

## The Greatest Story (Part 52):

Victory in Jesus

*Revelation 5:1-14*

*Memory Verses: Rev. 5:9*

### MANUSCRIPT

#### Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

Here we are... the end of a 52 sermon series through the entire Bible. We started in the first week of January by looking at creation in the book of Genesis. We saw that existed before anything else existed. That he formed the universe, the stars, the planets out of nothing. Then he made the Earth and made animals to live on it, plants to grow on it, fish to swim in its waters, and birds to fly in its atmosphere. And then he made us... mankind. Man he called Adam, woman he called Eve... and together they managed the animals, the plants, and all of God's creation. Nothing was kept from them save one tree. The world was theirs, life was sweet, everything was perfect... but all of that would crumble if they were to eat of this one tree.

Here we see the paradox of God and man. God loved us and wants us to love him... but it's not really love if he made us to have no choice. He had to give us a choice to love him if we were to really love him. And given the choice between God and paradise and doing the one thing that we were told not to do... we chose rebellion. And in an instant paradise was lost. Mankind was cursed. The disease of sin infected our race. And the Earth began to die. But God was not caught off guard. He had a plan to save us. In fact this plan was put in place before Eve even ate the fruit. Look at **Genesis 3:15**. Although Satan had tricked humanity into sinning... and in doing so took dominion over the Earth, God promises that there would be one who would be born of woman who would crush Satan once and for all. And thus... the prophecy of the Messiah was realized.

Fast forward thousands of years to right before the book of Matthew. The world is still in chaos. God's plan to save humanity through his chosen people Israel seems like a giant failure. His plan to save humanity through the sacrificial system and the law also seems like a colossal let down. And for 400 years, since the writing of the prophet Malachi, the world hasn't even had one prophetic word from God. Do you wanna know what was happening in those 400 years of silence. Turn over to the book of **Revelation 5:1-5a**. Here we see a picture of what might have been happening during this time. Enter the Messiah... the Lamb of God... the root of David.

The messiah, named Jesus, is born and lives among us for 33

years. We talked about this last week. But at age 33 something happens. He is killed. Remember Genesis 3:15...it says that the snake will bruise the messiah's heel. Here we see the messiah take a blow... but it isn't fatal... because three days later he rises again. He has defeated Satan, death, fear, sin... he has won the battle that has been raging for the souls of men since time began.

Or has he? You see the rest of the New Testament tells of a battle that rages within the souls of those who put their faith in this Messiah. You see Satan will not take his loss sitting down. He now walks around the Earth seeking who he can devour. He is trying to destroy the testimony of the saints. He is seeking to turn men's hearts from the savior. And he is still trying to win the war for Earth... because he knows that if he can keep men from coming to Christ he can destroy them forever. So we fight. As Ephesians says... we put on the full armor of God, and as Galatians says we are equipped with the fruits of the Spirit. And as Romans says... we are more than Conquerors through Christ. And as Philippians says... we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength.

So how does it all end...

Turn back over to the book of Revelation chapter 5 and let's pick back up where we left off... **Revelation 5:5b-14**. This morning I want to show you in the Book of Revelation 2 reasons why you have victory in Jesus Christ and what we will see is this... **We Aren't Fighting For Victory.. But From Victory**

#### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing I want us to see here is that... **We Have Victory, For Jesus Has Ransomed Us**. Ransom means to pay the payment for the release of a prisoner. In **verses 1-5** we see that John is being given a revelation of a scroll that has been sealed. What exactly this scroll represents is hard to pin-point. It could be interpreted as the scroll representing the completion of those who would be saved... at which point the end times tribulation could commence.

The metaphorical idea in the first 5 verses is simple... everyone of us were imprisoned like a scroll that has been sealed for ages. We were imprisoned to our own sinful desires; sexual lust, greed and jealousy, and anger and bitterness. Others of us were imprisoned by addiction to drugs or alcohol. Regardless we were all enslaved to sin. And we were imprisoned by the law... a law which demands sinless perfection... a law we were unable to abide by because by nature we were children of disobedience. And because of this we were held under the penalty of the wrath of God to die and be destroyed in the fires of hell.

The only way we could be freed was for someone to open the scroll. The only way the scroll could be opened was for someone to pay our

ransom. So who is worthy to open the scroll of salvation and ransom mankind? And who is worthy to begin the end of the age setting up the kingdom of God on Earth? **Verses 5-14** tells us that it's Jesus of course. We weep no more because the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David has conquered and can open the scroll. Look at the song that is sung by the angels in **verse 9; "for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe, language, people, and nation.** The bottom line is this... Jesus Christ has paid the price to free you from your sin. He has ransomed you by the only acceptable payment... his blood. Jesus died on the cross to secure your release and rose again three days later to secure your resurrection.

Now you are no longer enslaved and imprisoned. The scroll has been opened. The grip of sin no longer has a hold on your life. You are free from your sinful desires. Now you have a way through the Holy Spirit to escape those desires. Now you are no longer imprisoned by the law... you are free from the law through the grace of Jesus Christ. You are no longer imprisoned by the wrath of God... you are now his child... instead of wrath to look forward to you have an eternal reward.

And since you have been ransomed by the blood of Jesus... you should live as though you are free. **John 8:36 tells us that those who Christ sets free are free indeed.** If you've been freed how could you go back to things you were once enslaved to? Look at **Romans 6:1-2.** We can't... we are now free and must live in our freedom. We have victory in Jesus because he has ransomed us from our sinful state and condemned fate and now we are free at last, free at last... thank God almighty I'm free at last. **The price for your freedom has been paid... so live free . We Aren't Fighting For Victory.. But From Victory.**

The second thing I want us to see here is that... **We Have Victory, For Jesus Will Restore Us.** Go back to Genesis. Before the fall we were rulers over the Earth. We were stewards of all the good that God had created; the plants, and the animals. We were kings and queens of a paradise and we lost it. And for 10k years we've been trying to get back there..

Now look at **Rev. 5:10** – he has made us a kingdom and priests and we shall reign on the earth. Not only do we have victory because Jesus has ransomed us but also because he will fully restore us to who we were and restore the world to what it was. Through Jesus Christ paradise will be restored. Skip ahead in the story to **Revelation 21:1-5** – here we see a new earth. In Revelation 20 we are told that we will reign with Christ on the Earth and eventually we will reign with him on a new earth. Regardless... our destiny is to reign as Kings and Queens over the earth again. We will take up the original calling of Adam & Eve as stewards over creation and everything else will be restored as well.

There will be no more sinful state, no more curse upon the earth, and no more satan.

And all of this will be secured through a sweeping victory at the final battle. **Revelation 11-21** is the story of this final battle when Jesus defeats the armies of the Earth led by the Anti-Christ. This final battle involves a few key figures. First and foremost, there is the winner; Jesus. Look how he is described in **Rev 19:11-16.** Jesus leads an army of the 7 Angels of The Lord who's job it is to deal out the wrath of God on the world. He also has an earthly army of 144,000 who have been redeemed during the tribulation period.

On the other side we have Satan who is also called the Dragon. He controls an earthly puppet called the Anti-Christ or the Beast. Satan possesses the Anti-christ and leads the world astray to war against Christ. The armies of the world are led by a state system referred to as Babylon.

So how does the final battle go? Well look at **Rev 19:1-2** where Jesus defeats Babylon like it's no big deal. And then look at **Rev 19:19-21** where Jesus defeats The Anti-christ & everyone else. We know how the story ends... we win. We've already won our salvation when Christ died and rose. And we will win our restoration when Jesus defeats the anti-christ and satan in the tribulation. In other words... **The battle for our salvation is won... the battle for our restoration is as good as won. We Aren't Fighting For Victory.. But From Victory.**

### Application (Resolution, You)

So let's wrap this up. We had paradise and through our sin we lost it. We were enslaved to life of sin and condemned to a fate of hell. We needed someone to pay the ransom to open the scroll to save us and restore us. The good news is this... Jesus has already won the battle for your ransom. And now, if you put your faith in him, you can be free from sin, the law, and God's wrath forever. You can have victory in Jesus over your sin today

But that's not all. Not only has he won the battle for your salvation... Jesus will win the battle for your restoration. He will defeat the anti-christ, he will defeat Satan for good, and he will vanquish all of his enemies once and for all. The final battle is as good as won already...we know how the story ends.

So... if you recognize the victory we have in Christ it changes the way you live. You are not a victim but a victor. You shouldn't live defeated but determined. Nothing has overcome you because Christ has overcome. **Since we have victory in Jesus... our lives should be a constant display of the overcoming power of Christ We Aren't Fighting For Victory.. But From Victory.**

**Conclusion** - Song – victory in Jesus