

## **CHRIST ARISEN AND SATAN'S DEFEAT**

**April 9, 2017**

**Hebrews 2:1-18**

**“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might 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.” Hebrews 2:14, 15**

In three previous messages we observed how Christ, during His betrayal, trial and crucifixion, ruled forces of the Roman Empire that crucified Him. He was not a helpless victim, but a sacrificing priest offering Himself as the sacrifice. No man could take His life from Him, He could lay it down and take it again (John 10:18). The captive ruled His captors, orchestrating their actions. Rome could not keep Christ dead, thus the empire was doomed.

This demonstrated Christ's dominion over the spiritual powers animating every worldly government. This world-system—governments, cultures and peoples—is under Satanic dominion: “the whole world lieth in wickedness” (i.e., “the wicked one”) (I John 5:19b). Satan, “the god of this world,” has blinded men to spiritual truth (II Corinthians 4:4).

In the religious leaders' insistence on Christ's crucifixion, and the Roman authorities granting their wish, Satan was acting. To the religious leaders Jesus said, “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning” (John 8:44). Approaching crucifixion, He spoke of Satan saying, “Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out” (John 12:31). Ultimately, Christ's dismantling of His religious opponents and of Rome was His destruction of Satan's dominion.

This was foretold when Satan's subtlety brought a curse upon creation. God affirmed that the seed of the woman would crush the serpent's head (Genesis 3:15). Christ entered this world that He might destroy the works of the devil (I John 3:8). This was accomplished when Christ Jesus arose from the dead.

Christ's resurrection neutralized Satan's power. Death was the power Satan gained when he seduced mankind to sin (Genesis 3). Death came by way of sin (Romans 5:12-14). But Christ's resurrection defeated death for all of those in union with Him. The benefits accompanying Christ's triumph over Satan are many:

**Deliverance from bondage of corruption (Romans 8:21)**

**Deliverance from every accusation against our souls (Romans 8:33, 34)**

**Deliverance from death (I Corinthians 15)**

**Deliverance from guilt & consequences of sin (Colossians 2:13-15)**

**Deliverance from the bondage of the Law (Galatians 3:13)**

**Deliverance from bondage from fear of death (Hebrews 2:14, 15)**

