



## *The End*

Suzanne D. Williams

*"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8)*

The devil doesn't get to decide the ending. It's already been set out by Almighty God. The devil doesn't get to choose whether or not he's defeated. Jesus Christ did that two thousand years ago and made a public display of him in it.

The devil can't come up with a new trick to cause destruction. Who he is and what he does has been spelled out in God's Word. He can't even keep his tactics secret. Jesus told us he was a liar and deceiver, a thief who would try to make himself look like something good.

Everything the devil's done since man was created, and everything he plans to do to tear down people, nations, and governments, is listed in the Scriptures. Jesus said there'd be wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, pestilences, and persecutions, but He was definite on their place in time. Not until the gospel had spread around the world would the end come. God has decided it.

All the wiles and strategies of the devil are known to us, and within us, we have the Spirit of God Himself. The source of all knowledge and wisdom, the voice of all prophecy, the very power of the Resurrection is here to lead and direct us. To top that off, Jesus gave us the keys to heaven, said to pray the will of heaven would come to earth, that when we pray the Father would answer, then

told us the gates of hell would not prevail against His church.

He handed believers all authority over all the power of the enemy and placed in our hands, through His apostles, all the instructions we need to live in victory. We have His name, which is greater than any other, and a commission to go into the world, teach all nations, and heal the sick and cast out devils, just like He did.

**THE DEVIL DOESN'T GET TO DECIDE THE ENDING. JESUS IS THE ENDING.** What God began in Genesis, He has already decreed will end, the way He's chosen, in the time He's decided, with all of us, His children, standing by His side. There will be no more sorrow nor mourning in that day. There will be no more death.

Until then, in Christ, we have all we need to live a long joyful life. His goodness and mercy follow us. He has renewed our youth, told us we will run and not grow weary, walk and not faint. He has restored our soul. He said even if we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, in one side and out the other, He would be with us, His glory around us, the path of righteousness beneath our feet.

We sit at the table in the midst of our enemies, holding up the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit. We need not fear what man can do to us, nor any plague which might come nigh our dwelling place. He has set us up upon a rock and even if thousands fall around us, it won't come near us. Only with our eyes will we behold the reward of the wicked.

The devil has no hold over us anymore. He has only the same old schizzle, a lot of smoke and mirrors, which if we're not looking at Jesus, begin

(Continued from "THE END:)

to seem like the truth. And there's God's ending again. Because Jesus is the Word which created all things in the beginning, and He's the Lamb which sits on the throne, proof of the enemy's defeat. He's the King of Kings, in all His glory, and the Great I AM Himself.

When we look at Him, we see the Father. When we read His Word, we hear the Spirit speak. When we pray, it's His blood which makes us bold enough to come before the throne of grace. We

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## *The Cost of Victory*

Becky Combee

There are many blessings in life that are NOT free. Someone, somewhere, has counted the cost and made the sacrifice that brought victory. Devoted parents are a primary example. Night and day they walk with their child to ensure that he is safe, secure, and successful. From late nights by his bedside to the necessary arbitration between siblings, mom and dad are there. Together mom and dad sacrifice their time, energy and finances because they love their child. Yet, their effort is often unappreciated, their authority contradicted and opposed. The sacrifice they have made is undervalued and misunderstood, at least for a season.

### THE PRICE

Jesus was also met by opposition. The New Living translation says that sinful people did terrible things to Him, and the Contemporary English Version that He was insulted by sinners, while the New American Standard writes that sinners were hostile toward Him.<sup>1</sup> He endured this struggle because He came to rescue man from sin. **HE CAME BECAUSE GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD.**

The preordained plan of God was that Jesus would die for all men, even for those who opposed Him so bitterly. Although the cost was high, Jesus would carry the sin of the world and suffer in the place of damnation. Face-to-face with His archenemy, Satan, and separated from His Father, He would stand until the price for man's sin was paid. He had been despised, beaten, and crucified,

lack nothing. We fear nothing. Not today. Not tomorrow. Because God has made known His plans for us – good and not evil to give us hope and an expected end.

He who was, is, and will be forever the same. He is constant, not variable, with not a shadow of turning. His Word never returns to Him void, but always accomplishes that which He pleases, and what He pleases happened at Calvary where what the devil thought he'd do to destroy mankind miserably failed.

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and now, He awaited the cry of victory – the day when the payment for sin was fully paid.

After three days, victory came! Satan had been stripped of his armor and relieved of his keys. He was defeated.<sup>2</sup> Jesus could place His blood on heaven's altar to cancel the sin of man.<sup>3</sup> What a glorious day!

For Jesus, the pain and agony was over. The sacrifice was ended, and He was raised in triumph to be seated at the right hand of the Father. All men who would believe in Him could come to God, His Father. God would be their Father, too, and heaven would be their eternal home.

The price Jesus paid was astronomical! Sin! Suffering! Death! Yet the cost for man was nothing! No price! No suffering! No work!<sup>4</sup> Man was freely rescued and delivered. His sins were remitted. Eternal life was given. The Holy Spirit was received! Every blessing and resource was free.

The response of man for these great blessings is trust, commitment, and obedience. This should not be a sacrifice, but a joy. Walking with God toward eternity should be man's greatest pleasure, for in His presence is fullness of joy. We must trust and obey until He comes. All is well when we are committed to Him for we are His people, the sheep of His pasture, and obedience to His leadership brings tremendous victory in our lives. Yet, we must constantly be reminded that this victory is because of His sacrifice. The hymnist ably said, "Jesus paid it all, All to him I owe: Sin had left a crimson stain, He wash'd it white as snow."<sup>5</sup> What a tremendous truth. What a valuable lesson! Our heart overflows with "joy unspeakable and full of glory."<sup>6</sup> Glory! Joy! Blessings! Victory! FREE! Because of Jesus!

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<sup>1</sup>Heb 12:3 <sup>2</sup>Rev 1:18;Lk 11:21-22 <sup>3</sup>Heb 9:26 <sup>4</sup>Eph 2:10,Tit 3:5 <sup>5</sup>"Jesus Paid It All" Author: Elvina M. Hall (1865) <sup>6</sup>1Pe 1:8