



ZWTF

Zapping You Whenever Thoughts Flow

Volume 7, Issue 20

ROMANS Part 151

Chapter 16:20

God will soon crush Satan underneath *us*.



“Now the God of peace will be crushing Satan under your feet swiftly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you!” (*Emphasis mine.*)

This single verse has to be one of the most under-appreciated verses in all of Scripture. After thirty-nine years of reading and studying Romans, it is only just now gobsmacking me. It is so fantastic on its face—this verse—that it is difficult to believe. I am not only going to attempt to believe it, however, but to explain it.

Interesting. Less than a minute has elapsed since I wrote the previous paragraph, and I already believe the verse. It's no credit to myself that this has happened; God has given me the faith. Only by God giving me the faith could I believe so star-

ting a pronouncement from Paul's pen and the holy spirit of God that inspired it. It's a trusting God thing. It doesn't matter how unlikely something might sound; if God says that something is true, we are to believe it. God loves to be believed. He is trustworthy. He simply does not say things that are untrue. He does not play games. He will not bait or tease us. He will not toy with our emotions.

I am not to take this verse figuratively, either. The rule of Scriptural interpretation is: literal if possible. Is there a being in the universe known as Satan? There is. Is the “your” of the context speaking of the members of the body of Christ? Yes. And is there literally such a body of people? There is. God is calling them out of the ranks of humanity, even as I write. Do members of the body of Christ have feet? We do. Will we have feet in the resurrection? I can't be as certain about this. We will have bodies, yes, but whether or not these bodies will retain the current configuration of limbs, I do not know. To strengthen my argument, I should stick with the “literal if possible” principle (it *is* possible to have literal feet in the resurrection), but to handicap myself, I'll just say that the “feet” part of this verse is figurative for “underneath us,” and not only underneath us, but underneath that part of the human body that is generally considered to be the lowest, most dishonorable member of the human frame: the feet. (The least among us defeat Satan.)

What about “crush”? Is Satan to be literally broken into pieces? Is he to be crushed as an egg shell is crushed, that is, physically? Or, rather, is he to be dismantled emotionally and spiritually, as in an ego that is crushed, or as in a “crushing defeat” to an army in a war? I believe it to be the latter. I do not believe that a spiritual being can be literally crushed.

PROMISSORY STRIKE

Satan endured a crushing blow when Christ defeated death at the cross. But was it a killing blow? How could it have been when Satan still runs amok? When he still vexes the saints? When Paul still warns us to put on armor to protect us from Satan's stratagems (Ephesians 6:11)? Christ's victory at Calvary sealed Satan's fate, but did not execute his sentence. Let us call it a promissory victory.

Christ on the cross defeated Satan in fact, though not in act. When will Satan at last be devitalized? And how will it happen? Who will do it?

If Calvary was a “Satan-is-defeated” promissory note, then when are the goods finally delivered? What is the next event in the lifespan of the Adversary that finds him vitally undone?

And I perceived a messenger descending out of heaven, having the key of the submerged chaos and a large chain in his hand. And he lays hold of the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the Adversary and Satan, and binds him a thousand years. And he casts him into the submerged chaos and locks it, and seals it over him (lest he should still be deceiving the nations) until the thousand years should be finished (Revelation 20:1-3).

Appreciate the historic nature of this near-future event. Since his creation, Satan has never once been devitalized in such a manner, and certainly not for such a protracted period. Since his creation, the Adversary has not only ceaselessly vexed the celestial realms, but also the Earth. All trouble is caused—relatively speaking—by him. Satan is the reason that every inhabitant of Earth is now dying; he deceived our forebears in Eden. He is why there are selfish people in the world, murderers, adulterers, thieves. He is why there are child molesters, terrorists, rapists, cons. He is why there is war. Never in human history—or in the history of his own existence—has the withstander of all that is good been practically disabled.

ORDER-TAKER

It is a celestial messenger “descending out of heaven” that binds Satan in the submerged chaos for a thousand years. This event ushers in the lengthiest, most blessed period of peace and plenty that this earth has ever known. It is during this time that earth is finally subject, in its entirety, to divine government. Messengers (Gr. *aggelos*) are the lowest rank of celestial beings. They are the pages; the bellhops; the secretaries. They do nothing of their own accord. The messenger that binds the Adversary himself certainly cannot be acting of his own volition. He is following an order from on high.

But from whom?

The body of Christ is snatched away to heaven at least three and a half years prior to the return of Christ to Earth in glory. It is at the return of Christ that Satan is bound. Seventy-five days later, God raises the Israel saints from the dead. This is the former resurrection. It is then that the soon-to-be-installed kings of the Earth (David; Solomon; Abraham; the twelve patriarchs; the twelve apostles) exit their tombs. Thus begins the Millennium.

THE NEW CHRIST

When we hear the title “Christ” at present—during this time of our mortality—it can only be referring to a single being: *Jesus* Christ. But when the term “Christ” is used in the future—subsequent to the snatching away of the body of Christ—it can be referring either to Jesus Christ, or to the multiplicity of beings known as the body of Christ. “Christ” is a title. When “Christ” is said to execute some act in the future, therefore, it need not be Jesus alone. Unless explicitly stated to be Him, then it is probably His body acting in conjunction with Him—or even in His stead—with all His authority, nothing lacking. We are to be “enchristed,” that is, to be carrying the name *and the authority* of Jesus Christ, Who is and will ever remain the premier Son of God.

“Now the God of peace will be crushing Satan under your feet swiftly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you!”

Who is giving the order to the messenger to bind Satan in the submerged chaos for a thousand years? *We* are. The body of Christ. The swiftness of Satan’s binding in Revelation matches the “swiftly” here describing how Satan is crushed under our feet. Why not? I believe it is the same event. It is beneath *our* feet that Satan is to be crushed—that is, devitalized—for the eon. God does this, absolutely. Jesus Christ may very well issue the intermediate command. But the most immediate announcers of the historic word are the members of Christ’s body. We send the messenger, and Satan falls at *our* feet—not at the feet of God, and not even at the feet of *Jesus* Christ. So says Paul.

Yes, these are Paul’s words, not mine. This is a promise delivered to us to give us peace and comfort, presently, during the time of our humiliation. How Satan hates us for it.

But think of it. The misery of this world ends at our word. The silent command comes from on high, but the declaration is out of *our* mouths. We dispatch the messenger—and it is done. Six millennia of Satanic abuse are over. Does this not lend added texture to Romans 8:19?—

For the premonition of the creation is awaiting the unveiling of *the sons of God*.

Are we merely to be a *part* of the vanquishing of Satan at the conclusion of this eon? No. We’re actually going to *do* it.

Now thanks be to God, Who is giving *us* the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:57).

—MZ

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