

Standing in Victory

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This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

GRACE PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 18715

BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

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From a message preached on July 9, 2000.

Tape #922-7601

Grace Publications is a ministry of
Greater Grace World Outreach, Inc.

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INTRODUCTION

It is really amazing how people refuse to recognize just what God has for them. We have sixty-six books in the Bible that carry so many promises, and among the greatest of those promises relate to the blood of Christ.

The Blood purchased our pardon. Perfect and precious, this Blood was presented to God, and it was for God and for us. The Blood speaks upward and it speaks downward. It speaks to the Father, saying that this is what it cost the Incarnate One to pay for the sins of the world. It also speaks to Satan and his demons, saying that the victory is final, full, complete, and entire. The battle is over, and the victory is won.

I don't have to present the blood of Christ to the devil; God does that. There is nothing for me to do with the Blood. The Blood has been shed. When I believed in Christ, that Blood became precious for me just as it was always precious for the Lord.

In these pages, we will look at the great victory Christ won for us and how that victory gives us tremendous authority as new creatures in Him.

Chapter One

THE GOAT AND
THE SCAPEGOAT

“But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

“Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

“Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God” (1 Peter 1:19-21).

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul” (Leviticus 17:11).

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die

not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.

“Thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bullock for a sin offering, and a ram for a burnt offering.

“He shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with a linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: these are holy garments; therefore shall he wash his flesh in water, and so put them on.

“And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats for a sin offering, and one ram for a burnt offering.

“And Aaron shall offer his bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and make an atonement for himself, and for his house.

“And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

“And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.

“And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD’S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering.

“But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the

scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness" (Leviticus 16:2-10).

The Word of God tells that the blood of Jesus Christ is "precious." There were serious guidelines in the Word concerning blood and the children of Israel. Because of the preciousness of blood, because of its sacredness, blood was not something to eat or drink.

As far as I know, anyone who loses his blood loses his life. This goes for animals too.

In Leviticus, animals were slain and blood was shed, picturing and pointing to the ultimate sacrifice of Christ upon the Cross of Calvary. One of the great representations of this is found in Leviticus 16, regarding the goat and the scapegoat.

In Leviticus 16:15-22, after one of the goats was slain before the Lord, the high priest took the blood of that goat and sprinkled it upon the altar in the tabernacle to reconcile the holy place. Then, the priest leaned into the live goat to place both of his hands on its head and confessed over it all the sins of the children of Israel. This action of leaning over to place his hands on the head of the scapegoat was important because it repre-

sented an integration of the sinner with the substitute.

Finally, the live goat was taken by a fit man and set loose into place not inhabited. This was the scapegoat, and it went to a place that was abandoned, carrying with it all the sins that were named upon it. The sin of lying, the sin of rebellion, the sin of adultery, the sin of cheating—all of these sins were named and put upon the scapegoat. Those sins were carried away into the wilderness, and that goat was never to be found again.

The Blood's Expiation

Some folks make a practice of saying the “blood of Jesus Christ be against this” and “the blood of Jesus Christ be against that.” This really is not a good practice. Why? Because of the principle of expiation. This means that the blood of Christ was for God. Christ's one offering satisfied the justice of the Lord, who is holy and righteous and can never be anything less than holy and righteous.

And because the Blood is for God, we can overcome everything through God's ways. Satan can no longer accuse a believer for any sin because of the Blood that was for God.

The blood of the goats and bulls were substitutes pointing to our Substitute, the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). Our sins were carried away to an abandoned place by a “fit” man. The only “fit” man who ever lived upon this earth was Jesus Christ. He lived perfectly for all of His days. He died for us and then He triumphed over death and hell. The grave no longer carries a sting for the believer who is hid with Christ in God.

Chapter Two

OVERCOMING THROUGH THE BLOOD

“And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.

“And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?

“Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.

“And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.

“And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel

of the LORD stood by" (Zechariah 3:1-5).

"And I heard a loud voice saying 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.

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death" (Revelation 12:10-11).

What a picture Zechariah 3 is for us to look at. The devil comes to attack the high priest. Now, the priest is just a man, so naturally he has many, many sins. But Jesus Christ stands up and will not listen to any accusation made against the priest.

Is this what you do when someone brings up someone's failures? If you listen to this kind of talk, it means that you consider yourself as being beyond Jesus. If you receive anyone attacking anyone else on sin, you are putting yourself above Jesus. Christ would not listen to one sentence about Joshua.

What overcomes the accusations of the devil? The blood of Jesus. Do works have anything to do with it? Does striving make the ac-

cusations go away? No, only the blood of Jesus Christ overcomes the wicked one. The blood of Christ was for God, and because it was for Him, He will not let Satan attack us.

When I was saved, I was placed inside of Christ. I am hid with Christ in God according to Colossians 3:3. When I was placed inside of Christ, I became a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). The old things are now passed away.

For this reason, I don't have to go digging back into someone's past to find out the root of some problem. "What happened when you were five? How about at age 8 and age 9? What did you do at 11 years of age?" Worldly counselors like to take people on journeys back in time. "Let's go through everything that went on in your life." The way to counsel a person is to counsel him with divine life from the Word of God.

The Armor of Faith

"Put on the whole armour 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 darkness of this world,

against spiritual wickedness in high places.

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

“And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:11-17).

There is no need for me to wrestle with Satan and with what he says about me. I am standing in grace. I have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and I have access to Him on the basis of this faith. I rejoice and hope in the glory of God (Romans 5:1-2).

What Christians really need to learn is how to stand in the grace of God.

I used to be quite a boxer. I would go into the ring and take out my opponent, and I would be declared the winner. That was the end of the fight. But suppose I just kept fighting even

though I had already won. My opponent lies there knocked out and I just keep swinging away. Now that is just a lot of wasting of energy and effort.

When it comes to salvation, I have already been declared a winner. I have been made an overcomer by the blood of the Lamb. My testimony represents how His victory works by grace in my life (see Romans 3:24-25).

Chapter Three

CHRIST'S TRIUMPH, OUR AUTHORITY

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

“By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison” (1 Peter 3:18-19).

Jesus came out of the grave in tremendous triumph, and that triumph was final and for me—forever. Let me clear something up. Jesus did not just preach to the spirits in prison, He announced His once-and-for-all victory:

“Here I am, just as I said I would be. I am glorified. See the nail scars in My hands? Now, devil, your crowd is defeated, and your demon armies can no longer make sin an issue. I told you how it would be, and here I am! And now I am gone. Bye-bye!”

Sin separates us from God in fellowship.

God does discipline us in love when we sin. Yet, sin is no longer the issue in our lives. Disobedience to truth or to life may be an issue, but sin is not the issue. Really, we could call it disobedience to the victory that's been won. If you are not standing in the victory that has been won, then you are open to defeat in your purpose and your walk with God.

Christ accomplished the victory at Calvary. He won it and He ascended to the Father. We are in Him. And if we are in Him, we are with Him in His ascended life that is now so rich and so free. The wicked one cannot touch us.

The Breath of Victory

Jesus breathed on His disciples in John 20:22, and that moment was very important. There, the risen Christ was giving His servants His authority in this world. That authority came because of the blood of Christ that had been shed for the Father. The power came later on, in Acts 1 and Acts 2, but the authority was breathed upon them right then and there.

Authority came because of the Blood. The devil had been defeated, and now they could be hid with Christ in God. We are made brand-new creatures with His authority over sin and over

the devil.

As believers, we have authority in the will of God over all manner of diseases. I am free and experiencing God's condition because I am in my standing. I live in my state of being with the Kingdom of God and the Word of God within me.

We have the victory that's been won. This is why Romans 8:37 declares us to be more than conquerors. And as more than conquerors, we are always caused to triumph in Christ and to make manifest the savor of His knowledge in every place (2 Corinthians 2:14).

CONCLUSION

So many cannot get this reality straight: God always causes us to triumph. He keeps us from falling. We are winners. The battle is over! Satan is defeated, and there is no reason for us to kick a dead horse.

Every time the high priest went into the holy place with blood to make atonement for the sins of Israel, he must have thought, "I'm going to have to keep doing this until Someone finishes this work. When the Messiah comes, then I won't have to keep coming in here anymore."

Now it is all finished. Sin is paid for, the devil is defeated, and we have authority. Let's use the authority we have because Christ completed what He had to do—for you and for God the Father.