

Message Three

The Victorious Christ

Scripture Reading: 1 John 3:8; John 12:31; Heb. 2:14; Acts 2:24; Eph. 4:8; Rev. 1:18; 19:11

- 1 John 3:8 He who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
- John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.
- Heb 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,
- Acts 2:24 Whom God has raised up, having loosed the pangs of death, since it was not possible for Him to be held by it.
- Eph 4:8 Therefore the Scripture says, "Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men."
- Rev 1:18 And the living One; and I became dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever; and I have the keys of death and of Hades.
- Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

I. In His earthly ministry the victorious Christ defeated the devil and destroyed his works—Matt. 4:1-11; 1 John 3:8:

- Matt 4:1 Then Jesus was led up into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil.
- Matt 4:2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He became hungry.
- Matt 4:3 And the tempter came and said to Him, If You are the Son of God, speak that these stones may become loaves of bread.
- Matt 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."
- Matt 4:5 Then the devil took Him into the holy city and set Him on the wing of the temple,
- Matt 4:6 And said to Him, If You are the Son of God, cast Yourself down; for it is written, "To His angels He shall give charge concerning You, and on their hands they shall bear You up, lest You strike Your foot against a stone."
- Matt 4:7 Jesus said to him, Again, it is written, "You shall not test the Lord your God."
- Matt 4:8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.
- Matt 4:9 And he said to Him, All these will I give You if You will fall down and worship me.
- Matt 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, Go away, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the You're your God, and Him only shall you serve."
- Matt 4:11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.
- 1 John 3:8 He who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

A. For Him to accomplish His ministry for the kingdom of the heavens, the Lord Jesus had to defeat God's enemy, the devil, Satan—Matt. 4:1, 11:

- Matt 4:1 Then Jesus was led up into the wilderness by the Spirit to be tempted by the devil.
- Matt 4:11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

1. This He had to do as a man; hence, He stood as a man to confront the enemy of God—vv.

3-4, 6-7.

Matt 4:3 And the tempter came and said to Him, If You are the Son of God, speak that these stones may become loaves of bread.

Matt 4:4 But He answered and said, It is written, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God."

Matt 4:6 And said to Him, If You are the Son of God, cast Yourself down; for it is written, "To His angels He shall give charge concerning You, and on their hands they shall bear You up, lest You strike Your foot against a stone."

Matt 4:7 Jesus said to him, Again, it is written, "You shall not test the Lord your God."

2. The devil's temptation of the first man, Adam, was a success; his temptation of the second man, Christ, was an absolute failure—v. 11.

Matt 4:11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

B. In His ministry on earth, the Lord Jesus destroyed the works of the devil—1 John 3:8:

1 John 3:8 He who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

1. In 1 John 3:8 the Greek word translated "destroy" may also be translated "undo, " or "dissolve."

1 John 3:8 He who practices sin is of the devil, because the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

2. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might undo and destroy the sinful deeds of the devil, that is, condemn, through His death on the cross in the flesh, sin initiated by him, the evil one; destroy the power of sin, the sinful nature of the devil; and take away both sin and sins—Rom. 8:3; Heb. 2:14; John 1:29.

Rom 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,

Heb 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

II. In His crucifixion the victorious Christ cast out the ruler of this world, destroyed the devil, caused the rulers and authorities to be stripped off, and nullified death—12:31; Matt. 27:51; Heb. 2:14; Col. 2:15; 2 Tim. 1:10:

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.

Matt 27:51 And behold, the veil of the temple was split in two from top to bottom, and the earth was shaken and the rocks were split,

Heb 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

Col 2:15 Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

2 Tim 1:10 But now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who nullified death and brought life and incorruption to light through the gospel,

- A. In His work on the cross, Christ cast out the ruler of this world and judged the world—John 12:31:

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.

1. The ruler of this world was cast out when Satan was cast out by Christ's work in His death.
2. Simultaneously, the world system related to Satan was judged—1 John 5:19.

1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the evil one.

3. The base of Satan's rebellion was shaken, and the strongholds of Satan's earthly kingdom were shaken—Matt. 27:51.

Matt 27:51 And behold, the veil of the temple was split in two from top to bottom, and the earth was shaken and the rocks were split,

- B. In His crucifixion Christ destroyed the devil—Heb. 2:14:

Heb 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

1. In verse 14 the Greek word translated "destroy" can also be rendered as "bring to nought, make of none effect, do away with, abolish, annul, discard."

Heb 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,

2. In His humanity and through His work on the cross, Christ has destroyed the devil—John 3:14.

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

- C. In His work on the cross, Christ caused the angelic rulers and authorities to be stripped off, to be made a display of openly, and to be triumphed over in the cross by God—Col. 2:15:

Col 2:15 Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

1. Colossians 2:15 portrays the warfare that took place at the time of Christ's crucifixion.

Col 2:15 Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

2. God openly shamed the evil angelic rulers and authorities on the cross and triumphed over them in it—v. 15.

Col 2:15 Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

- D. Through His devil-destroying death, Christ nullified death, making it of none effect—2 Tim. 1:10.

2 Tim 1:10 But now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who nullified death and brought life and incorruption to light through the gospel,

III. The resurrection of the victorious Christ declares that He is victorious over death—2:8:

2 Tim 2:8 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, of the seed of David, according to my gospel,

- A. It was not possible for the Lord to be held by death—Acts 2:24:
 Acts 2:24 Whom God has raised up, having loosed the pangs of death, since it was not possible for Him to be held by it.
1. The Lord Jesus is both God and resurrection, possessing an indestructible life; death cannot hold Him—John 11:25; Heb. 7:16.
 John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;
 Heb 7:16 Who has been appointed not according to the law of a fleshly commandment but according to the power of an indestructible life.
 2. The Lord Jesus defeated death and rose up from it.
- B. The resurrected Christ is “the living One, ” and He has “the keys of death and of Hades”—Rev. 1:18:
 Rev 1:18 And the living One; and I became dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever; and I have the keys of death and of Hades.
1. As the living One, the Lord became dead, but now He is “living forever and ever”—v. 18a.
 Rev 1:18a And the living One; and I became dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever; ...
 2. The resurrected Christ has the keys of death and of Hades; death is subject to Him, and Hades is under His control—v. 18b.
 Rev 1:18b ... and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

IV. In His ascension the victorious Christ “led captive those taken captive”—Eph. 4:8:

- Eph 4:8 Therefore the Scripture says, "Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men."
- A. The Amplified New Testament renders He led captive those taken captive as “He led a train of vanquished foes”:
1. Vanquished foes may refer to Satan, to his angels, and to us the sinners.
 2. This indicates Christ’s victory over Satan, sin, and death; in His ascension there was a procession of vanquished foes, led as captives from a war for a celebration of Christ’s victory—2 Cor. 2:14.
 2 Cor 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in the Christ and manifests the savor of the knowledge of Him through us in every place.
- B. As believers, we are now in the heavens, for when Christ ascended to the heavens, we were in the train of captives led by Him to “the height”—Eph. 4:8:
 Eph 4:8 Therefore the Scripture says, "Having ascended to the height, He led captive those taken captive and gave gifts to men."
1. Christ has released us from the usurping hand of Satan and brought us to the heavens where we are now sitting, not as captives but as sons of God and members of Christ—2:6.
 Eph 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus,
 2. In His ascension the victorious Christ has brought us to the highest place in the universe—v. 6; 4:8.

- Eph 2:6 And raised us up together with Him and seated us together with Him in the
 heavenlies in Christ Jesus,
 Eph 4:8 Therefore the Scripture says, "Having ascended to the height, He led captive those
 taken captive and gave gifts to men."

V. The victorious Christ will come as the fighting General with His army to fight Antichrist, the kings under him, and their armies at Armageddon—Rev. 19:11-21:

- Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
 Rev 19:12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written which no one knows but Himself.
 Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.
 Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
 Rev 19:15 And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
 Rev 19:16 And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, King Of KINGS And Lord Of LORDS.
 Rev 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven, Come here; gather yourselves to the great dinner of God,
 Rev 19:18 That you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of generals and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free and slave and small and great.
 Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army.
 Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone.
 Rev 19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

A. Christ is “called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war”—v. 11:

Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

1. Christ is faithful and true both to God and to those who believe in Him—v. 11a.

Rev 19:11a And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, ...

2. In His faithfulness He defeats and destroys those who oppose God and persecute the believers.

3. He is also true in carrying out God’s economy and in caring for those who believe in Him.

4. He is righteous, and in righteousness He will defeat Antichrist and judge the rebels who follow him—v. 11b.

Rev 19:11b ... and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

B. The fighting General, the Warrior, is the Word, and His fighting will be the speaking of the

word of God; as the Lord fights, He speaks for God and expresses God—v. 13; 2 Thes. 2:8.

Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.

2 Thes 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord Jesus will slay by the breath of His mouth and bring to nothing by the manifestation of His coming),