

Romans 16:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Analysis

And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly—Ho de theos tēs eirēnēs syntripsei ton satanan hypo tous podas hymōn en tachei (ὁ δὲ θεὸς τῆς εἰρήνης συντρίψει τὸν σατανᾶν ὑπὸ τοὺς πόδας ὑμῶν ἐν τάχει). Theos tēs eirēnēs (θεὸς τῆς εἰρήνης, God of peace) is Paul's favorite benediction title—God who makes peace through Christ's blood (Colossians 1:20). Syntripsei (συντρίβω, bruise/crush) alludes to Genesis 3:15: the serpent's head will be crushed by the woman's seed. Hypo tous podas (ὑπὸ τοὺς πόδας, under your feet) echoes Psalm 110:1—enemies made footstool. En tachei (ἐν τάχει, shortly/soon) promises imminent victory.

Paul applies Genesis 3:15 to Roman believers—they participate in Christ's triumph over Satan. The 'God of peace' crushes the enemy, securing shalom. False teachers (v. 17-19) are Satan's instruments; resisting them is cosmic warfare. Yet victory is assured: God will crush Satan (future tense) under your feet—believers actively participate in the enemy's defeat. This grounds confidence: however fierce the battle, Satan's doom is certain (Revelation 20:10).

Historical Context

Genesis 3:15 (proto-evangelium, 'first gospel') promised the woman's seed would crush the serpent's head—fulfilled in Christ's death-resurrection (Colossians 2:15, 'spoiling principalities and powers'). Yet believers participate: 'resist the devil and he will flee' (James 4:7); 'overcome by the blood of the Lamb' (Revelation 12:11);

Satan will be crushed 'shortly' (en tachei). Early Christians expected Satan's final defeat at Christ's return (Revelation 20:7-10), but experienced progressive victories over demons, idolatry, pagan oppression. Paul's promise encouraged persecuted believers: your struggle has cosmic significance—you're crushing Satan underfoot.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the promise that 'God will bruise Satan under your feet' (syntripsei ton satanan hypo tous podas) encourage you in spiritual warfare?
2. What does it mean that the 'God of peace' (theos tēs eirēnēs) crushes the enemy—how do peace and conquest relate?
3. How do believers participate in crushing Satan—through resisting temptation, exposing false teaching, enduring suffering, proclaiming the gospel?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	θεὸς	τῆς	εἰρήνης	συντρίψει	τὸν	Σατανᾶν	ὑπὸ
G3588	And	the God	G3588	of peace	shall bruise	G3588	Satan	under
	G1161	G2316		G1515	G4937		G4567	G5259
τοὺς	πόδας	ὑμῶν	ἐν	τάχει	ἡ	χάρις	τοῦ	κυρίου
G3588	feet	you	shortly	G5034	G3588	The grace	G3588	Lord
	G4228	G5216	G1722			G5485		G2962
ἡμῶν	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ	μεθ'	ὑμῶν	ἀμήν.			
of our	Jesus	Christ	be with	you	Amen			
G2257	G2424	G5547	G3326	G5216	G281			

Additional Cross-References

Luke 10:19 (Parallel theme): Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

1 John 3:8 (References God): 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.

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.

Zechariah 10:5 (References Lord): And they shall be as mighty men, which tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets in the battle: and they shall fight, because the LORD is with them, and the riders on horses shall be confounded.

Malachi 4:3 (References Lord): And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

Revelation 12:10 (References Christ): And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Romans 15:33 (Peace): Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 5:28 (Grace): The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Revelation 22:21 (Grace): The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Romans 8:37 (Parallel theme): Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.