



A BETTER WORD

FROM OLD TO NEW TO YOU

8 Themes That Run Through the Whole Bible | with Pastor Nick Gatzke

The Victory of God

Genesis 3:15; Colossians 2:13–15; Revelation 19:11–16

THE BIG IDEA

God promised victory over Satan in the garden, secured it on the cross, and will one day celebrate it in full — and every person who trusts Jesus shares in that victory forever.

SERMON SUMMARY

The story of the Bible is the story of a cosmic war. From the moment Satan tempted Adam and Eve, a conflict was set in motion between God and the forces of evil — between light and darkness, life and death, the Spirit and the flesh. Even in the curse of Genesis 3, God made a promise: Eve's offspring would crush the serpent's head. Throughout the Old Testament, God's victories — through David over Goliath, through Elijah against the prophets of Baal, through Moses over Pharaoh — were not just military triumphs. They were displays of God's power and down payments on a greater victory to come. The pattern was always the same: defeat seemed imminent, God's people trusted him rather than themselves, and he delivered.

In Jesus, the promise of Genesis 3 is fulfilled. Every demon cast out, every sin forgiven, every life transformed was a counterattack in the cosmic war. On the cross, the decisive blow was struck: "He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him" (Colossians 2:15). The outcome of the war is already settled. The full victory will be celebrated when Christ returns as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 19). Until then, every prayer, every act of obedience, every gospel conversation is an act of war — and you are already on the winning side.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Genesis 3:15 — God's promise that Eve's offspring would crush the serpent's head — is often called the "proto-gospel," the first gospel. How does this single verse set up the entire arc of Scripture? What does it mean that the promise of victory was made at the very moment of the fall?
2. The Old Testament victories (David and Goliath, Elijah and the prophets of Baal) share a common pattern: defeat seemed imminent, God's people relied on God rather than themselves, and God delivered. Why is self-reliance specifically the thing that leads to defeat in these stories? Why does humble dependence tend to precede God's victory?
3. Colossians 2:13–15 describes the cross using the language of military triumph: Jesus "disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame." What does it mean that a crucifixion — not a military campaign — was the decisive blow in the cosmic war? Why is this so surprising, and why is it fitting?
4. The sermon said that every sin you resist, every person you share the gospel with, every Sunday you gather to worship, and every prayer you pray is "an act of war against

Satan.” Does this language change the way you think about ordinary spiritual disciplines? How does knowing you’re in a war change the way you engage your faith?

5. Revelation 19:11–16 pictures Christ returning as a warrior King — King of Kings and Lord of Lords. How does this final vision of victory shape your hope in the present? How should knowing the outcome of the war change the way you engage in spiritual conflict right now?

LIVING IT OUT

You are in the middle of a war right now. It’s not fought with visible weapons — it’s fought with faith and obedience and prayer and gospel proclamation. Satan is real, his opposition is real, and the stakes are eternal. But the outcome is not in question. God promised victory in Genesis, secured it on the cross, and will consummate it at Christ’s return. The call is not to win the war. Jesus already won it. The call is to live like someone who knows the outcome.

Heart Check: Are you living with the awareness that you are in a spiritual war — or have you been approaching your faith primarily as a consumer, taking what’s convenient and setting aside what’s difficult? What would it look like to engage your spiritual life as a soldier who already knows victory is secure?

This Week: Choose one area of ongoing spiritual conflict in your life — a persistent temptation, a strained relationship, a recurring fear. Apply the truth of Colossians 2:13–15 to it: your debt is canceled, the enemy is disarmed, and the victory is Christ’s. Write out a prayer of confident warfare claiming that victory over that specific area this week.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

“He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

— **Colossians 2:15**

Thank God for a victory that was promised in a garden, purchased on a cross, and will be consummated at Christ’s return. Ask him to make you more aware of the spiritual war around you — and more confident in its outcome. Surrender any specific area of defeat to the one who has already won.

Your Prayer:
