

The Doom of Satan

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Introduction

From the moment sin entered into the world, through the long period of providential preparation, through the earthly ministry of Jesus and the subsequent spread of the gospel, the outcome of God's epic struggle with Satan has never been in doubt.

Foreshadowed

In the Garden of Eden

The defeat of the serpent, i.e. Satan, was foreshadowed in the Garden of Eden, when God said, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel" (Gen. 3:15).

In the Messianic Prophets

Expanding upon the promise relating to the seed of woman, the prophet Isaiah said, "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel" (Isa. 7:14). Speaking of the Suffering Servant, Isaiah anticipated the vicarious sacrifice of Christ (Isa. 53).

In like manner, Daniel predicted what lay ahead for the holy city, Jerusalem, where God would accomplish His eternal purpose: finishing transgression, making an end of sin, providing atonement for iniquity, bringing in everlasting righteousness, sealing up vision and prophecy, etc. These great acts would be made possible by the coming of the Messiah, and the cutting off of the Same (Dan. 9:24-27).

Fulfilled

In the Coming of Christ

Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ: "The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:4-10, esp. vs. 8; Gal. 4:4-5). When tested by the devil, first in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1-11), and later in Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46), our Lord was tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin (Heb. 2:14-18; 4:14-16).

Jesus also demonstrated His superior power by casting out demons (Matt. 12:22-29). Empowering His disciples to do the same, He said, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning..." (Luke 10:17-20).

Near the end of His ministry, anticipating His death on the cross, Jesus said, "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out" (John 12:27-36, esp. vs. 31). On the night of His betrayal, after warning His disciples of the coming ordeal, Jesus said, "I will not

speaking much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me; but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me” (John 14:25-31, esp. vs. 30-31).

Later in His Upper Room discourse, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit, who would convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment: “concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged” (John 16:5-15, esp. vs. 8-11).

Dying on the cross, Jesus rendered powerless him who had the power of death, that is the devil, and freed those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. Since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted (Heb. 2:14-18).

In the Preaching of the Gospel

Victory over Satan is made possible through the preaching of the gospel. Calling Saul on the Damascus road, the Lord Jesus said, “I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me” (Acts 26:12-18, esp. vs. 16-18).

Through obedience to the heavenly message, sinners are delivered from death, and the dominion of Satan. Saved by grace through obedient faith, we are made alive together with Christ (Eph. 2:1-7).

Empowered by the strength that God affords, we are able to fight the good fight of faith, and stand firm against the spiritual forces of wickedness and overcome the schemes of the devil (Eph. 6:10-13).

In the Purposes of God

The Book of Revelation depicts the peril confronting the early church (Rev. 12:7-17), the subsequent binding of Satan’s power (Rev. 20:1-3), and the ultimate overthrow of the evil one (Rev. 20:7-10).

Conclusion

Paul’s promise remains steadfast: “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet” (Rom. 16:17-20). The affirmation of John remains trustworthy: “You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4-6).

Let us, therefore, act accordingly. Although the present hour may be dark, and the future uncertain, yet know that sin will be punished, that Satan will be vanquished, and that God will be triumphant (2 Pet. 2:4-9). Faith and obedience are the key to victory (1 John 5:1-4).