

VICTORY THROUGH THE BLOOD

Revelation 12:1-11

Introduction: For thousands of years there had been a mighty conflict for the possession of mankind between the Old Serpent, who led man astray, and the "seed" of the woman. Often it seemed as though the kingdom of God had come in power, then at other times the might of evil obtained such supremacy that the strife appeared to be hopeless.

It was this way also in the life of our Lord. By His coming the most glorious expectations of a speedy redemption were awakened. How terrible was the disappointment which the death of Jesus brought to all who had believed in Him. It seemed as if the powers of darkness had conquered and had established their kingdom forever. But behold, Jesus is risen from the dead, an apparent victory proving to be the terrible downfall of the prince of darkness. By bringing about the death of the Lord of Life, Satan permitted HIM, who alone was able to break open the gates of death to enter his (Satan's) kingdom. ***"...Through death he had destroyed him that had the power of death, that is, the devil."***

Our text gives a very grand representation of these events. Read the text.

The point which deserves our special attention is that while the conquest of Satan and his being cast out of heaven is first, represented as the result of the ascension of Jesus and the war in heaven which followed, yet in that song of triumph which was heard in heaven, victory is ascribed chiefly to THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB. This was the power by which the victory was gained.

I. THE VICTORY WHICH WAS GAINED ONCE FOR ALL

1. Satan once occupied a high position, he had entrance into heaven, although an enemy of the human race.
 - This is taught in the Old Testament for in the book of Job Satan is seen coming with the Sons of God to present himself before the Lord and to obtain permission from God to tempt God's servant, Job. (*Job 3*) - *Zechariah 3:1-2* - "***Joshua, the High Priest standing before the angel of the Lord and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him...***" then in *Luke 10:18* - "***I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven...***" Later on, in His agony of soul as He felt beforehand His approaching sufferings, Jesus said, "***...now is the judgment of this world, now shall the prince of this world be cast out...***" (*John 12:31*)
2. When Satan had brought about the fall of man and had also transferred the world to himself and became its prince, he had real authority over all that was in it, for God had said, "***...have thou authority...***" When Satan had conquered the king, he took his entire kingdom under his authority and this authority was recognized by God. God in His holy will, had ordained that if man listen to Satan, he must suffer the consequences and become subject to Satan's will.
 - God never in this matter used His power or exercised force, but always took the way of Law and Right and so Satan retained his authority until it was taken from him in a Lawful manner.
3. Satan had obtained authority over all flesh and only after he was conquered in FLESH as the sphere of his authority, could he be cast out forever, as accuser, from the Court of Heaven.
 - So the Son of God, also had to come in FLESH, in order to fight and conquer Satan, ON HIS OWN GROUND. Remember the Lord Jesus "***...was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil...***"

- Victory over Satan could be gained only after He (Jesus) had personally endured and resisted Satan's temptations.
- 4. This one victory was not sufficient. Jesus Christ came in order that **"...through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is the devil..."** because of the Law of God. The scripture says, **"...the sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the Law..."** Victory over Satan could not take place till the righteous demands of the Law were perfectly fulfilled. The sinner must be delivered from the power of the law before he/she could be delivered from the authority of Satan.
 - It was through Jesus' death and the shedding of His blood, that the Lord Jesus fulfilled the law's demands. The Law had been declaring that **"...the wages of sin is death..."** **"...the soul that sinneth it shall die..."** As our surety, the Son of God was born under the Law, He obeyed it perfectly. He willingly gave Himself up to bear the punishment of sin. When He shed His blood, He had devoted His whole life, to its very end, to the fulfilling of the Law.
- 5. There is another victory which follows this first victory. Satan having been cast down to earth, the heavenly victory must now be carried out down here.

II. WE (BELIEVERS) HAVE A SHARE IN THIS VICTORY

1. Believers in Jesus Christ are counted among those who have been cleansed in the blood of the Lamb.
 - To have the full enjoyment of this wonderful event, we must pay attention to some facts:
 - There can be no victory without conflict.
 - We must recognize that we dwell in an enemy territory.
 - Victory is through faith.
 - **"...This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?..." (1 John 5:4-5) - "...Be of good cheer...I have overcome the world..."**
 - Satan is an already conquered enemy. Satan has nothing, absolutely nothing by right to say to one who belongs to the Lord Jesus. Only by unbelief or by ignorance does Satan have any hold.
2. Only this faith can inspire courage and joy in the strife. Jesus has won the victory for us, we only have to have faith in HIM.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christians, our Lord, by His blood, has made us not only priests but kings unto God, that we may draw near to God.
2. Lost person, the only way you can escape from Satan in this world, and the world to come, is to confess Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

(Preached by my father in 1969)