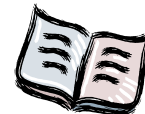


Preacher's Pen points

“Under His feet...”



Last year in the British Museum I was captivated by this Assyrian palace wall relief with the image of an Assyrian king with his foot placed on the neck of a prostrate opponent. As I pondered the scene a number of Biblical texts came to mind.

Israel's Victories over His Enemies

I remembered the words of Joshua to the men of Israel as he brought out the five kings that had opposed Israel in the battle at Gibeon: “Come near, put your feet on the necks of these kings.” (Josh. 10:24). The act of putting one's foot on the enemy's neck was a symbol of victory and dominion. The archaeological find makes it clear that this custom was common in the ancient world just as the Scripture affirms.

But more importantly, the action was a pledge of success for those who feared and served the Lord. In connection with this symbolic act Joshua encouraged the people, saying, “Do not fear or be dismayed! Be strong and courageous, for thus the Lord will do to all your enemies with whom you fight.” (Josh. 10:25). However, there is a greater spiritual fulfillment of this expression.

Jesus' Victory Over His Enemies

Understanding this symbol enables us to appreciate the promise that God made concerning the Messiah in OT prophecy. For example, David in

the Spirit was given a message from God to the Messiah: “The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet.” (Ps. 110:1). Peter explained to the Jews on the day of Pentecost that it was this “promise of the Spirit” that Jesus received when he ascended to heaven and sat down at the right hand of God (Ac. 2:33-35). Paul likewise affirmed that “He put all things in subjection under His feet” (Eph. 1:22) and that “He must rule until all enemies have been put under His feet” (1 Cor. 15:25) culminating in the defeat of the last enemy, death, at His second coming. Such statements make it clear that Christ began His rule when He ascended to heaven and will continue to rule until all His enemies are conquered. Their defeat is assured.

Our Victory Over Our Enemies

But the promise of Jesus' victory has great assurance for us as well. For if indeed we are citizens of His kingdom and soldiers in His army, then His victory is our victory. If we are strong and courageous in Him, we cannot be defeated in fighting the good fight of faith! No matter how large the foe, no matter how skilled the warriors who oppose us, we can, through the power of Christ, overcome and conquer them all! They will be put “under our feet”!
—Johnny Felker

