

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Christ's Resurrection and The Defeat Of Satan

Introduction

I am sure that if an individual were to read the history of any country, nation, or people, it will be recorded how there were times of war and conflicts. At times it was for the deliverance of a dreadfully powerful enemy who dashed every hope for release. When a more powerful individual or army came and delivered the people what rejoicing there was. I personally can remember the celebration in the streets of Belfast the night the war ended.

The greatest enemy in all earth's history is Satan. His satanic majesty is void of any compassion, the leader of deception, and desires the damnation of every individual who ever lived, is living, and ever will live. Humanity universally is without power (Rom. 5:6) to deliver himself from the thralldom of sin, the domination of sin, and the darkness of death and hell. When Adam rebelled against God's law (Gen. 2:17; 3:6; Rom. 5:12-19), it was at that moment Satan was given not only domination over man, but also the kingdoms of the world (Lk. 4:5-6). In that dark hour of man's disobedience the Lord promised a deliverer, telling how He would come and what He would do to Satan (Gen. 3:15) who manifested himself in serpent character. At Calvary the Lord bore the punishment for sins (Matt. 26:28). By entering death and exiting it, the man Jesus defeated Satan (Heb. 2:14-15) and provided the foundation for the liberation for those who were under Satan's deception and domination, the dread of death, and the eternal condemnation that awaits those who align themselves with Satan.

When the Lord God gave the promise to Adam, its basic message was the defeat of Satan through the death and resurrection of the Lord. No one saw the Lord rise from the dead and no one alive today has ever spoken to any of the eyewitnesses, and we do not see Satan defeated today, so since faith is always built on evidence, "What is the evidences that Satan is defeated and what does it mean to us?"

Things As They Now Appear

The seeming failure of God's promise.

- a) As we look around this world nationally and internationally, the killings, wars, debauchery and debasement of humanity, one could very easily conclude that Christ utterly failed to defeat Satan for man today evidences the wisdom which is satanic in every way. There has been the unreserved rejection of God from governments, school systems, homes, and churches. Atheism under the guise of intellectualism, liberalism under the guise of tolerance, materialism under the guise of creature comfort and security have become the gods of this world. The following is a compilation of that which people have said through the ages.
 - i) Ken Copeland said, "God is the greatest loser of all time"
 - ii) Jamie Foxx said, "We need to give thanks to our God and Saviour Barak Obama"

iii) How can victory be measured by a man no one believed in, not even his own family (Jn. 7:5).

[It Is A Profound Comfort To Know That We Have A God:](#)

- 1) Whose purposes are un-frustrating, for of Him it is recorded:
 - a) Whose word stands forever, “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven” (Psa. 119:89).
 - b) Whose knowledge has no limits, “For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?” (Rom. 11:34).
 - c) Whose promises can never be broken, “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen” (2 Cor. 1:20).
 - d) Whose ways are past finding out, “O . . . the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out” (Rom. 33:33).
 - e) Whose works are beyond comprehension, “No man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end” (Ecc. 3:11).
- 2) His throne is set in Heaven (Rev. 4:2)
 - a) What is meant by, “the throne being set?” It means there will never come a time when it is set secured, it is that and ever will be (Heb. 1:8), and the Moral Governor of the universe sits upon it (Dan. 7:9). In the awareness that God, who promised the defeat of Satan irrespective of how things and events look at any given moment, we can be assured God has never and will never vacate or be ousted from His throne. Satan has been and will be defeated, and all who align themselves with him will suffer the same fate as he. In God’s own time that will be fully manifested.
- 3) God is truth and His word is truth.
 - a) God, in His kindness, has given us evidences that He will fulfil that which He has pledged. For instance:
 - i) In Titus 1:2 we read the first promise ever given, the promise of “eternal life”. We know by personal experience that to be true.
 - ii) In Eden God gave the first promise on earth which was one of warning, “In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die” (Gen. 2:17). This also has shown to be true.
 - iii) Thus, the first promise after the fall was to Satan, and it promised his defeat, and it will happen.

[The Greatness Of The Enslaving Power And Kingdom](#)

To appreciate any deliverance and liberation there is a need to know in what ways did or does Satan rule, for it is in these ways his power must be broken.

- a) He has control over the kingdoms of the earth (Matt. 4:8-9).
- b) He keeps people in the fear of death (Heb. 2:15).
- c) He holds the power of death (Heb. 2:14).
- d) He is the deceiver and seeks to blind from truth (2 Cor. 4:4).
- e) He keeps people in bondage to traditional beliefs, habits, mind control, philosophies, and adjusting God to man’s own desires (Col. 2:8; 18-23).
- f) Of these the greatest is the power of death, the last enemy to be defeated (1 Cor. 15:26). Death is Satan’s supreme tool. When Christ broke the power of death through His bodily resurrection, then the power of Satan was utterly broken.

Great are the words of Christ, angels and men which the Spirit has inspired:

- a) “He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay” (Matt. 28:6).
- b) “And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses” (Acts 3:15).
- c) “Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it” (Acts 2:24).
- d) “Paul, an apostle, not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead” (Gal. 1:1).
- e) “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” (Matt. 12:40).
- f) “From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day” (Matt. 16:21).
- g) “He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee” (Lk. 24:6).

He was seen having a physical body, thus a bodily resurrection.

- a) While it is true no human saw the Lord rise from the dead, no one needed to, the fact that He was seen after His resurrection was proof He had risen.
 - i) "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have" (Lk. 24:39).
 - ii) "To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3).
 - iii) "And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord" (Jn. 20:20).
 - iv) "Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side" (Jn. 20:27).

By the bodily resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, Satan was shown to be defeated. Christ entered the strong mans dominion and spoiled his house (Matt. 12:29).

- a) By the indisputable fact that the crucified, dead and buried Jesus rose from the dead! What then are some of the indisputable evidences?
 - i) Those by whom He was seen
 1. It is important to appreciate that after His defeat of Satan, Christ was seen, touched, spoken to, ate, and blessed. He was seen on earth and from Heaven. The evidence showing that he defeated Satan, bruised His head is supported, not by circumstantial evidence but by eyewitness. Furthermore, these eye witnesses were bias against the resurrection, and knowing the hostility the confession of such would bring them into, they would not easily proclaim belief in such a fact. How many times and by how many people was the mighty conqueror Lord seen? The following seems to be the order of the appearances.
 2. Between His resurrection and ascension the Lord was seen by:
 - (a) Mary (Mk. 16:9). She then returned to tell of the Lord's appearance to her.
 - (b) To the women on the way (Matt. 28:9).
 - (c) To Peter privately (Lk. 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5 where Peter is translated Cephas).
 - (d) To the two on the road to Emmaus (Mk. 16:12-13; Lk. 24:13-35).
 - (e) To the ten disciples on resurrection day (Jn. 20:19).
 - (f) To the eleven disciples the following Sunday (Jn. 20:26).
 - (g) To the disciples at the sea of Tiberias (Jn. 21:1).
 - (h) To the disciples on the mount in Galilee (Matt. 28:16-17).
 - (i) To over 500 brethren at one time (1 Cor. 15:6).
 - (j) To James (1 Cor. 15:7).
 - (k) To the disciples on the ascension mount (Lk. 24:50-51; Mk. 16:19; Acts 1:9).
 3. After His ascension the Lord was seen by:
 - (a) Stephen (Acts 7:8, 55-56, 59).
 - (b) Paul on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:3-6; 22:6-11; 26:13-18).
 - (c) Paul while in Arabia (Gal. 1:1, 12, 17; Acts 20:4; 26:17).
 - (d) Paul in the temple (Acts 22:17-21)
 - (e) Paul in the prison (Acts 23:11).
 - (f) John on the island of Patmos (Rev. 1:12-20).
 4. Those who did not see Him alive but believed it:
 - (a) The guards who were at the grave (Matt. 28:11-15).
 - (b) The religious leaders (Matt. 28:13).

We often speak about the empty tomb and I understand what is meant, the body of the Lord was no longer there, but I thank God it was not an empty tomb but a vacated one, for the defeat of Satan was manifested by the bodily emptied tomb. Thank God that there were evidences left there that showed He had risen. The folding of the napkin that had been about His head is beautiful for it shows the relaxed orderliness of the Lord. This was no hurried blurred activity to get out of the grave, getting out of death. He stood as the majestic Victor and in the beauty of holiness in which all is perfect, he rolled up the napkin and put it in a separate place.

Glorious are the words:

- a) "That through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14).
- b) "Having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it" (Col. 2:15).
- c) "Who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Tim. 1:10).
 - i) Death was the citadel of Satan. None who were brought into it ever came back from it by their own power. Through the preceding ages Satan had tried to bring to death the purpose of God, but the purposes of God are non-frustrating. "The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne" (Psa. 132:11). When the Lord was born and at times in His life, Satan tried to have him killed for he wanted Christ dead (Lk. 4:29; 8:23; Jn. 7:1). However, Satan did not want Christ to be in control of His death and of His own volition and timing enter death. It was impossible for Christ to have a natural death beca
 - ii) use He was the Source (Jn. 1:4) and Maintainer of all life (Acts 17:28), and because he did not inherit a sin nature or personal sin, He could not die a natural death. For Christ to enter death, the house of the strongman Satan meant He had power over Satan and ultimately over death. This Satan did not want. When the Lord was on the cross Satan wanted Him to come down, for he knew that Christ was going to enter his domain. Thus, Christ entered death but also had the power to exit death.

My understanding is that when the Lord entered death this was much bigger than a man giving up the spirit. I see here a work in the spirit sphere so devastatingly shattering to the government of Satan that the way it was shown to man was by the earthquake. It became the forewarning of that which lies yet ahead when the Lord will bring a catastrophic crushing to the political dominants of this world (Dan. 2:44; 7:26-27), to the heart failing manifestation of his impending wrath (Rev. 6:15-17), and eventually the annihilation of this entire universe (2 Pet. 3:10).

This was one man going into the spirit world of Satan and breaking his power, just as it was a man alone in the spirit world when the Lord had our sins laid upon Him. In His entering death, the Lord began breaking the back of all Satanic power, a breaking that was finished when He rose from the dead and on resurrection ground He stood supreme as the mighty Victor.

The Lord by His victorious resurrection:

- a) Defeated every iota of satanic power (Heb. 2:10)
- b) Decimated the hosts of hell (Col. 2:15)
- c) Divested the evil one of his armour (Lk. 11:21-22)
- d) Destroyed the works of the devil (1 Jn. 3:8)
- e) Devastate the usurper and the military might of earth (Rev. 19:17-21)
- f) Distress the rebellious of earth with His presence (Rev. 6:15-17)

He has brought:

- a) "Life and immortality" (2 Tim. 1:10)

Conclusion

On Easter morning and indeed for any morning, it is bliss to sing:

Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Saviour,
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain

*Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes,
He arose a Victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever, with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Saviour,
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!

. . . Rowan Jennings

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