

# BECKY COMBEE MINISTRIES, INC.



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## The Magnificence of God

BY BECKY COMBEE

The magnificence of God's plan of redemption is Satan's overwhelming defeat through Jesus' death and resurrection. From the beginning of time, Satan has been the enemy of men. He challenged Eve in the Garden of Eden, deceiving her and prompting her to reject the command of God. Oh, what a sad day!

For centuries thereafter, Satan dominated God's creation and sin ruled. The apostle Paul opened our eyes to this truth when he wrote, "sin hath reigned unto death." He further declared, "By one man's offence death reigned." The sin of Adam and Eve exposed the door of death and separated man from God. But almighty God had a plan. It was a plan to "destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil, And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." The Lord Jesus Christ would accomplish this rescue of sinful man.

The inspired words of the apostle Peter unveil man's great deliverance, declaring our redemption by the precious blood of Jesus. Jesus' crucifixion by the "determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God" secured our freedom from sin and Satan. The Message Bible says, "Jesus, following the deliberate and well-thought out plan of God, was betrayed by men." I love those words, "deliberate and well-thought out." They are reiterated in the First Epistle of Peter, which declares Jesus' death was foreordained before the foundation of the world. The *New Living Translation* of the Bible

explains this verse, "God chose him for this purpose long before the world began."

When Jesus fulfilled the predetermined plan of God, Satan was defeated. According to Hebrews 2:14, Satan was destroyed. In *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* this word "destroy" means "to be (render) entirely idle, useless...bring

## The Champion

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS

There is a song called "The Champion," released in 1985 and sung by popular entertainer, Carman, which tells the story of Jesus' victory over the devil from the perspective of a prize fight. I can remember seeing him perform it in person at a local church-sponsored concert. It's a fantastic journey into the art of storytelling. Yet there is truth to the thought behind the song.

In the Medieval world, a champion was one hired to do combat for the rights of another. In fact, the word "champion" is defined "to support; defend." It comes from a Latin root word meaning "battlefield." (*Dictionary.com*) The idea of a champion dates back to Roman times, but the typical romantic ideal comes from the time of William the Conqueror. It was what we'd today call "a duel." One party would fight another until either one was killed or he called out, "Craven," which in effect was, "I give up."

The battle could be because of any number of things, land disputes, a crime, etc., and was recognized as legal. You could choose either a trial by jury or a "trial by combat." Following the battle,

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(come) to nought, put away (down), vanish away, make void." This simply means Satan has been defeated, but he has not been eliminated. He is still the thief who kills, the roaring lion who tries to devour man. Yet there is such good news for us. When we resist him in the name of Jesus, he must flee. He has to stop, cease his activities against us, and retreat.

In Jesus' name, we have been given authority over all Satan's works. Satan cannot manipulate and maneuver successfully if we enforce the victory bought for us by Jesus. Years ago, I read an example that helped me understand our operation against Satan in Jesus' name. A minister declared that Jesus defeated Satan and imprisoned him, then He gave to every believer the key to that prison, instructing them to keep him secured. It is the name of Jesus that prevents Satan's escape.

As a part of the body of Christ, I have the privilege of using Jesus' name. Jesus explained this

to His disciples when He spoke to them about doing the work of God. He said, "Whatever you ask in my name, that will I do." He also helped them to understand prayer, declaring, "Whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you." God's work is accomplished and our prayers and petitions are heard by our Father when we speak Jesus' name.

The name of Jesus has authority in heaven, earth, and hell. It is the name above every name, the name of conquest and triumph, the name of Satan's defeat. When we speak the name of Jesus, Satan trembles. What a vivid picture! In Jesus' name, with His authority, by His instructions, we can cast out, drive out, force out and throw out demons. But, it is ONLY in His name! In Jesus' name, we have victory over all the works of the devil!

<sup>1</sup> Ro 5:21 <sup>2</sup> Ro 5:17 <sup>3</sup> Heb 2:14-15 <sup>4</sup> 1Pe 1:19 <sup>5</sup> Ac 2:23  
<sup>6</sup> 1Pe 1:20 <sup>7</sup> G2673 <sup>8</sup> Jn 14:14 <sup>9</sup> Jn 16:23

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the defeated foe was "declared infamous, deprived of the privileges of a freeman, and [made] liable for damages to his successful opponent." In extreme cases, the loser was sometimes hung, given he had survived. *(Answers.com)*

There is more to Jesus' resurrection than just an empty tomb. Jesus defeated the devil and all that the devil stands for. He became for us our champion, legally settling any claim the devil had over us. Colossians 2:15 says, "And having spoiled principalities and powers, he [Jesus] made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it." This thought is again a bit archaic in our modern thinking, but essentially it means they were made useless.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy. (Ps 107:2)

Useless means "not serving any purpose." Think about that! Poverty is useless. Sickness is useless. Fear is useless. Anything the devil has tried to "put on" you is useless, it serves no purpose for you, for

Satan has been completely defeated. What? Did you think Jesus did a half-way job? No! He "triumphed" over Satan...OPENLY. He didn't hide what He'd done. In fact, he displayed it. He made of Satan a "public example," saying, "Look here at what is useless, at what is futile!"

Now, I know that the world is full of sorrow and many troubles; death surrounds us every day. But we are to be like the man of Psalm 91:7-8, sitting in heavenly places, made inaccessible (Amp) to what the devil desires to do in our lives. We shouldn't roll over and accept things! No, Satan is defeated! As all the world falls around us, God has sent us a champion, Jesus, who defended our honor and restored to us the rightful place in His kingdom. It's legal, and it's yours!

"But," you say, "How do I get there? How do I come to this place of peace and joy, safety and happiness, victory, and deliverance?" Through determination. Through prayer. Through daily meditation in the Scriptures. Through faith in what Jesus has done for you. Through confession of God's promises.

Stand up today with the redeemed and "say so!" Victory is found in praise and worship. Joy is found in your rejoicing!