

A Different Take on “The God of peace will shortly crush Satan under your feet”

This verse is not one that is ‘learnt off by heart’ (rote learnt) so it can be quoted to others, but it needs re-examination in regards to the teaching we have received that the Bible is the inerrant ‘Word of God’.

For a start, we know the Bible doesn’t refer to itself as ‘The Word of God’ which should end that concept straight away.¹ Secondly, “inerrant” has no relevance when the mind of 1st century writers was written down making it imperfect, and then translated and re-translated from one language to another. Finally, our interpretation of any text is based on our 21st century understanding of it. This last one signals just how ineffective we are at deciphering what was in the author’s mind when he wrote the letter or historical record so long ago, and in a radically different culture.

So, what do we believe that this verse in Romans is saying to us? Normally it’s interpreted as saying that a time was soon coming when Satan would be crushed under the feet of the 1st century believers in Rome. Was that a figurative Satan (such as Caesar, after the metaphorical style of Revelation) or Satan himself, or did it include his demon workers?

It certainly could have been Caesar if the short reigns of the Caesars of that time are any indication.² Also, Nero was replaced by Domitian in 68 AD,³ about the same time as the writing of the letter to the Romans. That could mean that Nero (AKA “Satan”) would soon be dead because King Jesus would ‘take him out’ so he would be buried (“under their feet”) bringing great joy to the community.⁴ Of course, that’s all speculation, but that’s what a lot of Bible interpretation actually is.

Taking another tack, the Greek word translated as ‘soon’ is *tachos* (τάχος), which has numerous meanings: ‘with quickness’, ‘with speed’, ‘speedily’, ‘in haste’, and even ‘shortly’ or ‘a brief period of time’. Therefore the writer may not have meant “soon” or “shortly”, but “quickly”. That’s not too far fetched because a number of translations actually read that way:

Romans 16:20 (Wycliffe Bible) – *And God of peace tread Satan under your feet swiftly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

Romans 16:20 (Young's Literal Translation) – *and the God of the peace shall bruise the Adversary under your feet quickly; the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you. Amen!*

Romans 16:20 (World English Bible) – *And the God of peace will quickly crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.*

In these translations, ‘quickly’⁵ or ‘swiftly’ are the operative words from the same Koine Greek text. The MIRROR Bible makes it even more obvious when the verse is read in context:

Romans 16:19-20 (The MIRROR Bible) – Your obedience[§] [faith-focus] has become known everywhere. I am so happy for you; still, I desire for you to be wisely and exclusively acquainted with that which is good and innocent[‡] [unmixed] of evil. (*Paul’s mission is to bring about the obedience prompted by faith [Romans 1:5, 16:26]. The word, [§]upoakouo, is translated as obedience or accurate hearing; and [‡]akeraios as unmixed, innocent.*)

God who is the author of our peace shall quickly and utterly trample Satan[†], doing it with your feet.

1 – “The Concept of The Word in the 1st Century”
canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/The-Concept-of-The-Word-in-the-1st-Century.pdf
“The Word of God is Everything He Says”
canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/The-Word-of-God-is-Everything-He-Says.pdf

2 – www.softschools.com/view/Timeline.action?id=387

3 – [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Roman_emperors#Principate_\(27_BC_%E2%80%93_93_AD_284\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Roman_emperors#Principate_(27_BC_%E2%80%93_93_AD_284))

4 – “Although Nero’s death had at first been welcomed with outbursts of joy, it roused varying emotions, not only in the city among the senators and people and the city soldiery, but also among all the legions and the generals; for the secret of empire was now disclosed, that an emperor could be made elsewhere than at Rome.” Tacitus Histories I.4 www.thoughtco.com/coins-of-the-12-caesars-4126834

5 – Also NTE, NET, NABRE, NOG, JUB & GW

Your victory is realized in the revelation of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and echoed [personalized] in your amen. *(We are the body of Christ. God desires to demonstrate his reign of peace in us by confirming Satan's defeat in our practical day to day experience. The defeat of †accusation is celebrated in what grace communicates. The word, †satanas, means accuser. The law of faith defeated the law of works.)*

That's just a short word study to show that our doctrines can change, depending on how we interpret scripture. Also, it exemplifies the trap of choosing your personal Bible translation to be your 'Word of God'.

Of course, the only doctrines (teachings) we should adhere to are those that the Trinity has given us. That's what it means to "obey my word", and it's the way we're intended to live our Kingdom life, drawing knowledge from the Truth himself, as no translational interference. Neither is there any inability to understand the messages as it's given to us in our own parlance (our modern language and expressions).

The aim for all of us, then, is to allow Father to deprogram us and then reprogram us with what he wants us to know and believe. That's the way he's always wanted it in the Kingdom, under the New Covenant.

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)