

## A Stake in the Ground for Mankind

My first memories of the moon landing I saw men bouncing along in silvery suits, riding in jeeps across the sand and placing onto the surface of the moon a stake that had a flag attached. Mankind had staked the moon after conquering all of the difficulties that stood between a delicate human traveling close to a ¼ million miles and into an airless environment. I was impressed!

Since then I have become a history buff and have seen many moments in history where a battle was won and the victors have staked the point that is in dispute. That stake declares this “Land is mine”. “Here I rule”. “The thing that needed to be overcome has been defeated.” And lastly and most importantly... “The ownership/control dispute of this has been resolved”.

Now see this same stake planting from the failed enemy’s point of view. It says this is where “You have been defeated”. “This is the place you will never own.” “The final authority of this land’s ownership has been resolved.” “To be here is trespassing like a thief.” Or...”Your will and purpose has failed!”

I have observed that these stakes are always placed at the end of a very difficult effort and only after the claim has been established... but that is not how God operates in Faith. Have a look!

Isaiah 46:10 <sup>(AMP)</sup>

*Declaring the end and the result from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure and purpose,*

In my reflections of lands, battles and “stakes in the ground” I have always had questions rolling around the back of my head. One of which is why at the fall of mankind didn’t satan just instantly complete his will and destroy all of earth (including mankind) that was now under his control? He had seized the earth’s Dominion and Authority from Adam and death did reign so what stopped him?

I recently heard teaching on the laws of “order versus entropy” that addresses this very question. You know, the rule of nature called “entropy” where everything is always moving towards, colder, increased chaos or further disorder... that is unless energy has been applied to that object.

This entropy would be a picture of the satan’s system that Christians call the curse. That image in my mind was the moment I understood better than ever before that there are two systems here on earth. “Order” or “entropy” , Light or darkness, Life or death, Blessing or cursing... it doesn’t matter what we call them, it all points to just different names for the same opposing wills of God and satan.

So back to my question “Why wasn’t mankind just destroyed when satan gained control of the dominion and authority of earth?”, because God had declared a stake in the ground for mankind. A stake He had planted from before the foundations of the earth were ever laid that a Lamb would be slain for man.

Revelation 13:8 <sup>(AMP)</sup>

*And all the inhabitants of the earth will fall down in adoration and pay him homage, everyone whose name has not been recorded in the Book of Life of the Lamb that was slain [in sacrifice] from the foundation of the world.*

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Jesus was slain on the Cross or in this context “a stake” that was placed on the earth long before satan ever got control of Adam’s authority and Dominion. God had planned for mankind’s future well and satan could never complete his final will on us because of it. To understand this statement better let’s look deeper at what God planned for us.

Ephesians 1:4-7 <sup>(AMP)</sup>

*<sup>4</sup> Even as [in His love] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, before Him in love.*

Do you hear how strong of a statement that is? In His Love for us He planned we should be chosen, holy, blameless, and above reproach. When Adam fell God continued to look at him through “Christ” and saw mankind sitting with Him in Heavenly places. In faith God had established our outcome with the Cross.

For God’s plan to happen He would need to first give us Mercy for what we had done as well as Grace to have forgiveness. So when mankind fell into sin and had a new master (father) named satan, God saw Adam’s nakedness with Mercy and Grace. He saw a way for us to be adopted back into His Family.

*<sup>5</sup> For He foreordained us (destined us, planned in love for us) to be adopted (revealed) as His own children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of His will [because it pleased Him and was His kind intent]—*

*<sup>6</sup> [So that we might be] to the praise and the commendation of His glorious grace (favor and mercy), which He so freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*

God never lost the vision of us in His Heart because He always planned for us to be restored again into His Family. So in declaring His Purpose from before the foundations were ever laid, He ensured we would not be destroyed. Satan could not overcome these Words from God and his seizure of Adam’s God given Authority and Dominion therefore, had limitations in what he could do with them.

*<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption (deliverance and salvation) through His blood, the remission (forgiveness) of our offenses (shortcomings and trespasses), in accordance with the riches and the generosity of His gracious favor,*

God’s Purpose would succeed and satan would fail. So while satan had a piece of control mankind was never still without a piece of Protective Covering. God had declared unto us Mercy, Grace, Salvation and that with adoption, His family’s restoration. Entropy or satan’s curse therefore, could never have taken complete or permanent hold unless Jesus had failed and He did NOT fail. Through Jesus’ death on the “stake” mankind had crushed satan’s head and gained membership access into the very Godhead itself.

A truth I find good to remind myself when I find my way blocked, I am under pressure or I find that I need to overcome a bit of satan’s curse. Satan is defeated all because of God’s Love, Mercy and Grace. The outcome already has been “staked” for any battle we are in and backed by God’s own Power.

So the Blessing versus the curse... not a problem thanks to God’s Heart and Jesus’ Willing sacrifice. The Cross or “stake” that stands between Heaven and earth holds a Permanent Offering and is forever cleansing the separation of sin between mankind and Himself. God’s “stake of victory” on mankind!