

## The Figure of Speech “Footstool for Your feet”: Refers to the Ultimate Defeat of Lucifer in the Angelic Conflict, Eph 1:22; Ps 110:1; Zech 13:2; Col 2:15; Ps 2:9

10. Next in the verse comes the idiom “under His feet” which refers to supreme authority over all things and with regard to His enemies it refers to their complete defeat.

11. Several passages use this idiom which was first used by David in:

**Psalm 110:1** - The **LORD** [יְהוָה] **Yehowah: God the Father** ] says to my **Lord** [אֲדֹנָי] **'Athonay: Jesus Christ** ]: “**Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool** [הַתּוֹמָה] **hathom** ] **for your feet.**”

12. This passage is quoted nine times in the New Testament: Matthew 22:44; Mark 12:36; Luke 20:43; Acts 2:34-35; 1 Corinthians 15:25-27; Hebrews 1:13; 2:8; and 10:13. The phrase “footstool of your feet” is derived from a practice in the ancient world that was current both in David’s time as well as the first century A.D.

The footstool of your foot was a sign of conquest in the ancient world. In the Roman world there were three signs of conquest. First of all, prisoners passing under spears were a sign of defeat. The second was to put your foot on the head of the conquered. The third way was for kings. They would sit on a throne and the prisoners had to crawl up under the foot of the king. That is the one we have here, and this is actually what happens to the demons — they become “the footstool of your foot.” In other words, you rest your foot not on the ground but on a footstool which is someone else’s head.<sup>1</sup>

13. Several writers of the New Testament — Matthew, Mark, Luke, Paul, and the writer of Hebrews — quoted David’s remark in Psalm 110:1 since the practice was still in use in their day.

14. The implication is that at the session of Christ, in hypostatic union, He was qualified to assume total authority over all things which include the fallen angels and most importantly, Lucifer himself.

15. The session of Christ qualified the Lord to implement Operation Footstool which is defined by the following principles:

- 1) When Judea, Jerusalem, and the temple were destroyed in A.D. 70 it signaled the end of the Jewish nation as a client nation to God. In her place the Roman Empire became history’s first Gentile client nation.
- 2) Whereas Jewish nations had previously represented Christ in the devil’s world, that responsibility was transferred over to the church.

<sup>1</sup> R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Hebrews*, lectures by R. B. Thieme, Jr., 419-005 (compact disc). Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1972. Also see: Heinz-Josef Fabry, “הַתּוֹמָה hathom,” in *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, eds. J. Johannes Botterwick and Helmer Ringgren, trans. Geoffrey W. Bromiley (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1978), 3:328,332-34.

- 3) When a person believes in Christ he becomes a member of the royal family of God and is baptized into the body of Christ. This is illustrated by the diagram "Top and Bottom Circles."
- 4) This indicates our union with Christ which places us positionally in Christ and therefore since He is seated at the right hand of the Father, so are we. Consequently, Church Age believers are positionally superior to the angels.
- 5) When the body of Christ is completed it is then transferred into heaven at the Rapture of the church and becomes the bride of Christ.
- 6) The purification of the bride takes place between the Rapture and the Second Advent of Christ.
- 7) This preparation of the bride is a three-fold process: (1) the transformation of the believer from a temporal body to resurrection body (1 Corinthians 15:52-54), (2) the simultaneous loss of a sinful nature (1 Thessalonians 5:23), and (3) cleansing of human good and evil at the evaluation tribunal of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:12-15).
- 8) Purification of the bride prepares her to return with Christ at the Second Advent and receive guests at the "wedding banquet of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:7-8; 1 Thessalonians 3:13).
- 9) Operation Footstool is accomplished at the Second Advent: (1) Satan is incarcerated in the Abyss for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-3), and (2) fallen angels are removed:

**Zechariah 13:2** - "And it shall come to pass in that day," declares the Lord of the Armies, "that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered. And I will also cause false teachers and the unclean spirits [תְּמָאָה *tum'ah*, plus רְיָח *ruach*: the demons will be incarcerated with Lucifer in the Abyss for 1,000 years ] to be removed from the land.

**Colossians 2:15** - When He had disarmed the rulers [ ἄρχων *archon*: general officers ] and authorities [ ἐξουσία, *exousia*: commissioned officers ], He made a public display of them, having celebrated a triumphal procession<sup>2</sup> over them by means of Christ.

- 10) The removal of Lucifer and the fallen angels and the inauguration of Jesus Christ as the benevolent dictator of the world results in the restoration of perfect environment.
- 11) Perfect justice applied by the omniscient Christ maintains order among the peoples of the earth while his omnipotence restores order to the creation.

<sup>2</sup> In Roman culture, the general officer, known as an *imperator*, that was victorious in battle during which over 5,000 of the enemy were killed in action, was honored with a *triumphus*, a procession through the streets of Rome that displayed booty from the battle, conquered P.O.W.s, and, of course, the victorious *imperator* riding in a chariot.

- 12) Those who populate the earth have sin natures and the children born to them obviously do so as well, but the Lord justly deals with all sin and wrongdoing.
- 13) I have often characterized the Lord's rulership in the Millennium as a "benevolent dictatorship" and on one occasion was asked why I would refer to the Lord a dictator.
- 14) It's a fair question in light of the common definition of dictator: "one holding complete autocratic control, ruling absolutely and often oppressively."<sup>3</sup>
- 15) But this definition is altered by the adjective "benevolent," which itself is defined: "Disposition to do good, desire to promote the happiness of others, kindness, generosity (as a general disposition towards mankind at large)."<sup>4</sup>
- 16) The phrase "benevolent dictator" is expressed in the term "rod of iron," first used by David in:

**Psalm 2:9** - You shall rule them with a scepter of iron [ בַּרְזֶל **בָּרַזְלֵךְ** *barzel sevet*: this indicates that the Lord will sovereignty rule the world from David's throne in Jerusalem with unlimited authority and undisputed influence and power, i.e., a dictator ]. You shall shatter them to pieces like pottery [ there is nothing more benevolent than instant justice from a judge who has all the facts and is totally fair; by protecting the innocent while punishing the guilty, perfect order is maintained ].

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<sup>3</sup> Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th ed., s.v.: "dictator."

<sup>4</sup> Oxford English Dictionary, s.v.: "benevolent."