

Doctrinal Summary of  
Satan & Company: Defeated through Christ Unto Eternal Judgment

According to Paul in Colossians 2:15, God has defeated Satan & Company through His Son.

“When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”

The word “disarmed” is translated from the Koine Greek word ἀπεκδυσάμενος (“ah-pek-du-sah-meh-nos”) which literally means, “participating in the action in a point in time as a matter of principle to strip off one’s clothes in such a way that it is removed and put away so that it can never again be put on, based on His own initiation.” God the Father participated with His Son Jesus Christ in stripping off the clothes of the rulers and authorities. He initiated this action and participated in accomplishing it as a matter of principle through Jesus’ substitutionary death on the cross and subsequent resurrection.

The image provided by Paul is one of military victory over an enemy. This is evident by the rest of Paul’s statement that God “made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.” The word “triumphed” is translated from the Koine Greek word θριαμβεύσας (“thri-am-beu-sas”) which literally means, “performing the action in a point in time as a matter of principle to lead victorious soldiers in a victory procession which celebrates the defeat and capture of the enemy who is being marched to execution, based on His own initiation.”

Through Jesus Christ’s death on the cross, God has accomplished what is necessary to strip Satan & Company bare, put them on display in all of their shame, and march them to their execution in the Lake of Fire for all of eternity. The marching will occur in a point in time in the future (cf. Rev. 20:7-10), but the victory has been secured by God through Jesus’ successful death and resurrection for man’s sins. God prophesied of this reality back in the garden of Eden in Genesis 3:15 where He tells the serpent that the woman’s seed will bruise him on the head.

“And 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.”

In both places it is used, the word “bruise” is translated from the Biblical Hebrew root word שׁוּב (“sh’vap”) which means, “to lie in wait in order to destroy something by attack.” Thus, the seed of the woman would destroy the head of the serpent, while the serpent would destroy the heel of the woman’s seed. The head in Scripture is used often times symbolically of authority. While the serpent would destroy the heel of the woman’s seed, He would destroy the serpent’s authority. As Satan influenced, controlled, and then ultimately possessed Judas in betraying Jesus (cf. Jn. 13:2, 27) he produced an attack which destroyed Him, resulting in death. If not for the righteousness of Jesus Satan would have been able to destroy the power of Jesus. But because of Jesus’ righteousness, God was able to raise Him from the dead, destroying the authority of Satan & Company over man and the fallen world.

Believers in Christ have overcome this world (cf. 1 Jn. 5:4-5) and are awaiting the rapture, tribulation, Millennial Reign, until the reality of Jesus’ destruction of Satan & Company’s authority is experienced in the course of human history. This is promised to believers in Scripture (cf. Rom. 16:20) and, when recognized and remembered, provides motivation and encouragement for believers to work out the benefits of their salvation by overcoming Satan & Company in their daily life through the blood of Christ.