflects the Jesus who now lives in them.

**Galatians 2:20 (NIV)** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

3. Just as Jesus lived a life of obedience to God, that becomes the desire of those in whom Jesus is living and who bear witness to him.
4. God's law can guide us in our obedience, but being a Christian is not just strictly obeying the rules.
5. Being a Christian is dying to our former self and striving every day with everything in us to live a new obedient life that is just like Jesus.
  - a. Sometime dying to self can cost us our lives.
  - b. Sometimes it costs us our friends and family.
  - c. Sometimes it means denying our ourselves the pleasures Satan tempts us with.
  - d. It always means that we follow God's path, and not what we think is right.

**Questions:**

- 1) How did Satan in his attempts to destroy God's promised actually carry-out God's plan of salvation? What comfort does that bring me when I become concerned about the sin and evil in our world and particularly about Satan's attempt to destroy the church or even my faith or the faith of the those I love?
- 2) What does it mean to me that Jesus' blood has cleansed me from my sin, so that Satan can no longer accuse me?
- 3) How do I testify that that I have been crucified with Christ and that he now lives in me? What has this testimony meant for me and my life.

**IV. The Struggle to Live in Victory**

- A. **Living like Christ is not easy.**
  1. It takes great struggle every moment of every day.
  2. But we must never forget who lives in us.

**Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV)** Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

- B. **But more to the point of verse 12, the devil will stop at nothing to destroy the church, symbolized by the woman in verse 13.**

**Revelation 12:13 (NIV)** When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

1. He does so because the children of the church hold within them the testimony of Jesus.
2. Just as the Old Testament church carried the promise of Jesus, when we live obedient Christ-like lives, we bear testimony to Jesus who lives in us.

**Questions:**

- 1) What recent struggles have I had as I try to live like Jesus? What comfort do I have that he is in me through the Holy Spirit?
- 2) How is Satan trying to destroy the church today? How is he trying to destroy me? What confidence do I have that he will fail?
- 3) How can be said that the church (God's called-out ones) in the Old Testament and the church (God's called ones) in the New Testament both have carried the Son of Promise within them?

*Colossians 1: 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

**As we struggle in this world, let us not forget the one who lives in us!!! It is in him we have victory and show to all the hope of glory.**