

“And they overcame him – (Satan) – by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them.” Rev. 12:11.

By the Blood of the Lamb: i.e., the Lord Jesus Christ, by whose blood they were redeemed and ransomed out of the hands of Satan, that once was stronger than they, but no more. Because the Blood of the Lamb has justified them from all sin, and so all charges and accusations against them are to no avail. *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”* Romans 8:1,2. *“Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”* Romans 8:33,34.

And so, this powerful weapon of Satan –“the accuser of our brethren” – is effectively denied to him: *“And I heard a loud voice in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ; for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”* Rev. 12:10. Word of Their Testimony brings conscience-peace.

By the Word of Their Testimony: Nothing is more honorable to God than an open, bold, notorious, and conspicuous testimony for the cause of God and truth – in a hostile world of satanic liars and false accusers of our brethren. Here are examples of Satan’s vicious lies from earliest days of the Primitive Church:

“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.” 2 Cor. 2:11.

We here draw back the veil and see examples of Satan’s lies:

Gill: “It refers to the accusations brought against the Christians in the primitive times, during the ten persecutions, which were very horrid ones indeed; as that they had their private suppers, at which they ate their own infants, and their nightly meetings, for the gratifying of their lusts, in which they committed adultery, incest, and all manner of uncleanness; if ever a fire happened in the city, they were charged with it; and whenever there were any famine, or pestilence, or wars, or any public calamity, they were accused as the cause and occasion of it; as appears from the apologies for them written by Justin, Tertullian, Cyprian, Minutius Felix, etc., so that Satan at this time was remarkably the accuser of the brethren; but now this father of lies...was conquered by Christ, and cast down and bruised under the feet of the saints.”

“Whom resist stedfast in the faith.” 1 Pet. 5:9.

“Neither give place to the devil.” Eph. 4:27.

“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” James 4:7.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the daarkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Eph. 6:10-12.

“And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.” Rom. 16:20.

“And they loved not their lives unto the death.” Rev. 12:11.

**Third of the three means whereby the saints are said
to have overcome Satan, the accuser of our brethren:**

And They Loved Not Their Lives Unto the Death: Because they held “clear and ever-extending views” of that holy happiness that awaits them in Heaven – rather than some vague and “indistinct general notion” of Heaven. And, because of that wholesome, healthy fear of the Lord which is the beginning of all wisdom (Prov. 9:10), and which dominates over the fear of man: *“Then had the churches rest...walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost.”* Acts 9:31.

Fear, a Means of Christian Obedience

John Brown: “But that godly fear which is proper to believers, arises from a just view, reverence, and esteem of the character of God, and a supreme desire of his favor, as their chief happiness; and is a fear lest they offend him, and incur his just displeasure. Such a fear outweighs all the allurements of sin on the one hand, and all the terrors of present sufferings on the other. Such is the fear inculcated by the prophet Isaiah when he says, ‘*Sanctify the Lord God in your heart, and let him be your fear and your dread, and he shall be for a sanctuary.*’ Isa. 8:13. ‘*Give an answer...with meekness and fear.*’ 1 Pet. 3:15.

“Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.”

“Such is the fear enjoined by our Lord on his disciples: ‘*Fear not him who, after he has killed the body, hath no more that he can do; but fear him who, after he hath killed the body, can cast both soul and body into hell fire; yea, I say unto you, fear him.*’ Matt. 10:28. Such is the fear prescribed by the apostle Peter in the passage before us, as an instrumental means for securing Christian obedience: ‘*Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.*’ 1 Pet. 1:17. This fear must be habitually exercised during the whole continuance of our mortal life. None so highly advanced in grace here below, as to be out of the need of this principle.”

“The words of the Lord are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.” Psa. 12:5,6.

How often in this spiritual warfare do we appreciate that there is nothing in this world to help us but the pure words of God – preserved and kept pure for us throughout the centuries – despite the determined efforts of Satan and his human demons to destroy or pollute God’s pure words, leaving us unarmed in the battle: *“And take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”* Eph. 6:17. Men write books to defend the Bible. What an insult to God. Foremost among them is by L. Gaussen – an 18th Century frenchman – titled *The Divine Inspiration of the Bible*. After some 349 pages he concludes that the Bible is indeed inspired of God and free from error. Big deal. Who needs him. Just try to read that tedious, boring, book. What an insult to God. The gracious God of all Creation favors his ungrateful creatures by giving them a blessed Book containing all of divine truth. And the sin-sick creature demands to cross-examine the Almighty. Complimenting God on a good job is not obeying God.

If you will not simply believe Moses and the prophets (i.e., the Scriptures), you will go to Hell for it. Lk. 16:31.

If you will not take heed to the more sure word of prophecy (i.e., the Scriptures), which came not in old time by the will of man, but by holy men of God who spoke it as they were moved by the Holy Ghost – the day will never dawn and the day star will never arise in your heart, and you will wander around throughout your life, and die in pitch darkness. 2 Pet. 1:19-21.

If you will not accept the Scriptures as God’s direct words to you, you will have no lamp unto your feet, nor light unto your path – and you will never know where you are. Psa. 119:105.

“For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.” Psa. 119:89.

The Destruction of Sennacherib

Lord Byron

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold;
And the sheen of their spears was like stars on the
sea,

When the blue wave rolls nightly on deep Galilee.
Like the leaves of the forest when Summer is green,
That host with their banners at sunset were seen:
Like the leaves of the forest when Autumn hath
blown,

That host on the morrow lay withered and strown.

For the Angel of Death spread his wings on the blast,
And breathed in the face of the foe as he pass'd,
And the eyes of the sleepers wax'd deadly and chill,
And their hearts but once heaved, and for ever grew
still!

And there lay the steed with his nostril all wide,
But through it there roll'd not the breath of his pride;
And the foam of his gasping lay white on the turf,
And cold as the spray of the rock-beating surf.

And there lay the rider distorted and pale,
With the dew on his brow, and the rust on his mail:
And the tents were all silent, the banners alone,
The lances unlifted, the trumpets unblown.
And the widows of Ashur are loud in their wail,
And the idols are broke in the temple of Baal;
And the might of the Gentile, unsmote by the sword,
Hath melted like snow in the glance of the Lord!