

WAR IN HEAVEN, VICTORY & FREEDOM ON EARTH

- A. **When we partake** of the Lord's Supper we should be doing more than simply remembering the suffering & death of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.
1. We should also be considering that every spiritual blessing God offers to us is granted through the death of His Son (**Eph 1:3-14**).
 2. So when we take the emblems we are not only thinking about the Lord's death, we are also honoring God the Father for having accomplished our redemption by allowing the death of His Son (**Heb 9:13-15**).

Alternate Intro: On Memorial Day we will give thanks to God as we reflect on the sacrifices made in times of war to secure and maintain our freedom as a nation. But today let us reflect on the greatest war, which secured our freedom from sin & its tragic consequence of separating us from God. That war took place in Heaven, and it did not occur before time began, nor will it occur at the end of time, but this war took place when Jesus died & arose from the grave.

- B. **The Book of Revelation** uses dramatic symbols to help us visualize the wonderful, eternal results of Christ's death.

Rev 12:7-9 – And **war broke out in heaven**: Michael & his angels fought with the dragon; & the dragon & his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil & Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, & his angels were cast out with him.

1. Did you notice that Satan was deceiving the whole world while also living in heaven?
2. What we see here is not just a minor skirmish between angelic beings, but an all-out war.
3. And this war in heaven was not so different from any war ever fought on the earth; the outcome had already been decided by God.
4. Nevertheless, it was a conflict such as we could not imagine, between forces far greater than the mighty military machines of our present age.
5. But what is the time frame of this event?
 - a. Some say it took place before the creation, & others say it will happen at the end of time, but the fact is that the text itself identifies the time frame.

Rev 12:10 – Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “**Now salvation, & strength, & the kingdom of our God, & the power of His Christ have come**, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day & night, has been cast down.”

[When did salvation become available to man? When was the kingdom & power of Christ established?

This war in heaven did not occur before time began, nor will it occur at the end of time, but this war in heaven took place when Jesus died & arose from the grave.]

I. DEATH OF JESUS means DEFEAT OF SATAN

A. The Scriptures frequently present Jesus’ death as the turning point in God’s dealings with the Devil.

John 12:28-33 – “Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it & will glorify it again.” 29 Therefore the people who stood by & heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to Him.” 30 Jesus answered & said, “This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. 31 **Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.** 32 **And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.**” 33 **This He said, signifying by what death He would die.** (John 14:30:16:11)

Col 2:12-15 – buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses & the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14

having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 **Having disarmed principalities & powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.**

Heb 2:14-15 – Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh & blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, **that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil**, 15 & release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

1 John 3:8 – He who sins is of the devil, for 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.**

Gen 3:15 – And I will put enmity between you & the woman, & between your seed & her Seed; **He shall bruise your head**, & you shall bruise His heel.

Luke 10:16-20 – Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” 18 **And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.** 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents & scorpions, & over all the power of the enemy, & nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

1. All these passages indicate that Satan was in heaven before Jesus came to earth to die & be resurrected.
2. In the Books of Job (1) & Zechariah (3), Satan is shown to be in heaven; in Genesis (3), he is in the paradise of God with those who were in fellowship with God.

3. When Jesus came to the earth to reclaim what was rightfully His, & to establish His authority, Satan followed Him & hounded His every step, & claimed that the kingdoms of the world belonged to Him (Matt 4).
 - a. Satan did everything in his power to drive Jesus out of this world by turning it against Him (John 1:10).
 - b. Satan was so effective that even one in the Lord's inner circle betrayed Him (John 13:27).
 - c. And finally, Satan believed that he had gained the ultimate victory in defeating God's plan to save the souls of men by turning His own people against Him, which led to the crucifixion of Christ (John 1:11).
 - d. It seemed to Satan that He had finally gained the upper hand: *the Son of God was rejected by men & dead to this world*, but what Satan thought was God's defeat was really His victory.

Rev 12:11 – And **they** [the Lord's brethren] **overcame him** [Satan the deceiver of the world, the accuser of brethren] **by the blood of the Lamb** & by the word of their testimony [obedience to the gospel], & they did not love their lives to the death (cf. 1 Pet 1:17-25; 2:21-25).

B. **You see**, the crucifixion of Christ accomplished the will of God in two ways.

1. First, it became the power God would use to draw all men to Himself (John 12:32-33).
2. Secondly, it was the power God used to drive Satan out of His presence forever (John 12:30-31).

[But what did that war in heaven mean to us?]

II. DEFEAT OF SATAN means VICTORY FOR US

A. **We** (who are in Christ) **become like spoils** taken in a great battle by the Victor, who is Christ.

Matt 12:28-29 – But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 Or **how can one enter a strong man's house & plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man?** And then he will plunder his house (cf. Eph 4:8)

1. God's desire is that we be taken where Christ the Victor resides rather than to the place where God will send the One He defeated (Matt 25:34, 41, 46).

2. When you are baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, you become part of the spoils taken by Christ in His great victory over Satan ([Acts 2:38](#); [Gal 3:27](#)).

[What did that war in heaven mean to us?]

- B. **We too have the power** to defeat Satan, & that power is through Christ.

1. Satan is opposed to everything that is good, true & righteous; he hates even God, & he wants as many souls in hell with him as God will allow.
2. So if Satan can influence a person to reject the gospel of Christ & to disobey the word of God then Satan has won that battle ([Rom 6:23](#)).
3. You say, “But I thought Christ destroyed him who had the power of death” ([Heb 2:14](#))?
 - a. That word “destroy” does not mean kill, but it means *to bring to nothing* (Vine’s), to make powerless.

- b. But toward whom is Satan powerless? To the world? No! Satan is still very powerful in the world ([Eph 2:2](#)).

- c. But Satan is powerless against the seed of Abraham ([Heb 2:16](#)). Who are they? Those who have been baptized into Christ, having put on the character of their Savior ([Gal 3:27, 29](#)).

1 Cor 15:56 – The sting of death is sin ([Rom 6:23](#)), & the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to **God**, who ***gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ***.

NLT – For ***sin is the sting*** [the mortal blow or wound] ***that results in death***, & the law gives sin its power. 57 But thank God! He gives us victory over sin & death through our Lord Jesus Christ. – BY WHAT MEANS?

Eph 1:7 – ***In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins***, according to the riches of His grace.

4. If Jesus had not come to die & be raised from the dead then Satan would have been successful in stinging us into an eternal separation from God – *he could stake his claim on us at the Judgment Seat of Christ*.
5. But through Jesus’ death & resurrection, forgiveness has been made available to all ([Rom 4:25](#); [2 Cor 5:14-15](#)).

6. And for those who faithfully serve Christ, no one – especially not Satan – can bring a charge against them.

Rom 8:33-34 – *Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.* 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, & furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us [the elect].

[That war in heaven...& that victory on earth... means everything to us.

It means that we can belong to God, as spoils taken in a battle.

And it means that we have the power, through Christ, to have our past sins forgiven when we are baptized, & our present sins forgiven when we confess them in prayer to God (1 John 1:7, 9).

There is no greater power than that!

It is a power worthy of our everlasting praise to God!

It is a power worth fighting for, as did the angels of God & Christ.]

CLOSING

- A. **Today**, many of us can rejoice in our salvation because of the war is already won by the Lord & His angels; but while we rejoice, Satan is enraged.

1. And in his rage he will furiously pursue us to turn us away from our Lord – *Satan will use every means at his disposal.*
2. In Revelation, John tells us that Satan will use persecution (Sea Beast), false religion (Land Beast) & love for the riches & pleasures of the world (Babylon, Rome).
3. But as long as we will do what our “brethren” did in John’s day, we will be protected from Satan’s schemes.
4. Even though Satan’s power is ineffective against the Christian, he can still pursue us to our death.
5. In a sense, God has had to crush Satan often, as he exerts greater power than God wants him to possess.

Rom 16:19-20 (After warning them to avoid the smooth talking false teachers & their flattering speeches) – For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, & simple concerning evil. 20 ***And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.*** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen

6. But we can have great peace of mind in knowing that a war, which has already been fought & won by our Lord long ago, has forever given us victory over our Chief Opponent (1 Pet 5:8-9).

{Below is an outline of the sermon.}

WAR IN HEAVEN – FREEDOM ON EARTH (Rev 12:7-11)

On Memorial Day we will give thanks to God as we reflect on the sacrifices made in times of war to secure and maintain our freedom as a nation. But today let us reflect on the greatest war, which secured our freedom from sin & its tragic consequence of separating us from God. That war took place in Heaven, and it did not occur before time began, nor will it occur at the end of time, but this war took place when Jesus died & arose from the grave.

I. DEATH OF JESUS means DEFEAT OF SATAN

- A. God cast Satan out of Heaven when Jesus died (John 12:28-33; Col 2:12-15; Heb 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8; Gen 3:15; Luke 10:16-20).
 - 1. Before Jesus died Satan was in Heaven (Job 1; Zech 3).
 - 2. Satan tried to prevent his being cast out of Heaven (Matt 4; John 1:10-11; 13:27).
 - 3. But instead Satan helped to carry out God's plan (Rev 12:11; 1 Pet 1:17-25; 2:21-25).

[What does this war in Heaven mean to us?]

II. DEFEAT OF SATAN means VICTORY FOR US

- A. Christians are spoils taken in a great battle (Matt 12:28-29; Eph 4:8).
 - 1. The spoils will be taken to where Christ the Victor resides (Matt 25:34, 41, 46).
 - 2. Are you among His spoils (Acts 2:38; Gal 3:27)?
- B. Christians also have the power to defeat Satan (Rom 6:23; Heb 2:14).
 - 1. Satan is still a very powerful force in this world (Eph 2:2).
 - 2. But Satan is powerless against the seed of Abraham (Heb 2:16; Gal 3:27, 29).
 - 3. The Christian's victory over Satan is through the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15:56).

- a. The means of victory is the shed blood of Christ, which procures forgiveness & eternal redemption (Eph 1:7; Rom 4:25; 2 Cor 5:14-15).
- b. No one can bring an accusation against the spoils of Christ (Rom 8:33-34).
- c. Their sins are forgiven (1 John 1:7, 9).

We can have great peace of mind in knowing that a war, which has already been fought & won by our Lord long ago, has forever given us victory over our Chief Opponent & freedom from the consequences of our sins against God (1 Pet 5:8-9; Rom 6:3-4, 17-18).

GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR SALVATION:

Hear the gospel of Jesus Christ; read it in your Bible: Acts 2; 3; 13; 17; Rom 10:17

Believe Jesus to be Lord and Christ, the Son of God and Savior: Acts 2:36; John 3:16; 8:24; 20:30-31; Acts 4:12; Titus 1:4

Repent of your sins: Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 1 John 3:4

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ: Matt 10:32-33; Acts 8:37; Rom 10:9-10

Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins: Acts 2:38; Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:27; Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:21

Be obedient to the Lord, He will be your Judge: Titus 2:11-12; Heb 5:9; 2 John 9; Rev 2:10; John 12:48

Works Cited:

Fisher, Gary. War In Heaven. Beneath The Cross: Essays and Reflections on the Lord's Supper (DeWard Publishing Company, Ltd. 2008), 195-198