

“But... We See Jesus”

Hymns: Keith Green “How Majestic Is Their Name”

Readings: Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8; Hebrews 2:5-18

- One of the least understood and therefore most ignored categories of the Christian life for many believers is that of spiritual warfare.
- Primary reason is we've forgotten or never understood exactly what it is we were created by God to do:
 - Rule over fish of the sea, birds of the air every living thing (Gen.1:26), all flocks and herds and the beasts of the field (Ps. 8:7)
 - Subdue the earth (Gen.1:28)
 - Whatever their specific application, “rule” and “subdue” confer the position of ascendancy and authority.
 - Psalm 8:6 speaks of this ascendancy and authority in terms of a kingly reign when David writes that man was “crowned” with “glory and honor”.
- At the Fall, man abdicated his throne, lost his crown and therefore his ascendancy and authority and handed the “keys” to the earth to his deadly enemy Satan.
 - Ever since Gen. 3:15 when God pronounced judgement on Satan, promising the crushing of his head by the “seed of the woman”; that is by a “man”; man who was created in a lower hierarchal order than Satan’s angelic order...ever since then every man has been born into and lived his days in a world at war.
- We get a glimpse of this “warfare” in connection with man’s original mandate to rule and subdue the earth in Psalm 8:2 where we read:
 - “From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.”
 - This verse clearly indicates the presence of an enemy, a foe an avenger
 - This verse also clearly indicates that “praise” is one God ordained weapon in the warfare against the enemies of our original mandate to rule and reign.
 - Interestingly, Jesus quotes this very verse to his enemies when the chief priests and teachers of the Law tried to shut down the praise of the children in the temple on the Sunday before his crucifixion (Matt. 21:16).
- In Hebrews 2:5 we read that there is a world, lit. “about to come”; there is an inhabitable land that is just about to come forth which has not been subjected to angels. This is clearly referring to the coming Millennial Kingdom which will NOT be subjected to angelic rule; neither good angles nor certainly not the fallen angelic order which has had the keys, claim and rights to the earth since the Fall.
 - 1 John 5:19 “We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.”
- In Hebrews 2:6-8, Paul now quotes Psalm 8 to clearly indicate that it is man; victorious man; the same man that Satan deceived in the Fall to which the “world to come” will be subjected to. It is man, not Satan, which will once again be in spiritual ascendancy and authority; crowned once again with glory and honor. Human beings, created a little lower than the angels, will be reigning in that day in the head crushing victory over Satan and his fallen angels...just as God promised immediately after the Fall. Paul saw this clearly saying to the Romans, “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” (Rom.16:20)

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- Between the Fall and “world to come” in the Millennial Kingdom, we have the present; a present where man is still in conflict with Satan, but heading towards ultimate victory.
 - V.8 “Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him”.
 - We do not see fish, fowl and beasts currently subject to fallen humanity. In fact just the opposite. Man is not ruling and subduing as God’s vice regents, but Satan, in whom the whole world system lies (1 John 5) and his fallen angels operate both directly and indirectly through fallen men to war against God and His creation
- V. 9 BUT...WE SEE JESUS.
 - We see Jesus; God incarnate “made a little lower than the angels”. In other words, we see Jesus Christ who became fully human and entered into our fallen adamic humanity and in so doing became our Vicarious Man; our Victorious Man; He became the last Adam and the second Man.
 - We also see Jesus NOW crowned with glory and honor; the very glory and honor spoken of by David in Psalm 8; a glory and honor in which all spiritual ascendancy and all authority NOW resides once again a man...the God-Man Jesus Christ. Jesus is “seated” at the Father right hand and NOW all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him (Matt. 28:18-20)
 - Even during His earthly ministry, Jesus exercised the ruling and subduing of the fish of the sea (Luke 5:4-7; John 21:5-6; Matt. 27:17); fowls (Matt. 26:34); domestic animals (Luke 19:30) and wild animals (Mark 1:13)
- Here we see clearly the context of our lives and what God has ordained for us. Namely, the context of our warfare against Satan in our “Yet at present” and our God ordained and predestined conformity to the “NOW” of Jesus Christ in His spiritual ascendancy and authority.
 - There can be no doubt that between our “Yet at present” and the “world to come” we are involved in a cosmic conflict. We are at war, whether we like it or not; whether we believe it or not.
 - This is a very consequential warfare, for Jesus himself warned us of our adversary who has the power to rob, kill and destroy (John 10:10). He is very powerful; has the entire “world system” under his control; he is a liar, the father of lies and a murderer from the beginning. He hates God, he hates you and is dead set to do everything he can to take you down and out.
- Understanding all the nature of our warfare, the “way things work” and the weapons God has given us to fight victoriously is going to require some time, attention and practice. But for now, let us note that the foundation of all our victorious fighting is simply this: “But...we see Jesus...now.
- In v. 9-18 “...we see Jesus...” in five key roles that we must keep our eyes on. If we lose sight of Him, all our weapons and prayers of warfare lose their effectiveness. But with our eyes on Him, we can fight valiantly in our “Yet at present” looking confidently to the world to come being subjected to Him and us.
- **Substitute v.9** “...he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.”
 - To be victorious in spiritual warfare you need know that all the grounds for claim against you by Satan have been removed from you by Jesus Christ. He is your substitute and every claim the devil had on you, Jesus has taken upon himself.
 - Col. 2:13-15 “When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he

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took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

- Jesus is our “Vicarious Man”- “where He goes we go with Him.”
 - The Cross- Rom 6:6; Col 2:20
 - The Death- Rom 6:8; Col 3:3
 - The Burial- Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12
 - The Resurrection Col. 3:1;
 - The Ascension Eph. 2:6

- **Salvation Pioneer v.10** “In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.”
 - The English word “author” translates the Greek Word which means “the first to lead forward”. Jesus is our Pioneer; He is our trail blazer.
 - He has literally “beaten his way forward, blow by blow” (Lit. prokopto –“grew” in Luke 2:52) encountering every dark and foul thing and yet never lost sight of His Father and never sinned.
 - Because he has been to the bottom of the human cesspool, and suffered in doing so, He has been made “perfect” in the sense of complete, adequate and effective. Having overcome on your behalf he can lead you to glory if you will follow in His steps and try and hack your own way through the jungle of the world, the flesh and the devil. He has seen it all and therefore knows how to lead you through it.
 - “Abide in me and I will abide you”... “I am the vine; you are the branches”...”Apart from Me you can do nothing” (This is never more true than in spiritual warfare)

- **Sanctifier v.11** “Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.”
 - Lit. “those who are being made Holy”.
 - Can you bring yourself to accept the fact that in spite of the fact that you are still far from being completely holy dispositionally; that while you are still being made Holy...Jesus is not ashamed to call you a brother and a sister. How utterly amazing. What an intimate honor.
 - The intimacy Jesus has given us where we can call God “Abba- Father- Dad”, He also brings us into the intimacy of knowing Him as our Big Brother and that we are His younger brothers and sons of the same Father. We are in fact of the same family. The Triune God of Grace has opened up and adopted us as sons and daughters and brought us right into the Son’s communion with the Father by the Spirit.

- **Satan Conqueror v. 14** “Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death”
 - Not only is Jesus our Vicarious Man, He is our Victorious Man.
 - Satan is a defeated foe. He has no more authority or claim over the blood bought and consecrated believer.
 - 2 Tim 1:10 “Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”
 - 1 John 3:8 “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”
 - Rev 1:17-18 ““Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”
 - Death no longer has hold over Jesus nor does any foul thing, and so we can live in the freedom from our fear of death and the foul spirits we are learning to face and defeat in the Authority of Jesus.

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- We truly are in training now for reigning then. God has not changed His mind about us ruling and subduing this earth. As heirs of God and co-heirs of Christ, this is the staggering reality ahead of us. Lord help us to grow up and learn our lessons and warfare well now. We will need it in the future Kingdom.
- **Sympathetic High Priest v. 17** “...he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.”
 - Being a sympathetic High Priest, doesn't mean we are to see Jesus standing far off and feeling sorry for us, but rather because of our objective union with Him as our Vicarious Man, we can subjectively experience His help and comfort by the indwelling Holy Spirit...right in the middle of our temptation, weakness, fear, doubt, sin, ignorance and going astray.
 - He can do this v. 18 “Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted”
 - Heb. 4:14 “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
- But we see Jesus...this Jesus. Our Substitute, Salvation Pioneer, Sanctifier, Satan Conqueror and Sympathetic High priest and it is this Jesus that writer of Hebrews points us to saying “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Heb. 12:2-3)
 - Growing weary and losing heart are two very real dangers as we begin to awaken to the reality and context of our spiritual warfare and begin to grow in our spiritual ascendancy as sons and daughters. Fighting spiritual opposition is utterly exhausting at times. And our enemy would like to see us give up the field in weariness and loss of heart because he knows the authority of Jesus is real and powerful against him, even when it comes through us weak vessels.
 - So let us keep our eyes on Jesus, and receive his life and power; his ἰσχύω. This is what Paul meant when he said in Phil. 4:13 “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”
 - “Can do all things” translates the Greek word ἰσχύω which means- “strength that gets into the fray; engaging the resistance. The Lord's strengthening me with combative and confrontive force to achieve all He gives faith for; facing the necessary resistance that brings what the Lord defines as success; that is His victory.”
- This is the context in which we live and if it is the Lord's will, we will continue to dive deeper into this looking at the specifics of context, consecration, contending, and claiming our riches in Christ Jesus.