

Lesson Nine

Jesus' Victory Over the Devil

Angels and Demons, pp. 113-119

Goals

1. To understand that Jesus has won the victory over Satan.
2. To appreciate what Jesus' victory means for each one of us.

Introduction

- Note the following dates. What is their significance?

April 12, 1861

April 6, 1917

December 8, 1941

When did God declare war on the devil?

Genesis 3:15 *“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.”*

- Before a sporting event or an international conflict, the sides often boast about how they are going to defeat the opposition. How would you describe God's statement here?

- How did God send his Son into battle?

Psalm 8:5 *You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.*

- As a Messianic psalm, this passage not only refers to our creation as human beings but also to the coming of Christ. In what way was Jesus made “a little lower than” the angels?

John 18:10,11 *Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?”*

- Usually enemies will approach each other from a position of power. How did Jesus enter the battle for our salvation?
- When did Jesus defeat the devil?

John 19:30 *Jesus said, “It is finished.”*

- In these final words, Jesus doesn’t say, “I am finished.” He rather announces, “It is finished.” What did he mean by this?
- What comfort does this give us as we battle against Satan?

1 Peter 3:19 *[Jesus] went and preached to the spirits in prison.*

Colossians 2:15 *And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*

- Why did Jesus descend into hell?
- How does this prove that he won the war against Satan?

What comfort do we have as soldiers of Christ?

Matthew 16:18 “On this rock I will build my church, and the gate of Hades will not overcome it.”

- The devil continues to attack God’s church. What does Jesus say will never happen?

Ephesians 6:11-17 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- Discuss the weapons that God gives us to battle against Satan.
- On a scale of 0 to 10 (0 = powerless; 10 = all-powerful), rate God’s power. Using that same scale, rate our power as human beings, as well as that of Satan.
- What warning does this give us as we fight against the devil?
- What comfort and confidence do we have knowing that God is on our side?

2 Kings 6:15-17 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh, my lord, what shall we do?” the servant asked. “Don’t be afraid,” the

prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, “O LORD, open his eyes so he may see.” Then the LORD opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- Note the invisible army that is also fighting on our side.

Revelation 19:11-16 *I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

- In the Lord’s Prayer, we ask God to “deliver us from evil.” When will the Lord answer this prayer once and for all?

Summary

Christ has defeated the devil. But as long as we are in this world, we must be on guard against his evil attacks, for Satan is working hard to take us as his prisoners all over again. He wants nothing more than to lock us up in his prison of hell forever. That’s why we stay close to Christ. That is why we study his Word and worship him. For with Christ on our side, we can’t lose. We can be sure we will share in the glory of his life and death as we enjoy the eternal blessings of heaven.

During the week

1. Read the apostle Paul’s letter to the Philippians and note the joy Paul experienced as a child of God redeemed from the devil through Jesus Christ.
2. To review this lesson, read chapter 9 of *Angels and Demons*.