

Brothers and sisters in Christ. I welcome you to Holy Week. Holy Week is all about Jesus and what He has done, for you. Holy week is a time to reflect upon Jesus, our Lord. It is a time for us to recognize that Jesus' death accomplished everything while our death accomplishes nothing. All the services this week are intended to turn us to the cross and more than that, to Christ's ultimate victory. Hold on to that, because for the next several days we will descend into the depths of death where we will meet face to face with the evil one...

On this night we give thanks to God for giving us Christ's gift of his true body and blood in Holy Communion. We thank him for the fact that he delivers to us victory over guilt and the grave, over the ancient serpent himself who goes by the name the Devil and Satan.

Do take note, Job is a book of 42 Chapters, and tonight we are considering the text from Job Chapter 41. As we are now in our seventh installment of our sermon series in the Book of Job, congratulations you have made it to Chapter 41. If this text is about anything, it is about victory, complete and total victory over the old evil foe.

Consider the image... if you dare. Smoke is pouring from his nostrils. His breath can light charcoals. His skin is tough like armor harder than a millstone. Even the mighty are terrified. They retreat before his thrashing. Nothing on earth is its equal- a creature without fear and whose name stirs terror in the hearts of man.

What is his name? In Job Chapters 1 and 2 he is called Satan, the accuser. After taunting God, Satan attacked Job. Have you ever felt attacked by Satan? I'm sure you have... If you've ever felt shame and disgrace, it was his whisper that crushed your heart. If you've ever felt alone and abandoned, it was all according to his plan. If you've ever felt useless and no good, it was his accusing finger pointing at you... Let

me be clear, he is not after your money. It is not your home or your car he wants. He wants something far more precious. He wants your soul and he is Hell bent to get it.

Satan is insidious. He is so crafty and so cunning, he accomplishes ruining Job's life, even though for the past 39 chapters Satan has disappeared from view. He drops out of sight. He evaporates into thin air. What's the point? He can ruin your life, even from a distance?

Now in hapter 41, there's no more need to wonder where he is, because Satan returns. In this chapter he has returned, full throttle, with a new name, Leviathan. Leviathan? Who and what is that?

In the book of Job, Leviathan is the dealer of death. Back in Job Chapter 3 verse 8, during Job's death wish, he wished he would have been devoured by Leviathan directly after birth. In other words, Leviathan is the slithering doctor of doom.

The Hebrew Bible uses the name Leviathan six times. And two of those times is in Isaiah 27:1 where Leviathan is also called "the serpent." That's the same Hebrew word used in Genesis 3:1 to describe Satan. Satan, Leviathan, is the serpent and ever since Genesis 3 verse 1, the world has not been the same.

The Leviathan is no doubt the doctor of death, but he is so sly and cunning he always seems to slip away. Job 41 says "On earth is not his equal." Maybe so, but Luther in "A mighty fortress is our God", which by the way is a hymn inspired by Job Chapter 41, Luther reminds us:

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth;  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever.

Leviathan comes to kill and steal and destroy. His hot breath tempts us to turn away from God. Leviathan says, “You have anger? Act on it.” You have sexual fantasies, Have it your way. Have some Gossip? Great news... let it fly. As the deceiver, he continues with these words, “There are no limits, no consequences, no responsibilities. Ready, set, go!”

We give in to these temptations and deceptions and then, as Satan the accuser, he plants his foot upon our necks, saying, “Now that you’ve said this, thought this, done this, drank this, smoked this, saw this, You’re mine now!”

But remember! Job 41 is all about victory. God’s victory over the monster. God’s victory over Satan.

Remember from last week, where I said God asked a string of 70 questions to Job beginning back in Chapter 38? In Job 41 the questions continue.

“Can you pull in Leviathan with a fishhook or tie down his tongue with a rope? Can you put a cord through his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook? . . . Can you make a pet of him like a bird or put him on a leash for your girls? . . . Can you fill his hide with harpoons or his head with fishing spears?” (Job 41:1–2, 5, 7).

Answer? No.

I think we should read Job Chapter 41 and Job's death lament from Chapter 3 in light of Revelation Chapter 12. In Revelation Chapter 12, Leviathan was present at the birth of Jesus. The devil tried to devour the child but failed.

“Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. <sup>8</sup> But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. <sup>9</sup> The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say:

“Now have come the salvation and the power  
and the kingdom of our God,  
and the authority of his Messiah.  
For the accuser of our brothers and sisters,  
who accuses them before our God day and night,  
has been hurled down.

Six times John writes the devil was thrown down. He is a defeated foe because of Jesus.

I'm sure on Maundy Thursday into Good Friday, Satan was sure he was going to win; but as he so arrogantly forgot, he might be the devil, but he's God's devil. Meaning, he does not have total reign. In Revelation 20:10 it says, “the devil will be thrown into the lake of burning sulfur.”

Therefore, when Satan reminds you of your past, remind him of his future! Is he Leviathan? You bet. Does he hate God and you ? You better believe it.

But today, in particular, understand this accuser ain't got nothin on you. How do I know? Because he is a defeated enemy who's got no more bullets left in his gun. Call his bluff.

Luther's hymn a "mighty fortress is our God" says, "This world's prince may still, scowl fierce as he will. He can harm us none. He's judged, the deed is done. One little word can fell him!"

And what is that little word that brings us victory today and assurance? It's got two syllables and five letters. J E S U S spells Jesus. Tonight you will receive Jesus' Body and Blood, the forgiveness of all your sins. You have been washed in the Blood of the lamb. And Satan, as for you, you are a defeated foe. You ain't gott nothin on any of us. Not now!

In the grace of God which surpasses all understanding trust your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus Amen.