

# Luke 11:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.

## Analysis

**But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.**

This verse depicts Christ's victory over Satan through vivid military imagery. The phrase "a stronger than he" (ἰσχυρότερος αὐτοῦ, ischyroteros autou, comparative adjective) refers to Jesus, whose power infinitely exceeds Satan's. The verb "overcome" (νικήσῃ, nikēsē, aorist subjunctive) means to conquer, defeat utterly—complete victory, not stalemate.

The result is total despoiling: the stronger one "taketh from him all his armour" (τὴν πανοπλίαν αὐτοῦ αἴρει, tēn panoplian autou airei)—the full armor (πανοπλία, panoplia) in which Satan trusted is stripped away, leaving him defenseless. Then He "divideth his spoils" (τὰ σκῦλα αὐτοῦ διαδίδωσιν, ta skyla autou diadidōsin)—distributes the plunder, liberating Satan's captives. This portrays redemption as conquest: Christ invades enemy territory, defeats the tyrant, and emancipates prisoners. Colossians 2:15 uses identical imagery: Christ 'spoiled principalities and powers, making a shew of them openly, triumphing over them.'<sup>1</sup> Every exorcism is a foretaste of Satan's final defeat (Revelation 20:10).

## Historical Context

The parable reflects ancient Near Eastern warfare where victorious armies stripped conquered enemies of weapons and distributed spoils to victors. The

imagery echoes Isaiah 49:24-25: 'Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? But thus saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away... and I will save thy children.' Jesus presents Himself as the fulfillment of this prophecy—the Divine Warrior who liberates captives from the 'strong man.' Early Christians understood salvation as liberation from slavery to sin and Satan (Romans 6:17-18, Hebrews 2:14-15).

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does understanding salvation as Christ's military conquest of Satan deepen appreciation for the costliness of redemption?
2. What does the 'dividing of spoils' (liberated captives) teach about evangelism and discipleship as distributing the fruits of Christ's victory?
3. In what ways does this imagery of total spoiling challenge contemporary views that Satan retains significant power over believers?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐπὰν δὲ ὁ ἰσχυρότερος αὐτοῦ ἐπελθὼν  
when But G3588 a stronger from him shall come upon him  
G1875 G1161 G2478 G846 G1904

νικήσῃ αὐτοῦ τὴν πανοπλίαν αὐτοῦ αἱρεῖ ἐφ'  
and overcome from him G3588 all his armour from him he taketh wherein  
G3528 G846 G3833 G846 G142 G1909

ἢ ἐπεποίθει καὶ τὰ σκῦλα αὐτοῦ διαδίδωσιν  
he trusted and G3588 spoils from him divideth  
G3739 G3982 G2532 G4661 G846 G1239

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 53:12** (Parallel theme): Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

**Genesis 3:15** (Parallel theme): And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

**Isaiah 27:1** (Parallel theme): In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.

**Colossians 2:15** (Parallel theme): And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

**1 John 4:4** (Parallel theme): Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

**1 John 3:8** (Parallel theme): He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.