

LET GOD ARISE!

The Battle Belongs to the Lord *Prayer Guide #12*

Rev. Dr. Don L. Davis



The Church Triumphant

Revelation 19.6-8

O Glorious King of Martyr Hosts

Words: Unknown author, probably 6th Century
"Rex gloriose martyrum" - translated from Latin

O glorious King of martyr hosts,
Thou Crown that each confessor boasts,
Who ledest to celestial day
The saints who cast earth's joys away;

Thine ear in mercy, Savior, lend,
While unto Thee our prayers ascend;
And as we count their triumphs won,
Forgive the sins that we have done.

Martyrs in Thee their triumph gain,
Confessors grace from Thee obtain;
We sinners humbly seek to Thee,
From sin's offense to set us free.

All laud to God the Father be,
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee;
All glory, as is ever meet,
To God the holy Paraclete.

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Our Lord leads us into triumphal procession

2 Cor. 2.14-16 - But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. [15] For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, [16] to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?

God has saved us and given us the victory through his power

Ps. 106.47 - Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.

Ps. 148.14 - He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the Lord!

1 Chron. 16.35 - Say also: “Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather and deliver us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name, and glory in your praise.”

Ps. 14.7 - Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad.

Ps. 126.1 - When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

We have overcome the dragon through the blood of Christ and the word of our testimony

Rev. 12.7-11 - Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, [8] but he was defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. [9] And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to



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Unless otherwise noted, all Scriptures are taken from the English Standard Version (ESV)

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the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. [10] And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. [11] And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”

Acts 13.46-47 - And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. [47] For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

The authority and the power to reign and to provide victory and deliverance belong to our God alone

1 Chron. 29.11 - Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.

Ps. 22.28 - For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

Ps. 45.6 - Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness.

Ps. 145.11-13 - They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power, [12] to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. [13] Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. [The Lord is faithful in all his words and kind in all his works.]



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Dan. 2.44 - And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever

Regardless of what we face, we are more than conquerors through him who loves us

Rom. 8.31-39 - What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? [32] He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? [33] Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. [34] Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. [35] Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? [36] As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” [37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Regardless of the foes we face, our God grants us the ultimate victory through his Son

Isa. 25.8 - He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

1 Cor. 15.54 - When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”



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1 Cor. 15.57 - But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Cor. 12.9 - But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

1 John 4.4 - Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

1 John 5.4-5 - For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world— our faith. [5] Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Through the matchless love of God in Christ, we overcome our enemies

Gal. 2.20 - It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Eph. 5.2 - And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

2 Thess. 2.16 - Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace.

1 John 4.10 - In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 4.19 - We love because he first loved us.



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Jude 1.24 - Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, [25] to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Rev. 1.5 - and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.

Knowing that we secure the ultimate victory, even over death, should fortify us to work with zeal for the Kingdom of God

1 Cor. 15.50-58 - I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. [51] Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52] in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. [53] For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. [54] When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” [55] “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” [56] The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. [57] But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. [58] Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

All glory for the triumph of the Church militant must be given to God, who has overcome the world in Jesus Christ

Ps. 98.1 - Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. [2] The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. [3] He has remembered his steadfast love and



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faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Prov. 21.31 - The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord.

John 16.33 - I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. ■

OF ALL the things that get a rise and charge the hearts of those of us in postmodern Western society, what perhaps do we like, most of all?

Just look around you. In an acquisitional culture that glorifies power and wealth, we have a number of things to select from. Surely, we could cite our mad hunger for recognition, our strange longing for getting and selling stuff, or we could mention our near fetish for physical beauty and prowess.

In my judgment, nothing moves us in our society like “being number one.” We fill our lives with images of “winners,” “closers,” and “A-team” folk. We have little or no patience for 2nd or 22nd place, and we give all the time and media attention to the ones who aced it, won it, took it, made it.

Yes, undoubtedly, we are a culture that has little or no patience for losers, for also-rans, for participants. In our minds, we must be tops, best, King-of-the-hill, or nothing at all. We love winners; we ignore or pity losers and participants.

In a real sense it may appear to most that in the grand scheme of things, the Church of Jesus Christ will never win. Its influence seems to wane and waffle more and more in the public sphere, and the evils of society and



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especially the city seem to be out of control. How can anyone dare to look at the average urban poor community and boldly assert that the Church of Jesus Christ is winning in its attempt to know Christ and make him known among the lost?

At first glance, it may appear that the Church is either holding ground, or worse yet, in dramatic retreat. All of our effort to evangelize, to disciple, to plant churches, to do justice seem to be of no avail against the force and power of evil and greed in this age. Our weapons, by human standards, seem weak and ineffective, like pop guns against armored tanks, and we show all the signs of being defeated.

On top of our apparent defeat, we see dramatic retreat from our churches today. More than ever before, there is a steady exodus of zeal and membership from the evangelical church. Thousands are leaving the ministry, and many church denominations are in full-blown conflict and revolt. Many are jettisoning the “theological baggage” of classic historic orthodoxy, and replacing it with the pablum of pop psychology and financial advice. One is far more likely to hear a sermon on the housing and banking crisis than the ultimate victory of the Lamb in John’s apocalyptic vision.

And here, then, is where the proverbial rubber meets the road. This is precisely why we must in our ministries, churches, and homes stoke and support a *Let God Arise!* prayer movement for the city. Those of us who are committed to the Word of God know that how things appear right now are not necessarily as they fundamentally are, and certainly not as they are destined to become. Christ Jesus, the same humble Nazarene who roamed the dusty roads of Palestine, is soon to be crowned as Lord of lords and King of kings on this tired, disease-filled earth. By faith we can see it all.

By faith we know that the world system of lust, greed, and pride will soon be destroyed, and Christ will return to consummate the glorious salvation he



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started in his incarnation, passion, death, resurrection, and ascension. The Church, as battered, bruised, and scarred as she may appear, is destined to triumph through the work of Christ, and will reign as co-regent with the Savior in a new heavens and earth where righteousness dwells. And the evil which cackles with glee, believing itself to be unassailable, will soon face the One who rides his white stallion followed by the armies of God. Is the symbolism of John's apocalyptic vision the imaginations of an overtired zealot of an itinerant Jewish carpenter-preacher, or is it history written in advance, the revelation of a sovereign God of the things to come?

By faith, we enthusiastically say the latter!

In a world where the lug nuts seem to have come off the wheels of its societies, now more than ever it is time for those who believe in Christ to proclaim the Kingdom come in Jesus. The Gospel truly is what Paul claimed it to be: It is the power of God to salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew and to the Gentile (Rom. 1.16). The sacred Scriptures everywhere proclaim that ultimately our God will get the last laugh, receive the last hurrah, and win the final victory. More than ever before, those of us serving Christ in the city must build ourselves up in our most holy faith, for soon and very soon, the Church militant will become the Church triumphant. As the battle hymn suggests, today, the noise of battle; the next, the victor's song!

Urban missions and church planting is not impossible for ultimately, our God will win the victory. Armed with this assurance, we engage in the task of evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and justice. We can do so with confidence, even though we face trials and tribulations, for our Lord has overcome the world (John 16.33).

During times like this it is important to remember that the way things look is not the way things really are. Our God is a God of covenant faithfulness, one who has never lied, one who has with perfect wisdom and truth shaped



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time and space to give way to the history of his love in the person of his Son, Jesus of Nazareth. This month, let us pray with fervor for the unreached communities of our urban centers, knowing that nothing can prevent the ultimate triumph of our Lord Jesus within them. By his own word, he has promised to share that dynamic victory with his own bride and people, the Church of God in Jesus Christ. Because he lives, we can engage today and face tomorrow, too.

Heb. 13:20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, [21] equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. ■

The Season after Pentecost: The Church Triumphant

Rev. 19:6-9 - Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. [7] Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; [8] it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. [9] And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

Biblical Principle of the Month

During this Season after Pentecost, let us remind ourselves of the truth of God's victory in Christ, and the ultimate defeat of evil and sin in a world gone mad with power. We need not be intimidated at the presence and apparent overwhelming power of evil; our risen Lord and Messiah, Jesus of



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Nazareth, the same One who is now exalted and glorified at the Father's right hand, soon he will return in glory to establish the reign of God in the earth and destroy the enemies of God.

As workers together with God, let us renew our faith through a confidence based on his promise, and affirm that God's Spirit can transform the cities of the world, drawing them under Christ's kingdom reign. Let us work knowing that nothing we do in the name of Christ is in vain or for nothing.

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