

THE VICTORY OF ALL VICTORIES

I. Revelation 12:7-12

A. Revelation 12:7-12 (ESV) gives us both mystery and clarity, symbolism mixed with done-deal reality: *7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world--he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 And 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 has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. 11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. 12 Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"*

B. Today is actually a holiday of sorts; it's called, "*All Saints Day.*" It's basically the Memorial Day for those who've died for their faith in Jesus Christ. Yesterday, known commonly as Halloween, short for *All Hallows Eve*, is the eve before *All Saints Day*. It's a time for paying tribute to the hallowed believers who suffered and died because they believed in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. These are among those who, "*...have conquered him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.*" Believe it or not, there are those aplenty around our world who are still dying as martyrs because they belong to Jesus and follow Him...

C. Other than insults, most of us have suffered very little for the faith. Of course that could change. God has allowed His people to suffer persecution many times throughout the centuries. Persecution has a refining effect. It separates the dross from the precious metal, the wheat from the chaff, or as my Dad used to say, "*It separates the men from the boys.*" I just finished a book about the Pilgrims which chronicled how horribly they suffered in England before fleeing to Holland and then eventually to America. Even after arriving here at Plymouth, half their number died during that first brutal winter and yet none of them fled afterwards. I pray we are of that same mettle if ever we are called to suffer...

D. When Jesus came to earth, He lived a perfect life even though tempted by Satan. He kept the Law of God perfectly. He demonstrated His Deity by the signs and wonders He performed. Despite all that was going on here, a great war raged in the heavenly realms. The plot to kill Jesus was hatched by the enemy of our souls, that ancient foe, that fallen angel and his fallen accomplices. Satan, whose name means, *accuser*, watched with glee as Jesus was betrayed. He and his demonic hoards cheered as Jesus was tried and falsely accused. They jeered triumphantly as He was spat upon, mocked, and had his back shred wide open. They glared proudly as our Lord was nailed to that shameful cross. They strutted proudly as He was suffocating and bleeding out on that killing tree.

E. But did Satan and his minions know what was really taking place? Did they see our sins imputed to this Perfect Spotless Lamb, this only Son of God? Did they see the

wretched agony of His suffering being done because our sin was placed upon Him? Did they notice God's eyes turned away from His Beloved Son and yet did they notice God's eyes were clearly wide open as Redemption was unfolding? Did the demons see how justice and love were both being satisfied by Jesus' suffering on the cross? And when Jesus breathed His last, did they even have a chance to breathe a sigh of relief? And finally, did they see what was coming next from out of that borrowed tomb three days later? Did Hell see? NO!

G. When Jesus rose up from the dead, all the cheering shifted to heaven's side as man's sin was paid for, paid in full, by the Son of the Most High God! Triumph like none ever was achieved! Satan was humiliated, defeated, and cast down! The saints of old, the saints of then, the saints of now were declared, "*Not guilty!*" Declared, "*Righteous!*" Former prisoners were set free from sin and death, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, redeemed by the Lamb who was slain but who lives again! And we former slaves received adoption as sons & daughters, never to experience second death, but instead granted life forevermore in the blissful presence of Almighty God! This I tell you was the victory of all victories! And the Bread & Cup remind us!

H. How true is all of this? As true as it gets! It's the Truth that still conquers! It's the Truth that conquers in life and in death! It's the Truth that's saturated with a sure and certain Hope! It is the glorious Truth of God! The Bread & Cup remind us!

I. So as you take the Bread & Cup this morning, take it with renewed faith and assurance in what Christ's victory means for you! Jesus' body was broken for you, His blood was shed for you, and His death has won for you everlasting life!

* Pray and Officiate Communion...

* **Romans 8:37-39** (AMP) are words to take us home: **37** *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors and gain an overwhelming victory through Him who loved us [so much that He died for us].* **38** *For I am convinced [and continue to be convinced—beyond any doubt] that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present and threatening, nor things to come, nor powers,* **39** *nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the [unlimited] love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Revelation 12:7-12](#) (ESV)

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loved not their lives even unto death. **12** Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!”

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Video Clips & Important Articles

The Fall of Satan and the Victory of Christ - John Piper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNwQQvysuWg>

What You Need to Know About the Devil's Tricks - Andrew Menkis

<https://corechristianity.com/resource-library/articles/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-devils-tricks/>

"Triumphant Jesus" - The Reformation Hymns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OgxMQChLL0>

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God" - Lyrics by Martin Luther; Sung by Chris Rice

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bONV_YZCKdg

"Victory in Jesus" - The Band Steele

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MN0OJGb2Pjg>

Bonus Stuff

1 Peter 5:8-9 (AMP)

8 Be sober [well balanced and self-disciplined], be alert and cautious at all times. That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion [fiercely hungry], seeking someone to devour. **9** But resist him, be firm in your faith [against his attack—rooted, established, immovable], knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being experienced by your brothers and sisters throughout the world. [You do not suffer alone.]

John 8:42-47 (ESV)

42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of My own accord, but He sent Me. **43** Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear My word. **44** You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from

the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. **45** But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. **46** Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? **47** Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God.”

John 10:10 (ESV)

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

James 4:7 (ESV)

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NIV)

3 But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.

Colossians 1:13-14 (AMP)

13 For He has rescued us and has drawn us to Himself from the dominion of darkness, and has transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption [because of His sacrifice, resulting in] the forgiveness of our sins [and the cancellation of sins' penalty].

Colossians 2:23-25 (VOICE)

13 And when your flesh was still uncircumcised--dead in transgression and swathed in its sinful nature--it was God who brought us to life with Him, forgave all our sins, and **14** eliminated the massive debt we incurred by the law that stood against us. He took it all away; He nailed it to the cross. But that's not all. **15** He disarmed those who once ruled over us--those who had overpowered us. Like captives of war, He put them on display to the world to show His victory over them by means of the cross.

2 Corinthians 4:4-6 (NIV)

4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. **5** For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. **6** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NLT)

4 [We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. **5** We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.

Ephesians 6:10-20 (ESV)

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. **14** Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. **16** In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; **17** and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, **18** praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, **19** and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Quote by Corrie ten Boom

"The first step on the way to victory is to recognize the enemy."

Quote by D.L. Moody

"Take your stand on the Rock of Ages. Let death, let the judgment come: the victory is Christ's and yours through Him."

Quote by Duncan Campbell

"To me, it has been a source of great comfort and strength in the day of battle, just to remember that the secret of steadfastness, and indeed, of victory, is the recognition that "the Lord is at hand."

Quote by Lee Roberson

"Nothing but encouragement can come to us as we dwell upon the faithful dealing of our Heavenly Father in centuries gone by. Faith in God has not saved people from hardships and trials, but it has enabled them to bear tribulations courageously and to emerge victoriously."

Quote by Watchman Nee

"Outside of Christ, I am only a sinner, but in Christ, I am saved. Outside of Christ, I am empty; in Christ, I am full. Outside of Christ, I am weak; in Christ, I am strong. Outside of Christ, I cannot; in Christ, I am more than able. Outside of Christ, I have been defeated; in Christ, I am already victorious. How meaningful are the words, 'in Christ.'"

Quote by Watchman Nee

"To assure victory we need to watch even the sound of our speech. Immediately the evil spirit touches our spirit, our voice loses its softness. A harsh, hard, and shrill utterance does not spring from the Holy Spirit; it simply exhibits the fact that the one who speaks has been poisoned already by Satan."

Quote by Hannah Whitall Smith

"If the will of God is our will, and if He always has His way, then we always have our way also, and we reign in a perpetual kingdom. He who sides with God cannot fail to win in every encounter; and, whether the result shall be joy or sorrow, failure or success, death or life, we may, under all circumstances, join in the Apostle's shout of victory, "Thanks be unto God which always causeth us to triumph in Christ!"

Quote by Francis Scott Key (Author of the Star Spangled Banner)

"Nothing but Christianity will give you the victory. Until a man believes in his heart that Jesus Christ is his Lord and Master, his course through life will be neither safe nor pleasant. My only regret is that I was so long blinded by my pleasures, my vices and pursuits, and the examples of others that I was kept from seeing, admiring, and adoring the marvelous Light of the Gospel."

Victory Over Satan

Ligonier Ministries

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/victory-over-satan/>

"The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!' And he said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven'" (vv. 17–18). - [Luke 10:17–20](#)

Our adversary the Devil may operate within the limits God has set, but that does not mean his threat to us is not real, nor does it mean there is no true battle going on between the forces of light and darkness. Nevertheless, because the Almighty is sovereign even over Satan, we can be assured that our enemy will not win in the end and that we have nothing to fear if we are on the Lord's side.

The New Testament presents this truth in a number of ways, primarily when it tells us that Jesus delivered the fatal blow to the Devil on the cross ([Col. 1:13–15](#)). We also see the idea that though Satan has been mortally wounded, he is still prowling about trying to tear down the church ([1 Peter 5:8](#)). Christ has inaugurated His kingdom, but He has not yet consummated it, and the Devil will assault us until that final day.

As such, the church is tasked with a "mop-up operation" of sorts as we preach the gospel and look to see God's kingdom bear visibly on all aspects of life. This is a truth found in today's passage and the report of the seventy-two followers of Jesus appointed to go into the towns of Israel before Him during His earthly ministry. Just as the finger of God has been displayed in Christ's ministry of healing and exorcisms ([Luke 11:20](#)), so too have the disciples seen the Spirit at work in making even the demons subject to the people of God ([Luke 10:17](#)). Jesus replies, telling them that He has seen Satan fall from heaven (v. 18). The kingdom of God has been on the march, and when it moves, the forces of hell are shaken to the core. Demonic thrones are overturned, the Light of the

World dispels the darkness of sin and evil, and Satan and his minions lose the authority they have to hold the church of Jesus Christ in bondage.

The very gates of hell continue to crumble as the gospel goes forth today, proving Matthew Henry's comment that "Christ foresaw that the preaching of the gospel would wherever it went pull down Satan's kingdom." As the church we have been given the authority to "tread on serpents" (v. 19) — to participate in Jesus' crushing of the Devil ([Gen. 3:15](#)) — and no matter what the Enemy throws at us, we the Lord's people will triumph in the end.

Coram Deo

Are you afraid of the Devil? He is a mighty foe, but we have been given the mighty sword of the Word of God that has "*divine power to destroy strongholds*" ([2 Cor. 10:4](#)). We wage war against Satan by praying for our enemies and recalling the promises and warnings of Scripture that keep us from evil. Let us always remember the authority we have in Christ by His Spirit and be comforted that Satan's worst is no match for our Father's love.

Passages for Further Study:

[2 Kings 6:8–23](#)

[Daniel 10:1–14](#)

[Hebrews 2:14–18](#)

[Revelation 12:7–17](#)