

10 Looks: Look 7 – Victor (24 Nov 2024)



I suspect every last one of us has had a thought like this many times:

I believe that Jesus has come – I believe the Bible when it says He defeated Satan, sin and death.

But – I am really struggling to see the victory.

Jesus has come – but Satan's fiery darts still hit their target.

Jesus has come – but I still fall into the same sins – sins I hate – over and over again.

Jesus has come – but the world is still filled with war, cancer and division and I still get sick and people I love die.

The Christian life doesn't seem all that victorious and frankly – I am sick of losing.

Maybe there is no victory?

Or maybe I am not a true saint?

We are in a series based on a quote from *Robert Murray McCheyne*:



For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ.

Looking at Christ humbles the mind, magnifies the mind and feeds the soul.

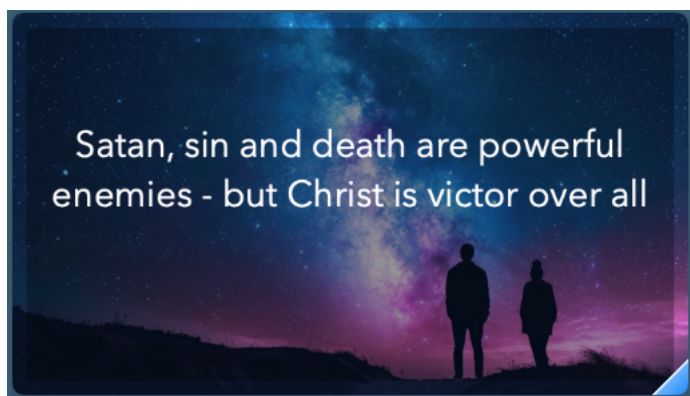
It is the greatest exercise we can undertake.

This morning, the **seventh** look at Jesus I want us to meditate on is that **Christ glorifies the Father as:**



Victor

Here is what I want you to understand:



Satan, sin and death are powerful enemies – but Christ is victor over all.

Satan, sin and death are powerful enemies – but Christ is infinitely more powerful and will be victor over all.

What is victory?

You look at wars like Ukraine and Russia.

Neither side seems capable of finishing off the other.

It seems almost certain this war will have to end with a negotiated settlement.

Then, both sides will spin it as a victory – but everyone knows – there was no victor.

Sometimes it seems the victory of Christ is a bit like that. Some wins but not complete victory – and that raises a slew of questions.

Jesus has come – but Satan, sin and death are still here. And they still seem so powerful.

We know Jesus is bigger – but it is just that it doesn't always seem like it.

And this can rob us of our assurance.

Unless the Lord returns, one day you will be lying in your bed getting ready to stand before the Great White Throne.

And the accuser of the brethren will target your fears.

He might whisper. You have seen a lifetime of war, divorce, division. Young kids abused and killed – deep down you **have** to know there is no God. Admit it – you have wasted your life.

Or he might whisper – there is a God – but you are not His. Too many failures. Too much sin. Too little victory.

You are not going to make it to heaven. You aren't His – you belong to me. See you soon.

And a fair chunk of us will find ourselves fearing that these thoughts are true.

And some will even find themselves overwhelmed by fear – Oh no – it is true – I wasted my life – I failed – I am condemned.

But – I trust that is when a lifetime of Bible reading, hymns, theology – and a certain sermon you heard on the victory of Christ – will enable you to respond – NO! – these are lies from the pit of hell – my Prince has pardoned me.

1 Corinthians 15:57:

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

I want you to **know** that in Christ you do have victory.

At this point I need to acknowledge that for many years talking about the victory of Jesus has been a somewhat touchy subject in evangelical churches.

It wasn't always. From the earliest days of the church until the mid-20th century – Christians rejoiced in the victory of Jesus over **Satan, sin and death**.

O victory in Jesus, my Saviour forever,
He sought me and bought me
with His redeeming blood.

There is a wonderful theological term – **Christus Victor** – *Christ the victor*.

Throughout the age it spoke of the complete victory of Christ over *Satan, sin and death*.

But – in 1931 – Gustaf Aulen published a book – *Christus Victor* – where he argued that – on the cross Jesus defeated Satan – but *not* sin.

He said that Jesus didn't have to defeat sin because what saves us is His defeat of the powers of evil and rescuing us from Satan.

What drove Aulen's thinking is that he really didn't like the idea of God pouring His wrath on Jesus – so he denied the idea of penal substitution – Christ dying in our place to pay for our sins. A God of love would not allow His Son to be punished for us.

Many liked the book – many still do. It had a big influence.

But the reality is the Bible clearly teaches Jesus died in our place for our sin. 1 John 2:2:

He himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Unfortunately, the debate around this movement tainted the term.

So today, if you said – I hold to Christus Victor – some ears would prick up and wonder – so does that mean you deny the atoning work of Christ for sin?

Because of this, the term and the teaching dropped out of common use – **and** in response penal substitutionary atonement was emphasised almost to the exclusion of what Christ did in defeating Satan.

Here is what I need you to understand. The victory of Jesus has to be over *Satan and sin and death*.

In fact – without the complete and final defeat of **all** of them – there is **no ultimate victory**.

For example – what if Jesus defeated sin and death – placed you in the new heavens – but Satan still lived?

If Satan still roamed eternity – then sin could re-enter the new heavens and new earth. There could be a repeat of Adam's fall in Eden.

But with Satan gone – no serpent will ever appear to tempt you or me or anyone else.

But the good news of Scripture is that **Satan, sin and death** will be completely destroyed – for all eternity.

It is just that the victory of Jesus is complex.

Let's think through this together.

Genesis 3 is a crucial chapter.

It is here we meet the *three great enemies* every one of us will battle throughout our lives.



SATAN, SIN and DEATH

Scripture tells us that Satan and his demons rebelled – and a war began in the heavens.

But, Genesis 3 describes the moment that the war extended to the earth.

The chapter opens with Adam and Eve in the garden – without sin.

But then in verse 1 – the serpent – **Satan** appears. And he tells them a lie. You know God hasn't been totally forthcoming about this tree and he tempts Adam into sin – and at that moment everything changed.

Verse 7 – **sin** entered the creation. Adam and Eve are now sinners in a world tainted by their sin.

Every descendent would be defiled by sin. The world was defiled by sin. Famine, war, division was now a constant in our world.

And the result was **death**. Illness, old age and death was now part of life.

From that moment – it means that every man, woman and child would live their life locked in a struggle – with **Satan** – and the cosmic powers opposed to God. With their own **sin**. And with the bodily decay that leads to **death**.

After being cast out of the garden into a fallen world I suspect Adam thought about what he had lost every day of his life.

He knew there was no going back.

But, incredibly – God Himself promised while there is no way back – there is a way to go forward to a new Eden – an even better Eden. An Eden in which Satan, sin and death can never enter.

God promised that One would come who would destroy Satan and sin and even death. His victory would lead to this new and better Eden.

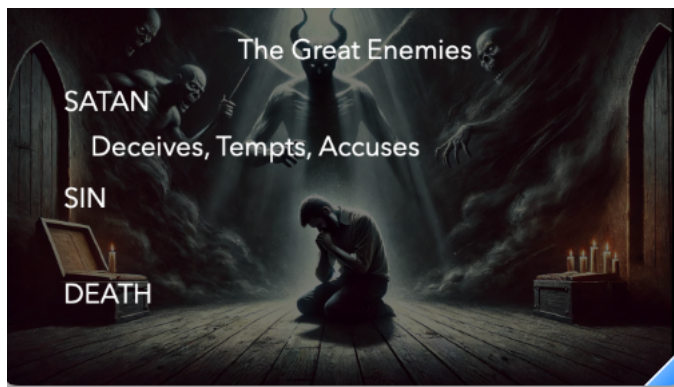
Genesis 3:15:

I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.

Satan – sin – death.

Western Christians tend to focus on the battle with sin and death.

But Satan and the spiritual powers – are just as much an enemy.



Satan. He hates those made in the image of God – and he especially hates those who love God.

He seems to primarily attack us in three ways.

He deceives, tempts and then accuses.

Think about Genesis 3.

He starts with deception.

Satan does not come out with something that is obviously a lie.

He takes a truth and twists it just enough to sound plausible – but it is a deadly lie.

Did God really say that? Nah – you won't die if you eat it. All these other trees are good – so why would that one kill you?

Then He tempts – you want to be like God – you know you want it.

There are so many Old and New Testament passages that point to Satan as the deceiver and tempter.

The Bible speaks of messengers of Satan and fiery darts of Satan.

1 Kings 22:20-22 – an evil spirit entices Ahab into being deceived.

Acts 5:3 – Satan fills the heart of Ananias with greed.

And John 8:44 – Satan is the father of lies – there is no truth in him.

It seems Satan inspires false religions and teachings to lead us astray.

It seems he strives to place the temptations of the world before us.

He knows our weaknesses, our fears, our blind spots and orchestrates our lives to fan those embers into sin.

And – as soon as we succumb – he switches to **accuse**.

In Revelation 12:10 we are told that Satan is the accuser of our brothers and sisters who accuses them before our God day and night.

This one sinned – he broke the law – she is guilty – as a holy God you must affirm that they rightly deserve hell.

You better believe that Satan is keeping a list and checking it twice and making sure God is well aware you are very naughty – and not at all nice.

I'm 62. I can only imagine the list of accusations levelled against me – greed, lust, gossip, envy, pride, dissatisfaction, lies, laziness, gluttony.

And here is the thing – Satan doesn't have to lie about them – they are true – all true.

And he doesn't really need that long list – just one true accusation is enough to condemn me to hell for all eternity.

But that doesn't stop him relentlessly accusing.

In Job 1, Satan appears in heaven before God and accuses Job. He is only righteous because you bless him. Test him and you will see his true colours.

In Zechariah 3:1 we read:

Then he showed me the high priest Joshua standing before the angel of the Lord, with Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.

Deception – temptation – accusation.

It is unrelenting.

Ephesians 6:12 sums up our battle with Satan:

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens.

Brothers and sisters – understand the nature of the battle we are in.

Growing up I loved comics. I had a huge – and somewhat valuable comic collection – mainly DC but some Marvel – don't get me started as to what happened to them.

Every hero in those comics had a nemesis.

Batman had Joker.

Spiderman had Green Goblin.

They were fairly evenly matched – but somehow the hero always triumphed.

You have a nemesis. But it is not an even match. You are outgunned and outclassed.

You have an immensely powerful, relentless created being – who is your implacable, mortal enemy.

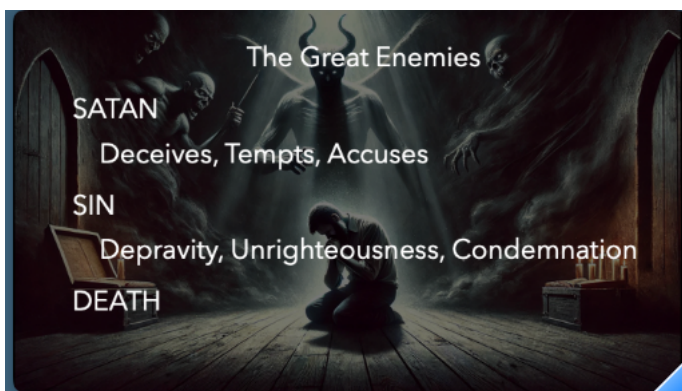
And frankly – his great weapon – accusation – is all true.

Alone – you will **never** triumph.

But the battle gets even worse.

We have a second mortal enemy that makes each of us very vulnerable to the deception and temptation of Satan.

Sin



We are born in sin – we are depraved.

We have no power to resist.

The fall corrupted every part of us – our minds, our wills, our emotions, our bodies.

Every part of us is tainted by sin to the point that even the most righteous of our acts are like filthy rags before God.

We cannot resist sin. We cannot please God.

1 Kings 8:46:

For there is no one who does not sin.

Psalm 14:2–3:

The Lord looks down from heaven on the human race ... There is no one who does good, not even one.

Romans 3:23:

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

John 8:34:

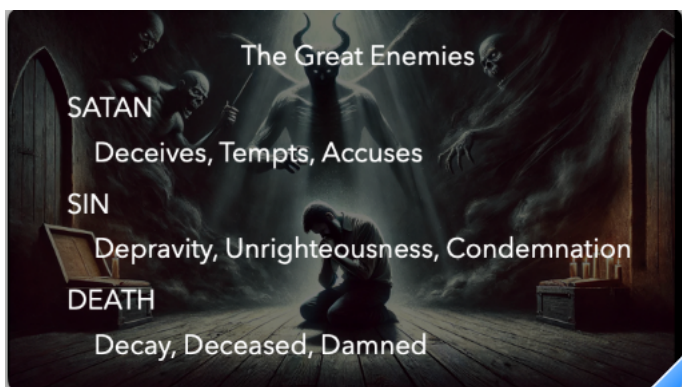
We are slaves to sin.

Enslaved to sin – unrighteous – which means a holy God must **condemn** us.

Corruption and condemnation.

This is all really bad news for you and for me.

But, wait it gets even worse. Sin also leads to **death**.



Physical death and finally eternal death – the second death.

Genesis 3:19:

For you are dust, and you will return to dust.

Adam's perfect body became susceptible to illness and injury. He began to decay and grow old.

I didn't really get this until 50 or so.

But somewhere around 50 I really began to understand bodily corruption and decay.

40, 50, 60 – it hits us all. Maybe you aren't there yet – just wait.

Every morning when I wake – my body tells me that I am going to die.

Adam lived a long time. When did decay start to really affect him? 800 – 850? I don't know.

But the point is – it did – and then he died.

So here is the brutal reality. Adam was created good. No depravity, decay, shame, no physical death.

Adam faced Satan and failed. Sin entered his soul. Death became his reality.

If anyone could have resisted Satan, sin and death – it should have been Adam.

He failed.

We fail.

And Romans 6:23:

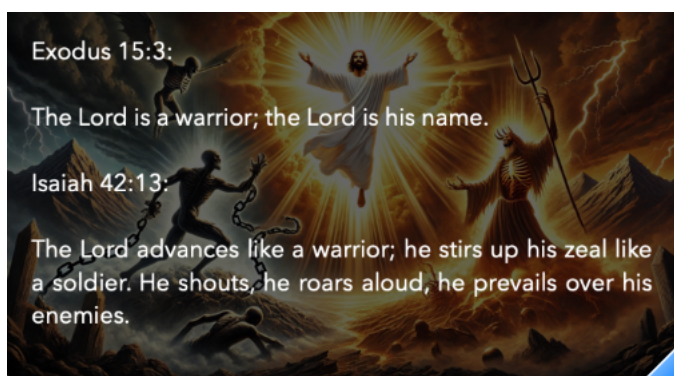
The wages of sin is death.

The result is that we are a race in which every last one of us now face these three great enemies – and like Adam – we all fail.

It is depressing. It all seems hopeless.

No heroes – no victors – just a race of condemned men and women.

But there was that one hope. It becomes a theme in the Old Testament.



God promised a warrior would come to fight those enemies.

I am sure Adam hoped He would come in his lifetime.

Abraham, Moses, David – longed to see His day.

But the years passed. Many lost hope.

Then He came.

Into this sea of darkness came a powerful searing light. One who would fight for us and win. His triumph will give us victory.

One of the great themes of the Bible is that when Messiah comes, He will be an invincible divine warrior.

Jesus arrived and the early signs were so encouraging. Herod tried but could not kill Him.

Satan turned up to deceive and tempt Him – but failed abysmally.

His presence inspired a huge outpouring of demonic activity, but Jesus just cast out demon after demon and empowered His disciples to do the same.

Matthew 12:28–29:

If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. How can someone enter a strong man's house and steal his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man?

Luke 10:17–18:

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like lightning."

You can imagine all of Israel seeing this and asking – is the One who will bring us victory actually here?

But then, He didn't really look like a divine warrior. No weapons. No army.

And He said things like turn the other cheek.

He seemed to have no interest in overthrowing their oppressor – Rome.

He also said things like – My kingdom is not of this world and I am going to die.

The Jews quickly lost hope that He was the One.

Even John the Baptist and the Disciples were rocked. Are You the One?

Finally, He went to the cross. He was killed.

The hope of victory was extinguished.

We thought He was the One – the hope of Israel – but no.

Then word began to spread – the tomb is empty.

Then they saw Him – the risen Christ.

He had conquered the last enemy – death.

Hope flared again in the disciples.

They asked Him a perfectly reasonable question. Acts 1:6:

“Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?”

Are we about to get the final victory now?

Are You about to destroy Satan, sin and death once and for all?

But Jesus says – no. This is not the time.

Now, a crucial question. Why not?

Why didn't Jesus set up the kingdom there and then?

If you read the Old Testament – you can understand the expectation that when Messiah comes – sin, Satan and death would all be fully dealt with there and then.

So why not?

Think about it this way.

What if Jesus had answered their question by saying – yep – now is the time. The cross – *finished* – the resurrection – *accomplished* – now it is kingdom time.

So, in AD 30 – the last trump sounds – the rapture occurs – the dead in Christ rise from the grave and living believers are transformed in the twinkling of an eye.

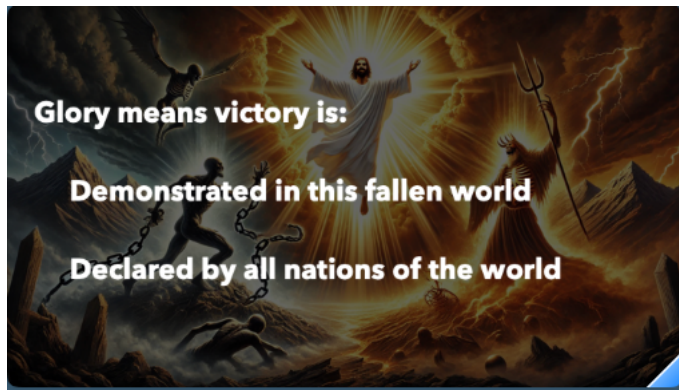
Jesus picks up the sword and wipes out every last unbeliever, demon and Satan himself.

He utterly destroys **Satan, sin and death**.

Would this glorify God?

I want to suggest – **no**.

Two reasons.



First, glory means victory is demonstrated in this fallen world

It is necessary for the power and supremacy of Christ to be demonstrated over this fallen world.

Colossians 1:16:

For *everything* was created by [the Son], in heaven *and on earth*, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created *through* him and *for* him.

Since Adam fell, Satan has been Prince of this world. But this world was *not* created for him.

This world, you and I – even Satan – was created *through* Christ – and **for** Christ.

So, it is necessary for Christ to have victory in this world before we move to the world to come.

It is necessary for the true King to display His power and glory over every aspect of the creation.

Before Satan, sin and death are once and for all time defeated – Jesus must demonstrate His power over them **in this world**.

Second, glory means victory is declared by all nations of the world.

The glory of God necessitates that the power and supremacy of Christ is seen in the gathering of a multitude from this fallen world who will then worship the Lord for all eternity.

Revelation 7:9 tells us the culmination of the plan:

After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

However, if Jesus ended the world in AD 30 – Revelation 7:9 would sound very different. John would have to write something like this:

After this I looked, and there was a pretty small group of Jews and a miniscule group of non-Jews, frankly they were pretty easy to number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

AD 30. At this date in history – who would be the redeemed?

You would have a few saints drawn from the nations before Abraham. Then from Israel – you would just have the true Israel – the true saints in the nation – likely a smallish number.

And add in the 120 believers on the Day of Pentecost and a few others like John the Baptist.

Look we could argue whether there would also be children who died before the age of wilful sin among the number – but from those who truly bowed the knee to the Lord in this life – not that many.

All in all, a fairly uninspiring crowd to glorify the Lamb for all eternity.

No responding praise from the nations of the earth.

But there must be. Psalm 67:3–4 says:

Let the peoples praise you, God; let all the peoples praise you. Let the nations rejoice and shout for joy.

So, the plan for the victory of Christ from eternity past was always for a number beyond counting to be saved out of the whole earth – from every tribe and language and people and nation.

And that requires a time *after* the cross for the gospel to go forth into the nations.

Satan would be bound from deceiving the nations and the gospel can go forth.

And you and I should be eternally grateful for this – because without it – we would not be among the multitude in heaven.

But the truth is that we are often far from grateful. We grumble – why is there still sin in the world? Why did my dad get cancer? Couldn't you just take my sin from me?

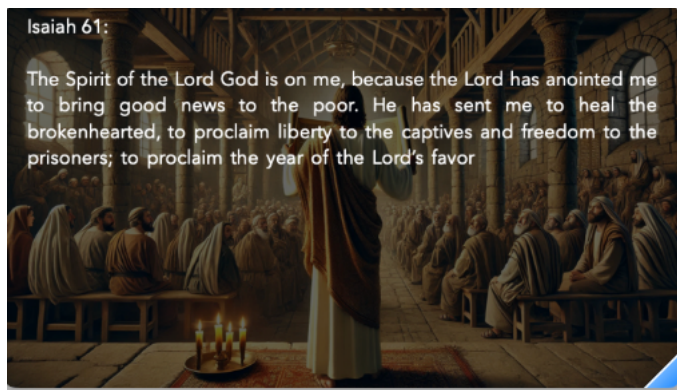
He will deal with these things – after His glory and power are demonstrated over this fallen world.

Now – should this plan have been clear from the Old Testament?

It is there – but there was much mystery to the plan. So, we can understand why the Jews fully expected that when Messiah came, He would defeat Satan, sin, death and set up the kingdom there and then.

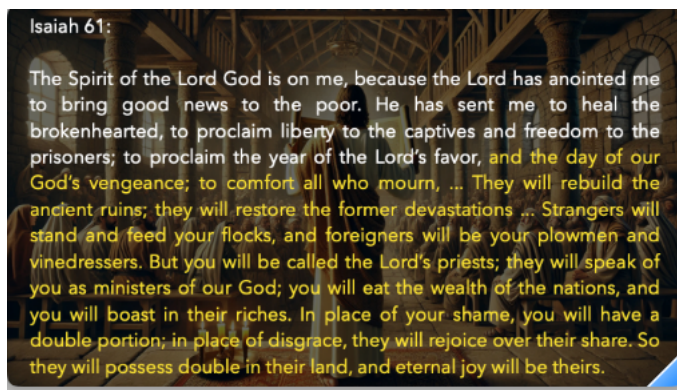
But even though they missed it – Jesus arrived and made it clear right from the start that His victory would be accomplished in **two** phases.

Straight after His temptation – He went to a synagogue in Nazareth, stood up and read from Isaiah 61:



The Spirit of the Lord God is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

But Jesus stopped abruptly halfway through verse 2.



He doesn't add that His present ministry will bring – vengeance, removing mourning, rebuilding, righteousness, Zion, foreigners among the redeemed, eternal nation of priests, eternal joy – all of these are found in verses 2-7.

The fulfilment of these promises awaits His Second Coming.

Jesus often talked about going away – and then coming back again.

Dying but rising.

The plan was always for Jesus to accomplish the entire victory – but in **two phases**.

There will be His **First Coming** and then His **Second Coming**.



	FIRST COMING JESUS CRUSHES	SECOND COMING JESUS DESTROYS
SATAN	Defanged by His Cross <i>Saints have the power to resist</i>	Banished by His Judgment <i>Saints can never be touched again</i>
SIN	Atoned by His Cross <i>Saints have the power to resist</i>	Removed by His Judgment <i>Saints can never be touched again</i>
DEATH	Conquered by His Resurrection <i>Saints have the hope of eternal life</i>	Ended by Our Resurrection <i>Saints enter into eternal life</i>

On our recent trip we did a walking tour of Berlin looking at the rise of Hitler after the Weimar Republic and on through World War 2.

1939 and 1940 – Hitler’s victory seemed inevitable.

1941 and 42 – it could go either way.

By late 43 and certainly by 1944 – everyone knew – Hitler was defeated.

Save a miracle like getting the A-bomb first – Germany would lose.

Hitler was defeated – crushed – **but** not yet destroyed.

He still kept lashing out – sending troops into battle. Defeated but still doing much damage to Germany and to the Allies. Many died in those years.

In fact, some in his high command even tried to kill him to save German lives. They failed.

In a somewhat similar way – Jesus crushed, defeated, defanged – Satan, sin and death at his First Coming.

From that point their ultimate demise was certain. But their final destruction awaits. So, they are all still thrashing about and affecting us.

It requires the return of Jesus to finish them forever.

What do these phases of victory look like?

Think about Jesus' **First Coming**.

Jesus crushes Satan, sin and death through His Cross and His Resurrection.

He fulfilled the prophecy and crushed **Satan**.

1 John 3:8:

The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the devil's works.

Jesus comes and it is immediately clear that Satan is no match for Jesus.

His ministry begins and Satan appears to tempt Him.

Jesus is not in a garden but a desert. He is weak and hungry from fasting for forty days.

But Jesus triumphs where Adam failed. Satan is defeated.

Jesus begins to cast out demons and declares one stronger than Satan has arrived who overpowers him and takes his weapons (Luke 11:17-23).

We are told that up until this point Satan had deceived the nations and the gospel had not gone forth throughout the world.

Revelation 20:2–3 says:

The dragon, that ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, was bound for a thousand years ... so that he would **no longer deceive the nations**.

But the real crushing of Satan – is that His great weapon – accusation – is defanged.

Romans 8:1:

Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:33:

Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies.

God declares us holy – so no one – not even Satan can accuse those God declares holy.

Our guilt is gone. We are righteous.

In his book *The Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan describes a battle between the accuser, the devil, who he calls Apollyon, and Christian in the Valley of Humiliation.

Apollyon accuses Christian and recites a long laundry list of Christian's sins and failings.

Christian listens and then responds: "All this is true; and much more which you have left out. But the Prince whom I serve and honour is merciful and ready to forgive. ... I have obtained the pardon of my Prince."

I am pardoned. There is no sting in Satan's accusations. At the mention of Christ's forgiveness, Apollyon flies into a rage and is vanquished.

Faith that we are forgiven in Christ is how we resist the devil.

1 Peter 5:9:

Resist the devil, firm in the faith.

When Satan accuses us – we resist by declaring by faith – I am in Christ – I have obtained the pardon of my Prince – therefore I have **no condemnation**.

Stand firm and do not believe the lies.

In this way, the cross defanged Satan.

Colossians 2:13–15:

When you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses. He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross. **He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in him.**

Our guilt is nailed to the cross and it disarms Satan.

Revelation 12:11:

They conquered Satan by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

And 1 John 4:4:

You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

Trust the truths of Scripture put so well in *Before the Throne of God Above*:

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me.

No condemnation!

As well – Jesus crushed **sin** at His first coming by atoning – paying our penalty – at the cross.

He is the Second Adam – who did what the first Adam could not.

1 John 3:5:

There is **no sin in him**.

As the spotless One, Jesus could die to atone for – to pay the penalty for – He could satisfy the wrath of God for **our** sins.

1 John 2:2:

He himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 Peter 2:24:

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness.

The result is that our penalty is removed. Sin is conquered.

The **penalty** of sin is removed at the cross.

And – because of the cross and the Spirit – the **power** of sin is broken.

We are no longer defenseless before sin.

Romans 6:6:

For we know that our old self was crucified with him ... so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin.

His cross and His Spirit mean we have the power to put off the old man and put on the new man.

Ephesians 6 tells us of the Armour of God to fight sin.

But we have to put it on. We have to use it.

Do you believe you can resist sin and temptation?

Look, in this life none of us are sinless.

But in Christ are we no longer helpless before the power of sin.

Galatians 5:16:

I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh.

This is the power of Christ in us.

There is victory over sin. Greed, porn, division – there is victory.

But you have to fight for it.

As well, at His First Coming – Jesus also crushed **death**.

Adam lived a long time – but He died.

We all die.

There are hints in the Old Testament of an end to this curse.

Enoch taken to be with God.

Elijah and Elisha raising the dead.

Passages like Daniel 12:2:

Many who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to eternal life, and some to disgrace and eternal contempt.

But the reality was that death seemed the final unconquerable enemy.

The fall meant our bodies are corrupted. They get sick, injured, old and finally we all die.

Billionaires spend a fortune to fight taxes and death. They often beat taxes – never death.

Then Jesus arrived and showed His power to heal the corruption. He healed the sick, the blind, the lame.

He raised Lazarus from the dead.

But ... the sick who were healed became sick – again.

And Lazarus died – again.

Then Jesus broke the power of death forever. He rose – to **never** die again. Romans 6:9:

We know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, will not die again. Death no longer rules over him.

And He gave us this hope – John 11:25:

I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live.

By His resurrection Jesus conquered death forever.

What is our hope? At His return we who are in Christ will rise and *never* die again.

1 Corinthians 15:55:

Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, death, is your victory?

Death is the final enemy – and it is on borrowed time.

Jesus came the first time. Satan, sin and death were crushed. But none were destroyed.

Satan is defanged – but He keeps on raging against us.

Sin has lost its power and its penalty – but it is still present.

Death is conquered – but we still die.

But the good news is this – Jesus is coming – – again.

And at His **Second Coming – Jesus will destroy Satan, sin and death forever through His Judgment and Our Resurrection.**

We don't know when – what we do know for certain is that this final victory is coming.

The trump will sound. The angel will say – the time has come. Christ will appear and Satan, sin and death will be destroyed – forever.

And when Jesus returns no one will question if He is the One.

Every eye will see Him and they will know – Oh yeah – He is the One.

He will arrive to make war on and judge **Satan** and his minions.

Judgment Day.

Revelation 19:11–21:

Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and with justice he judges and makes war. ... He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called the Word of God. The armies that were in heaven followed him on white horses, wearing pure white linen. A sharp sword came from his mouth, so that he might strike the nations with it. He will rule them with an iron rod. He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty. ... The beast was taken prisoner, and along with it the false prophet. Both of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. The rest were killed with the sword that came from the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds ate their fill of their flesh.

Revelation 20:10:

The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet are, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

At the Second Coming He is not the Suffering Servant – He is the King of Glory who bears the sword and brings judgment.

Satan, the beast, the false prophet – banished forever. Total victory.

No one to deceive or tempt ever again.

But wait there is more. **Sin** will also be removed forever by His judgment.

Jesus returns and there at the Great White Throne of judgment sin will be destroyed in one of two ways.

Sinners who refused to repent will be removed by being judged and cast into the lake of fire forever.

Revelation 20:15:

And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

But sinners who did repent are declared righteous at the judgment. Our sin is paid and washed away.

Christ glorifies us. We are righteous and sin will never touch us again.

Revelation 21:2:

I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

That is us. Spotless, sinless – a holy people.

One way or another sin is going.

Banished to hell or washed clean by Christ.

Believe me – on that day you want your sin to be washed clean – not banished.

If you have not accepted His pardon – let today be the day.

And then **death** – the final enemy is ended forever.

First, the curse is undone and the world is renewed.

Romans 8:21:

The creation itself will also be set free from the bondage to decay.

Then Revelation 21:1:

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

A world free of sin and Satan.

And who enters this new heavens and earth? – the dead in Christ raised to life in glory.

1 Corinthians 15:52–54:

For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, ... and when this mortal body is clothed with immortality, then the saying that is written will take place: **Death has been swallowed up in victory.**

And the final result? Revelation 21:4:

Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.

1 Corinthians 15:26:

The last enemy to be abolished is death.

Corruption and death will **never** touch that land or you again.

This is truth. 1 Corinthians 15:25:

Christ must reign until he puts **all** his enemies under his feet.

And because we are in Christ – we do and will share His victory.

Romans 8:37 says:

We are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Brothers and sisters, the First Coming of Christ is a guarantee that the Second Coming of Christ will occur.

What Jesus began – He will finish.

But I know that because we live in the time between times – we often don't feel like victors.

There are times when we look around – Satan is roaming – Putins are roaring – wars are raging.

There is sin in the world and worst of all sin in us.

And there is death. People we love die. The mirror tells us – we are dying.

And we can feel defeated – and the fiery darts of Satan can rob us of our faith and assurance.

Look to the cross.

Look to the empty tomb.

Jesus didn't come and die and rise to leave the job half done.

He is coming back to finish what He started.

Trust Him.

His sword will banish Satan.

His judgment will banish death.

In Him we will rise to never die again.

The Bible ends with these words. Revelation 22:20–21:

He who testifies about these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with everyone. Amen.

Do you believe this testimony? Do you believe He is coming soon?

He is coming and Satan, sin and death are going.

In Him we have the victory. Amen.

10 Looks: Look 7 – Victor (24 Nov 2024)

Main Point: Satan, sin and death are powerful enemies – but Christ is victor over all.

General Questions:

1. Does the victory of Jesus seem not so victorious in our life and in our world? Why is that?
2. Why is it crucial to have victory over Satan, sin and death – forever?
3. What are the weapons of Satan?
4. What are the weapons of sin?
5. What are the weapons of death?
6. Why didn't Jesus completely destroy Satan, sin and death at His first coming? Why two comings?
7. How does Jesus crush and then destroy – Satan?
8. How does Jesus crush and then destroy – sin?
9. How does Jesus crush and then destroy – death?
10. How can you know Christ will come again?
11. How can you know when He comes – you are His?

Application Questions:

1. Why can feeling non-victorious rob us of joy and assurance? What do you do when you have those times in your life?
2. What do you do when the accuser whispers in your ear about your sin and lack of victory?
3. What can victory look like in your life now?
4. How can you live a victorious life now?

What convicted me in the message?

What moved me in the message?

What will I do in light of the message?