

You've Got to *Lose* in Order to *Win* – a Bible Study for God's Elect

by Steve Barwick

The word “Scripture” as used in the New Testament is translated from the Greek word *graphe* (i.e., Strong's G-1124).

It means “a written document”, which is to say, *a script*. That's why, in English, the Bible is called the *Scripture*, or more aptly stated, the *Holy Scripture*, because it's essentially a written script from God Himself, to *you*.

This “Script” is composed of God's great plan to save His children. That plan is written out in great detail, with *your* role in it completely delineated -- *if* you know where to look and what to look for.

Allow me to use the following analogy: If you're an actor in a play, a script is designed to help you understand, in *advance*, the specific role *you'll* be playing, as well as the needed background information, the motivation of your character and other characters in the play, and the conditions under which you'll be playing that role all of the way to a successful conclusion – i.e., all of the way to the applause and the bows and the curtain call at the end.

So when you study the Script(ures), you need to do so with that idea in mind. You're studying a *script*. And thorough familiarity with the “Script” allows you to understand with complete clarity *your specific role* in God's great plan to save His children. Studying the “Script” allows you to understand what you must do – and, I dare say, what you must *endure* – in order to successfully fulfill your role in God's great plan to save His children.

We Win (But There's Much More To It)

I've heard many Christians say, “I've read to the end of the Bible, and *we win!*” And that's absolutely true. According to the script, which is to say, the Holy Scriptures, we *do* win. Or, more accurately put, *Christ* wins. And we share in that victory, through Him.

After all, as the Scripture states in Romans 8:37, “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.” So faithful Christians certainly are “more than conquerors *through Him that loved us.*” We can't do it on our own.

We're overcomers, as well (Revelation 12:11). And we have the victory over Satan and this flesh world, but only *through the Lord and His Word* (I Corinthians 15:57; I John 5:4; Revelation 15:2), which is to say, through the Lord and the “Script” He's given us to learn from and to closely follow.

But in that beautiful eighth chapter of Romans in which we're told we're “more than conquerors,” many Christians gloss over the preceding verse. That preceding verse reads as follows:

Romans 8:36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Ouch. That actually sounds a bit scary, doesn't it? It's no wonder so many Christians hurry past that verse without giving it much thought. It's a part of the "Script" that makes them uncomfortable. They don't understand how being "killed all the day long" and "accounted as sheep for the slaughter" leads to victory in the end.

Stick to the Script, as Christ Did

Well, *don't* be scared. It shouldn't surprise you at all to discover that if you're truly faithful to Christ in the final days of this flesh earth age, then Christ's enemies will eventually count you as someone in need of eradication, just as they sought to eradicate Him.

That doesn't mean they'll be able to do it, beloved. We have many precious promises to claim from our heavenly Father that provide ample protection. We'll look at a small handful of those promises as we move along through this study.

But it's important to grasp the fact that as God's elect in the final days of this flesh earth age, the script (which is to say, the Holy Scriptures) says we actually have to *lose* the battle *first* in order to *win* the battle afterwards.

Yes, that's completely Biblical. You'll see this is true as we move forward in this study. For example, at Christ's first advent, He essentially lost the battle (He was betrayed, delivered up, falsely accused, tried, convicted, tortured and crucified) in order to win. His earthly enemies *defeated* Him at the crucifixion. And you can bet those earthly enemies were operating under the guidance and direction of the spirit of iniquity from Satan himself.

But as our Lord promised His disciples, He rose from the dead on the third day and defeated *death* on our behalves. In other words, the defeat of Christ by His enemies was only a very temporary one. What's more, it was *part of the plan* all along. It was part of the *script*, which is to say, the Holy Scriptures.

Jesus fulfilled His unique role in that pre-written script exactly as it was written. And so must God's elect in the final days of this flesh earth age. But you have to *know* the script in order to successfully carry out your *role* in the script.

For you see, God's elect must also be defeated by His enemies when they're delivered up to the "councils" (i.e., Sanhedrin) and synagogues at those trials described in Mark 13. Just like Christ, they'll be betrayed, delivered up, falsely accused, tried and convicted, just as Christ was. But just as Christ's defeat was very temporary, so will the elect's be a short-lived defeat, as well. And just as Christ's defeat was part of the plan (i.e., part of the Script) for victory all along, so is the elect's.

So I think it's high time that we, as Christians, learn this concept of being defeated in order to win. We must learn it with understanding, and in proper context with the script already written,

so we'll have a better understanding of our *role* in that Script(ure), which is to say, our role in God's great plan to save His children.

Our role in His script cannot be accomplished successfully any way other than what's already been written. Indeed, as we'll see in this study, it must be accomplished *exactly as it's written*.

With all of that in mind, and asking a Word of Wisdom from our heavenly Father, let's get started...

We're to be Treated as He Was

First, let's establish the fact, through Scripture, that we're going to be treated by Christ's enemies in very much the same manner as Christ was treated. After all, the Scripture tells us that Christ is our example. So it follows that what happened to Him will happen to us. As it's written:

Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, **If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.**

Of course, if you really meditate on that verse, you'll come to the conclusion that you take up your cross to be betrayed, delivered up to the enemy, falsely accused, tried and convicted, and tortured and crucified, as Christ was. As Christ would later say, as He was being led up the hill called Golgotha to be crucified:

Luk 23:31 For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?

Christ is the "green tree," which is to say, the tree of eternal life. Yet they had Him betrayed, delivered up to those trials, falsely accused, found guilty, sentenced to death, tortured and then slain on that cross at Golgotha.

We, as His faithful servants, are the dry trees. We depend upon *His* salvation for *our* eternal lives. We can't keep ourselves alive eternally, on our own accord, as He can. Our eternal life flows forth from Him, and is made possible through His great sacrifice on that cross.

So spiritually speaking, He's the "green tree." And we're the "dry tree." And what Christ is essentially saying here is this: "If they treat Me so despitefully, why would you expect them to treat *you* any better? They hated Me, they'll hate you, too. And it will be because of your love for Me."

So how did they treat Him? Well, they *killed* Him. But first they tortured him unmercifully until His appearance was marred more than any man's ever had been (Isaiah 52:14; 53:4-10).

Don't let that frighten you off. Again, there are some great and precious promises that have been given to us by our heavenly Father for precisely that time when we must face the enemies of Christ at those trials, and beforehand, as well. And we'll look at some of those promises in this study. But first, let's continue to establish from the Scriptures the fact that we, as part of His

many-membered body of the elect, cannot expect to be treated by His enemies any better than He was.

In another place in the Scripture, Christ further warned that His faithful servants will be falsely accused of being possessed by the devil, just as He was. As it's written:

Mat 10:25 It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

Yes, the Jewish religious leaders claimed publicly that Christ was possessed of the devil (John 7:20; John 8:48; John 8:52). And they'll claim *you* are, too, when you refuse to bow the knee to Satan in his role as the spurious messiah, which is to say, the false Christ or the antichrist. Your accusers will claim that the Christ *you* worship is Beelzebub, the devil, even as they'll be openly worshipping that old dragon here on earth and calling him "messiah."

So once again, our Lord and Savior establishes for us the fact that we should expect to be treated by his enemies precisely as He was – in fact, the verse above lets us know we'll be treated even *more* spitefully (i.e., "how much more shall they call them of his household?").

And finally, in chapter 13 of the great book of Mark, we learn that we will indeed be "hated of all men" specifically because of our faith and fidelity to the true Christ. As it's written:

Mar 13:13 And **ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake**: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Again, I don't point out these Scripture passages to scare anyone. First of all, it's important to note that according to the Scriptures only the two witnesses of Revelation chapter 11 will be killed during the great tribulation. So if you're worried about being killed, you can scratch that one off your worry list right now.

And as the passage above from Mark 13:13 states, if you endure unto the end during that time of tribulation, *you'll be saved*. The Lord will intervene on your behalf at His Second Advent. He even describes that rescue in Matthew chapter 24, where He explains exactly *how* and *when* our gathering together unto Him takes place. As it's written:

Mat 24:29 Immediately **after the tribulation of those days** shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Mat 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Mat 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

As you can see, AFTER the tribulation our Lord and Savior steps onto the scene, coming from heaven in power and great glory, to deliver His election. And He sends His great clouds of angels to “gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

So God’s elect are *rescued* by the Lord at the very end of the tribulation. Not killed. So stick with the script and let it play out exactly as it’s written. Sticking with the script is your lifeline. It’s your safety net.

We also have that beautiful prophetic promise from our heavenly Father in Jeremiah 15:11, which reads, “*The LORD said, Verily it shall be well with thy remnant; verily I will cause the enemy to entreat thee well in the time of evil and in the time of affliction.*”

That’s a very powerful promise, I think you’ll agree. Prophetically speaking, that “time of evil” and “time of affliction” is the time of Jacob’s trouble, also known as the time of the great tribulation. And every one of God’s elect should claim that precious promise in Christ’s name.

Nevertheless, the Scripture also clearly states that many of God’s faithful servants will indeed be “delivered up to death,” meaning when they’re delivered up to those councils and synagogues to go on trial for refusing to bow the knee to Satan in his role as the false messiah, they’ll be *facing the death penalty* for that refusal.

That’s why the Scripture reads, regarding Christ’s faithful overcomers:

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Even under the threat of being put to death for refusing to bow the knee to Satan, Christ’s faithful servants will stand firm in the blood of the Lamb and allow the Holy Spirit of God to speak through them (i.e., “by the word of their testimony”) at those trials. As it’s further written:

Mar 13:9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

Mar 13:10 And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

Mar 13:11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: **but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.**

Yeah, you might get roughed up a bit. Verbally abused. Spat upon. Treated with great disdain. Hated by everyone. Even tossed into prison like a common criminal for standing up for your beliefs and for sticking with the script.

But if you can handle the mistreatment, your Lord and Savior plans to put His Holy Spirit upon *you* when you're called up to testify. And it will be Him, as your advocate – which is to say, as your *defense attorney* – who will do the speaking *for you and through you* at those trials. Your mouth will be *HIS* instrument of testimony.

So really, you have *nothing* to worry about. Your Lord and Savior has it completely under control. All you have to do is go through with it, in complete faith in what He's told you. Stick with the script, and it turns out great in the end, even though we “lose” in the interim. As it's reiterated in Luke 21:

Luk 21:12 But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

This is where you appear to lose the battle. Just as your Lord and Savior was betrayed, arrested, falsely charged, delivered up to trial, convicted and sentenced to death, so will *you* be. And it will be “for my name's sake,” meaning you'll be tried and prosecuted because you stand firmly on Christ's side and refuse to bow the knee to the antichrist.

Luk 21:13 And it shall turn to you for a testimony.

That's the enemy's mistake, beloved. You get to testify. They don't know that spiritually speaking, your mouth is a loaded 12 gauge shotgun. And that's because you won't be doing the speaking. Your Lord and Savior will be speaking to *them*, through *you*.

Luk 21:14 Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer:

Luk 21:15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

Your Lord and Savior doesn't even want you to contemplate what your defense argument is going to be. There's much bigger things going on. The salvation of God's wayward children is at stake. And the message that comes from your mouth will be directed at *waking them up* and *saving them*, not you. After all, as one of God's elect, your salvation is already worked out, through Christ, both physically and spiritually.

So don't even *think* about premeditating your defense. There's no need whatsoever. Stick to the script. Let your Lord and Savior *speak through you*, through the power of the Holy Spirit. And when that takes place, it will bowl the world over. Nobody will be able to refute or resist even a single word of that powerful message that comes forth from your mouth at those trials.

Luk 21:16 And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.

Yep. Your own Christian family members will betray you, thinking they're doing you a big favor. They'll have been deceived by the false Christ into believing he's the Savior of the World. And they'll believe you'll come to your senses if they turn you over to the religious authorities. They think you'll be converted. But because you won't bow the knee to the antichrist under any circumstances, even under threat of the death penalty, those trials to determine your fate will have to proceed.

Luk 21:17 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.

As the Lord stated, you've got to expect to be treated as He was. They hated Him. They'll hate you too, for standing up for Him.

Luk 21:18 But there shall not an hair of your head perish.

Luk 21:19 In your patience possess ye your souls.

The word "patience" in the above verse is translated from the Greek word *hupomone* (i.e., Strong's G-5281) meaning "cheerful endurance." And that's the key. With the death penalty hanging over your head at those trials, they'll try to scare you into believing your death is imminent. But you have your Lord and Savior's word on it: "...*there shall not an hair on your head perish.*"

As long as you're patient, and don't freak out in fear, but instead remain faithful to your Lord and Savior's great plan to save His children (i.e., stick with the script) then you won't lose so much as a hair on your head. But you must endure the indignity *cheerfully*. You're playing a role that's crucial to the salvation of millions of God's wayward children. It's part and parcel of your Father's great plan to save His children. It's the script. And it's a great *joy* to be chosen to play a role in it, if you're truly one of His elect.

You see, just as in Christ's time, the plan all along was for Him to *lose first*, in order to win. That was what was written in the script. He had to be betrayed, delivered up to trial, falsely accused, convicted, sentenced to death, then tortured and crucified so that He could rise from the dead three days later and provide the means of salvation for all of His wayward children who afterward would repent of their sins and follow Him. He had to *lose first* in order to win.

Likewise, you should not be expected to be treated any differently. You'll be betrayed by family and friends. You'll be delivered up to those trials in the councils and synagogues. You'll be falsely charged with everything heresy to blasphemy to apostasy and more – all death penalty charges, by the way, so you'll have the death penalty hanging over your head the entire time. And just before the Lord arrives, you'll probably also be convicted of those false charges.

And you must have patience (i.e., cheerful endurance) through it all, and not lose faith in the great Plan of God (i.e., the Script) while you're being slandered and threatened with death.

Why? Because when it comes time for *you* to testify, your testimony will shake the world to its very core. It will be your heavenly Father speaking through you. And the words that come out of your mouth will provide the groundwork for the Millennium teaching period in which many, many more of God's wayward children will be saved.

You just have to be patient. You have to be willing to lose, at that time, *for a little while*, in order to win for the eternity. Just as Christ did.

He had to go through the whole humiliating process, from the betrayal by His own friends...to the false accusations at His trial...to hearing the crowds of His own people shouting "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"...to the torture...and to the crucifixion itself.

Likewise, you'll have to go through the whole process, too, from the betrayal by your own friends and family, to the false accusations, to the prosecution with the death penalty threat hanging over your head and designed to frighten you into bowing the knee to Satan, and finally to the Lord speaking through you at those trials and bowling the world over with what He has to say (and bringing many new souls back into the eternal family household of God in the process).

Christ Lost in Order to Win

So with all of that as background, let's look to Christ's example for just a moment, in the days leading up to His crucifixion. Let's examine how He knew in advance that He had to *lose first* in order to win, just as His elect must do in the final days of this flesh earth age which are now rapidly coming to a close:

Mat 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

You can bet as He "shewed unto His disciples" the indignities He would have to endure, He was preaching to them from Isaiah chapters 52 and 53 which describe how He would be betrayed, delivered up, put on trial, mercilessly tortured and crucified to death in order to provide the means of salvation for God's wayward children.

Mat 16:22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

The word "rebuke" in the above verse is translated from the Greek word *epitimaō* (i.e., Strong's G-2008) meaning "to forbid." Peter was scared. He didn't "get it." He didn't understand God's Plan – i.e., the Script that Christ was following. He didn't realize that Christ had to *lose first*, in the short run, in order to *win big* in the long run. So Peter tried to forbid the Lord from going through with God's plan. Think about that.

Remember, this is not about *our* salvation. We *already* have that salvation in the Lord. This is about the salvation of God's wayward children. Just as Christ's being delivered up was part of

the Father's great plan to save them, in like manner so God's elect being delivered up is part of Father's great plan to save them. It's part of the Script.

So we've got to get our focus right. We've got to get our eyes on the prize, and not on *ourselves*. We have to stick to the script(ures) if we want to succeed in our assigned role in that great plan. We need to take the "me" out of it.

Peter was afraid of losing in order to win. As Christ sat there and explained all of the horrific things He'd have to endure, I believe Peter became afraid something might go wrong with the plan. And there's a certain amount of lack of faith in that, don't you think?

I'm not condemning or criticizing St. Peter. I'm not worthy of the man who God used to help found the Christian church on that Rock we know as Christ Jesus. And I sincerely believe that what happened to St. Peter was for *our example*, so we won't make the same mistake when the time comes for us to play our assigned role in God's great plan to save His children.

But the point being, as Christ is sitting there telling Peter and the disciples all of the terrible things that were about to happen to Him when He would be betrayed and delivered up (verse 21 above), you can almost hear the wheels turning in Peter's head, "What if something goes wrong? What's going to happen to *us*? What's going to happen to *me*." And Christ did not like that for one second. As it's further written:

Mat 16:23 But He turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

That must have been awfully embarrassing for St. Peter. Christ not only called Peter the adversary (i.e., "Satan") but He also said Peter was a trap-stick (i.e., offense) unto Him, meaning Peter's emotions were a trap for the Lord to fall into – an attempt to use earthly emotion to lead Christ away from fulfilling His role in God's great plan to save His children. Peter was trying to lead Christ off-script, so to speak. He was taking over the Director's role. And that, beloved, will always end in disaster.

Now you can bet Peter would have risked his own life to save Jesus from being delivered up, put on trial, tortured and crucified. He was no scaredy-cat. But his loyalty was a misguided loyalty in this case. Christ was there to help fulfill the Plan of God – the Script -- by losing His life in order to take it up again. And you have to be loyal to the Plan of God, and not to your own feelings or fears or flesh. And to do so, you have to *understand* and *accept* the Plan of God as it's written, and be thoroughly willing to go along with it. You have to be ready and willing to *lose first* in order to win. That's the Script. It is written.

Mat 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Mat 16:25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

You've got to be willing to go all of the way to the end for Him. And you can't be afraid the plan might not work. There's no halfway for you in this. You have to put your very life on the line at those trials at the very end of this flesh earth age. You'll have to be completely willing to *lose first* in order to win in the end. And as we studied earlier, you have to be willing to endure it all, *cheerfully*. (And why not? After all, in allowing yourself to be delivered up so God can speak through you, you'll be one of the instruments through which He saves many wayward children. Think about that. Stick to the script.)

And believe me, at that time the people closest to you are going to be doing everything in their power to convince you that you've got it wrong, and that you're about to be sentenced to death for no good reason but your own stubbornness and your own misunderstanding of God's Word. And all will be well, they'll say to you, if you'll just bend the knee to that miracle-working supernatural being who you know in your very heart and soul to be the false Christ.

But God's elect will *not* do so. They will not bend the knee. One of the characteristics that distinguishes God's elect is that they "love not their own lives unto the death" (Rev. 12:11). They understand the Plan of God to save His children. They know their role in that great plan. They know they have to *lose first* in order to win. They understand what Christ meant when He said, "In your patience [i.e., cheerful endurance], possess ye your souls."

Mat 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

You remember, of course, in Matthew chapter four when the devil took Christ into the wilderness in order to tempt Him into bowing to him. In Satan's very last temptation of Christ, he showed the Lord all of the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them, and offered them to the Lord, saying, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."

But Christ answered him by saying, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

At those trials you'll be delivered up to after Satan arrives to this earth in his role as the false messiah, they're going to offer you the deluxe package, as well, if you'll only bow the knee to that wicked one. They'll butter you up right real good.

"We need a man (or woman) just like you," they'll say. "We can see you've got what it takes to serve the Lord faithfully. And if you'll just bow the knee to our Lord and Savior, all of this will be yours." Only it will be the antichrist, and not the Lord Jesus Christ they'll be asking you to bow to. And God's elect will not bow. They're willing to *lose first* in order to win. They know the script.

After all, as Christ stated above, "What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Nothing they can offer you, beloved, is worth the loss of your soul, because once you've lost it, *you can't buy it back*. You're a goner. You've got nothing to cover the cost of your own soul. Christ already paid the price. And if you're disloyal to Him by bending the knee to the antichrist, you've essentially rejected that payment He made with His own shed blood on your behalf. You lose *everything*.

Mat 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

As so He will. And that's where your focus should be, i.e., on your works within His great plan to save His children, i.e., the Script. If your works are evil, you'll be rewarded (i.e., recompensed) with evil. And if your works are righteous, you'll be rewarded with righteousness. As we've read earlier in Mark 13:13, "...he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."

The point in all of this is that St. Peter lost sight of God's Plan. He let his emotions override his knowledge of the Script. It threw him for a loop to hear the terrible things that were about to happen to the Lord (Matthew 16:21) when He'd be delivered up.

Peter grew indignant that anyone would try to harm the Lord, and tried to forbid the Lord from going through with the Father's great plan of salvation. He was afraid to *lose first* in order to win. And that in essence put him on *Satan's side*, because the only other choice Christ had, if He did not give His very life for God's wayward children, was to bow to Satan. And that just wasn't going to happen. Christ was not afraid to lose first in order to win. But man all-too-often is.

The Judas Betrayal

Let's take a quick look at another Scriptural passage demonstrating that Christ had to set the example for His disciples that He would have to lose first in order to win:

Mat 26:47 And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

Christ is about to be delivered up to trial by one of His own disciples, Judas Iscariot. The enemies of God – the chief priests and the elders of the people – have set the whole thing up.

Mat 26:48 Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.

Mat 26:49 And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.

The Judas kiss...the cruel kiss of betrayal from a close friend.

Could you handle it? If you're one of God's elect, you indeed must be able to handle betrayal from someone close to you when that time comes for you to be delivered up before the councils

and synagogues. As it's written, "And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death."

Let's take a look at how it went down for our Lord and Savior:

Mat 26:50 And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.

As the kiss was delivered, Christ used the word "friend" to Judas because Judas was fulfilling the Scripture in Psalm 41:9, "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me."

You see, they had just had communion together, with the wine and the bread. And now the betrayal was beginning. Can you handle that when it happens to you? You'd better. It's part of God's Plan. And you've got to *stick to the Plan*. You've got to stick to the Script.

I know this is repetitious. But you need to get it drilled into your head because the time is growing late, and your own delivering up may well be soon at hand. As it's written in Mark 13:9: "But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them."

Mat 26:51 And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear.

We know from John 18:10 this was St. Peter. He's still resisting God's Plan to save His wayward children. Yes, he's doing so out of emotion...out of flesh love for the Lord. But he's nevertheless in full-blown spiritual resistance mode -- resistance to the fulfillment of God's great plan to save His children. He's resisting the Script. He's not seeing the bigger picture. So what does Christ Jesus say to Him? As it's written:

Mat 26:52 Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

If you think you're going to conquer the forces of the antichrist with the sword, or with any earthly physical weapon for that matter, you've got another thing coming. You'll be playing right into Satan's hand. You have to do it God's way. You have to *lose first*, in order to win in the end. "In your patience, possess ye your souls."

Mat 26:53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

Here's why we came to these verses. Christ could have called down "more than twelve legions of angels" to put a stop to everything. In other words, He could have called an entire legion of angels from each of the twelve tribes, and some more angels as well for the half tribe of

Manasseh. With such a show of force the enemy could not have touched Him. He could have shut them down in an instant. Why didn't He?

Mat 26:54 But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

He had to fulfill the Script. He had a role to play. Had Christ called down the angels of God to save Him from the humiliation of the betrayal...the false accusations at the trial...the death penalty pronouncement...the horrific torture...and the crucifixion...God's Plan would have failed. The Scriptures would not have been fulfilled. Salvation would not have been provided to God's wayward children. In short, Christ knew He had to *lose first* in order to win afterward. And He *insisted* that His disciples go along with the plan. He insisted they follow the Script.

You must, as well, beloved. It's your Father's Plan. It's perfect in every aspect. And if you do your part "there shall not an hair of your head be harmed." You'll be considered an overcomer by your Lord and Savior. And as Christ stated in Revelation 3:12, your rewards will be great indeed. As it's written there:

Rev 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Again, Christ knew He had to lose first in order to win. But He – being the Living Word of God -- knew God's Plan inside out. He knew the Script. And He knew His role in that Script. And He knew that losing first was the *only way* to win. As it's further written:

Joh 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

Joh 10:15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Joh 10:16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

Joh 10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

Joh 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

He had to lay His own life down first, in order to win. God's elect have only to allow themselves to be betrayed, delivered up, falsely accused and put on trial under penalty of death so our heavenly Father can speak through us at those trials described in Mark 13 and Luke 21.

Are you willing to go the distance? Are you willing to stick with the Script the whole way?

It is indeed within your power to do so. And your heavenly Father does all of the rest once you've done your part. Do you trust Him? Do you find it a joy to serve Him in this manner? An absolute privilege to be so chosen? If you're one of God's elect, those are strictly rhetorical questions. They need not be answered, because the answers are manifest in your very soul.

The bottom line is that Christ knew God's Plan was for Him to lose the life-and-death court case brought against Him, in order to win the prize, which was (and is) eternal life for God's wayward children through repentance and resultant salvation.

Are you willing to put your own life on the line in the furtherance of your heavenly Father's plan to save His children? Are you willing to lose in order to win?

The Two Witnesses Lose in Order to Win

Let's further document through Scriptures the Biblical concept of *losing first* in order to win. We'll examine the prophesy regarding God's two faithful witnesses, as it's written in Revelation chapter 11:

Rev 11:3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

We know from Zechariah chapter four that these two faithful witnesses "empty the golden oil out of themselves," meaning they are teaching the truth of God's Word right there in the streets of Jerusalem, probably at the temple mount itself where Satan will have seated himself and will have proclaimed himself to be "God." But the two witnesses will be witnessing to the truth.

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

Rev 11:5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

The "fire" that proceeds out of their mouths is the fire of God's Word of Truth. It burns their enemies spiritually, not physically. They've married the wicked one, spiritually speaking, and these two faithful witnesses of God will be letting them know of their apostasy and its dire consequences.

Rev 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

The prophet Elijah stopped the rain from falling in Israel for three years, during Ahab's wicked reign. Moses turned the waters of the Nile River to blood in Egypt. Both of those men appeared to Christ during His transformation on the Mount of Olives, in the days directly preceding His

crucifixion. I suspect they'll be the two witnesses pouring out the truth of God's Word to the people of this earth, in the days directly preceding Christ's Second Advent.

Rev 11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

Wow. Right? Satan has these two faithful witnesses of God killed right there in the streets of Jerusalem, most likely in a broad arena on the temple mount where Satan will be seated. And for all practical purposes, it looks like they lose the battle against that great adversary of God who, as it's written in II Thessalonians 2:4, will have seated Himself on the temple mount proclaiming himself to be "God."

Rev 11:8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

In other words, the death of the two witnesses will indeed take place in Jerusalem. And Satan, who by that time will have turned that city into a city of spiritual perversion and spiritual captivity, will make a big show of their deaths by leaving their bodies lying out in the open for all to see. This, probably as a means of scaring you, beloved, from testifying at those trials with the death penalty hanging over your head.

Rev 11:9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

Rev 11:10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

They'll be partying and gift-giving in that false spiritual marriage with Satan – the false kingdom wedding – because they honestly believe they're they bride of Christ, and that they're spiritually marrying Christ. They don't realize they've just participated with the antichrist himself in the murder of Christ's two faithful witnesses. They've been wholly seduced (II Corinthians 11:3-4).

And now the "losers" of this battle – God's two faithful witnesses -- are about to become the *winners*.

Rev 11:11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

The phrase "great fear fell" is, in the Greek language from which it was translated, *megas phobos pipto*, meaning "stricken with exceeding fear." After three and a half days of celebration at the deaths of these two faithful witnesses, their big victory party will be turned into a paralyzing fear.

This is where the great crowds of people who just finished partying will now go into hiding and cry for the rocks to fall on them, so great is their fear. As it's written in Revelation 6:15-17, *“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”*

Rev 11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

The two witnesses stand up in plain sight for all of the world to see, and then they ascend “up to haven in a cloud.”

Christ Jesus ascended to heaven in a cloud as well, if you remember your Scripture (see Acts 1:9). It's that same great cloud that hung over the children of Israel in the wilderness (Exodus 13:1). That same great cloud out of which the voice of God said of Jesus Christ at the very beginning of His ministry, *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him”* (Matthew 17:5). And it's that same great cloud which we'll see Christ second coming “with power and great glory” when He returns (Luke 21:27).

Yes, it's that great “cloud of witnesses” that God's faithful servants are always “compassed about with” (Hebrews 12:1) throughout all of their works and their ordeals on this earth, though they may not realize it sometimes. In other words, that “cloud” is the Lord and His faithful angels. And they're always they're. They've got you this far, beloved. They'll get you through the rest of the way, as well, if you'll stick with the plan of God. *Stick with the Script.* It's written. All you have to do is learn it, and play out your role exactly as it's written.

Rev 11:13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Rev 11:14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Yes, just three and a half days after the two witnesses are killed in the streets of Jerusalem, and Satan appears to have the victory over them, they rise from that death and ascend back to God in that great cloud of witnesses – the same cloud of witnesses that returns to this earth that very same day with Christ at its head, with “power and great glory.”

God's two faithful witnesses lose first in order to win. And so do God's elect. Let's take a look at the Scriptural documentation for it...

God's Elect Lose In Order to Win

In Daniel chapter 7, the prophet Daniel is given a great dream full of visions, in which God explains to him how things are going to end in the final days of this flesh earth age. God shows Daniels four great beasts rising out of the waters (i.e., peoples) of this earth, which of course are the four stages of Babylonian one-worldism that bring about Satan's arrival to this earth in his role as the false messiah.

After seeing these visions in his dream, Daniel seeks to know the truth of what they mean. Let's listen in on his conversation with one of the angels of God standing near Daniel as he witnesses this amazing vision:

Dan 7:19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet;

Dan 7:20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows.

In his dream, the fourth beast appears to have ten horns (which we know from Revelation 17:12 are "ten kings"), and a "little horn" arises from among these ten horns.

Dan 7:21 I beheld, and the same **horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;**

This is what we came here for. The "horn," who is Satan himself, makes war with the saints of God, and "prevailed against them." In other words, in accord with the Script, at the end of this flesh earth age, when Satan is here on this earth pretending to be "God," he and the saints of God go into spiritual battle against each other...and *Satan wins*. That's what "prevailed" means, beloved.

The saints of God *lose* the battle. They're delivered up to Satan to stand trial for refusing to bend the knee to him. They'll likely be charged with heresy, blasphemy and apostasy, all of which carry the death penalty. Do you understand? I hope so. Because if you're one of God's elect, it's your destiny. It's part of the Script.

But wait, because there's more...

Dan 7:22 **Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.**

Oops. The "Ancient of days" arrives on the scene. That's your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, beloved -- the One who created all things and gave them life (John 1:1-4).

The word “judgment” in the above verse is Greek word *deen* (i.e., Strong’s H-1780) meaning “justice.” God’s elect were about to be wrongly convicted. But they get the justice of God instead. Their conviction is overturned. And the kingdom of God is put into their hands (under Christ, of course) as well. As it’s written in the great book of Luke 12:32, “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

You have to lose, in order to win, beloved. It’s that simple. It’s part of the Script.

Dan 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

The fourth beast is the final stage of one-worldism out of which Satan will arise.

Dan 7:24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings.

Here we see verse 24 confirming what we already know from Revelation 17:12, i.e., the ten horns that rise to power over this earth are ten supernatural kings under Satan’s control. And Satan rises up from among them and subdues three flesh kings in order to take power over this world.

Dan 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Don’t overlook this verse, beloved. It’s stated here once again that Satan “shall wear out the saints of the most High.” The phrase “wear out” used in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word *bela* (i.e., Strong’s H-1080) meaning to “afflict mentally.” He doesn’t kill them. He has them betrayed by their own family members and friends, and delivered up to those trials in front of the councils and synagogues (Mark 13:9) where you will be “scourged” (Matthew 10:7) with false charges, threats and more, just as your Lord and Savior was.

And by the way, note that God’s elect are “given into his hand.” In other words, it’s part of the Script, beloved. Satan can’t do anything that’s not been given to him by our heavenly Father to do. So we cheerfully endure it, knowing it’s part and parcel of our Father’s great plan to save His children. It is written. And so it will come to pass.

Dan 7:26 But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

We cheerfully endure it all of the way to the end, in order to be saved (Mark 13:13). And then Satan’s kingdom will be destroyed by the brightness and power and might of our Lord’s return.

Dan 7:27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

In case you needed another witness to what happens next, here it is: The kingdom is given to *you*, beloved, and to Father's other faithful saints, His holy ones, His elect. We rule and reign under Christ (Revelation 20:6; Revelation 22:5). That's a fabulous reward for such faithful service, I think you'll agree. We need only to stick to the Script, and this is precisely how it turns out. Remember, your heavenly Father wrote the Script. You can count on it.

Dan 7:28 Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.

Keep the matter in your heart, too, beloved. Daniel has just told you that you have to lose, in order to win. The "horn" that rises up out of the one-world system – Satan in his role as the false messiah of the world – will "wear out the saints of the most High" and we will be "given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." Big deal. How does it end for him, and more importantly, for us?

It ends like this: God arrives in His great judgment and destroys everything His enemies have worked for, and then turns the kingdom over to His faithful servants. That's *you*, beloved. As it's written in the verses above: "*But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.*"

One More Confirmation That You Must Lose to Win

Finally, this "lose to win" pattern is reiterated in chapter 13 of the great book of Revelation, where it's further written of the antichrist's short reign on this earth:

Rev 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

The whole world is deceived by the dragon's lies at that point. They honestly believe he's the savior of the world. But as you know, he's the antichrist, and not the Christ.

Rev 13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Rev 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

He's a big talker, beloved. A real smoothie. And he's got his script down pat. The question is this: Do you have God's Script down pat? You'd better, because here's how it goes:

Rev 13:7 And it was given unto him to **make war with the saints, and to overcome them**: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

Yes, Satan is so vain he cannot stand to have anyone who will not bend the knee to him in adoration. But the saints of the most High will not do so. They know the difference between the holy and the profane, the clean and the unclean (Ezekiel 44:23).

So Satan makes war with the saints, and he overcomes them, which means he *subdues* them. He has them betrayed, delivered up, and falsely charged with everything from treason to blasphemy to apostasy and more. All death penalty charges.

And once again, *please* don't gloss over the fact that we're told in the above verse "it was given unto him." That means it's part of God's will for His holy ones to be betrayed and brought before Satan at those trials. It's your *destiny*. Accept it. Cheerfully endure it, as Christ cheerfully endured the suffering and humiliation on your behalf.

Rev 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

The people of this world will not stand a chance against him, beloved. His deception, by means of the miracles he'll be performing on that temple mount in Jerusalem (Revelation 13:13-14) will be extraordinary. Only the elect will know better. Only the elect will know he's a fake.

Rev 13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

Do you have ears to hear how all of this will go down? Do you understand that you have to lose in order to win? Can you stick to the Script?

Rev 13:10 He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.

We have to patiently endure it until the end is reached. Everyone destined for the captivity of Babylonian confusion under Satan, in his role as the false Christ, must fall into the captivity of Babylonian confusion. Everyone who is to be slain spiritually with Satan's great sword of deception must thereby be slain. But the saints endure it all with patience (i.e., cheerful endurance) and faith (i.e., conviction in God's Word of truth).

And then comes the end. And *we win* in the end. But only through the power of Christ Jesus, when He speaks through His elect at those trials described in Mark chapter 13.

One last quick point: Christ did not testify on His own behalf at the trial He was delivered up to. As it's written, "...and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth." (Acts 8:32; Isaiah 53:7)

Neither will His elect testify on their own behalves when they're delivered up to trial before the councils and synagogues. Instead, as we've seen, Father will speak through their mouths, through the power of the Holy Spirit, as on Pentecost day. It's not about us, beloved. It's about God's wayward children who just don't "get it." But when your heavenly Father speaks through you at those trials, you'll play a role in helping them "get it." A BIG role.

Just as Christ kept His eye on the prize and laid down His life for the sheep, so we must keep our eye on the prize, bear the indignity and humiliation of those trials as Christ Jesus did, so the sheep can hear Father's Word on the matter and be woken out of their slumber when our heavenly Father's speaks through our mouths by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Here's what's going to happen when the Lord speaks through His elect:

Isaiah 25:7 And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.

They'll be able to see the truth for the first time in their lives, beloved. And you have a part in that. Again, a BIG part. So be willing to *lose* in order to *win*. Stick to the Script(ure). It's written. It's God's Plan for it to unfold in this manner, and no other.

Finally, as St. Peter admonished in I Peter chapter four:

1Pe 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

1Pe 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

1Pe 4:14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

Let your works for the Lord – both now, and at that time when God's elect are delivered up to those "fiery trials" of Mark 13 -- glorify God. You can only do that by sticking to the Script(ure) and letting Father bring everything to pass exactly as it's written. It's your destiny to do so. Just don't allow yourself to be pulled off-Script.

-- End --

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