

The Banner of the Slain Lamb

The Nature of the Conflict between Good and Evil

The primary plan of attack against Messiah and His anointed has been selfishness (self-life), force, and mostly deception, i.e. by misrepresenting the truth, withholding the truth, or outright lies, the kingdom of Darkness has opposed God and the way He upholds. The issue isn't merely a "power struggle" where Satan desires to replace God, but the very substance of their kingdoms are directly opposed.

The book of Job deals with the issue. His role is largely *passive*. He has no choice in entering into the struggle but in a sense became a battlefield where God and Satan contested. Job's wife revealed the nature of his participation in the battle and the weapon he was to use — faith. She urged him to "curse God and die," but Job's answer was, "I know my Redeemer lives." (At this point all that Job had was either fellowship with God, or total emptiness.) By expressing his *faith* in God he participated in the victory. God didn't crush Satan with his accusations, but allowed Job to be tested and proven faithful. This way Satan had nothing to say afterwards.

This is an example of the victory of the slain lamb — *a total victory which has no room for later appeal*. Revelation 4 & 5 — John is looking for the Lion of Judah who is greater than the roaring lion of 1 Peter 5:8. He is surprised to find a lamb, that looked as if slain, on the throne of God — the symbol of God's glory and power. Under this banner the armies of the Sovereign find *complete victory*. This is a completely different order of weapons than is used by Satan in his kingdom. The "might makes right" philosophy of the world is not defeated by greater might, but by revealing the depravity and ugliness of evil for what it is, thus leading to its own destruction. *This is done largely by allowing evil to run its course*; when evil brings fruit (death), its total corruption is apparent. Thus the blood of the martyred saints (and in general the saints being abused and ripped off) actually becomes a weapon in opposing evil.

In this light, look at Dan 7:25 and 12:7 (wearing out the saints). At face value the outlook is grim, but in understanding God's method of opposing evil we can see that the saints are waging victorious battle.

God wages war and conquers without compromising His nature of perfect love which does not demand its own way. God's glory is found at the cross. Yahshua's hour of glory was found at Calvary, when He conquered like a grain of wheat falling to the earth. God doesn't directly determine everything that happens, and His glory partly lies in the fact that He triumphs in spite of it. On the last day no one will be able to open their mouths against our Master, not because of spiritual muscles on anyone's mouth, but the truth will be so *undeniably plain* that no one will be able to contradict it (Phil 2:10).

This is the nature of God, and by sharing in this nature, we as imitators of God, as beloved children, overcome the dragon by the blood of the Lamb, the word of our testimony, and by not loving our life unto death (Rev 12:11).