

The Death of Death

Hebrews 2:14-17

Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Pastor David Buffaloe
731-845-6104
online at bibleteacher.org



FOCAL Read Responsively Hebrews 2:14-17

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; {15} **And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.** {16} For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. {17} Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, **that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.**

“Monster” movies just don't scare me anymore. I remember as a child going to see movies like “Dracula” or “Frankenstein”, or watching something produced by a man named Alfred Hitchcock. It wasn't long before I started noticing that monsters always hid behind doors, in the back seats of cars, in dark places, and always attacked just before the scary music started playing. When I'd hear the music I'd want to yell “Get out! Can't you hear the music!” But they inevitably went to the wrong spot – the dark alley – and suffered the consequences. What made the “Monster” movie scary wasn't the monster, but the fact that the imaginary monster brought with it the *real* monster we call “death”.

What is “death”? If we define “death” based on our own experience, just as we define “hot” and “cold”, we will come up with a wrong definition. You see, based on our experience “death” is what happened to the unfortunate animal we saw laying on the side of the road. “Death” to

our senses means “to lose one's life”, to cease being, to be forever lost to the cosmos. Yet this is not how God, the Author of Life, defines “death”. “Death” does not mean “to cease to live”. God defined death when He warned Adam in the Garden of Eden:

Genesis 2:17 ... of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Think about those words: “**in the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die**”. Read that again: “**in the day**”. In what day? “**In the day that you eat of it you shall surely die**”. God promised Adam that death would *immediately* come on him when he ate of that forbidden tree. Adam, just like all of us, paid little attention to God, and ate of that which was forbidden. Did he “cease to live” or “stop functioning as a human being”? No, not at all. As a matter of fact Adam lived another 130 years before he and Eve bore a child named Seth. Adam lived on to the ripe old age of **nine hundred and thirty years old** before he died. Did God goof? Didn't God tell Adam that “**in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die**”?

No, dear friend, God didn't goof, and Adam did die just as God promised. The problem is that our definition of “death” is not a good definition. God does not define “death” as “loss of life” or “cease to be”. The Biblical definition of “death” is “**to be separated from the Source of Life, to be separated from God**”. When Adam sinned his disobedience caused a barrier to be formed between himself and God. Adam died *spiritually*.

Since he separated himself from God – the Source of Life – he also began to die physically. This is why Adam died physically at 930 years old. As sin drew humankind farther and farther from God physical lifespans became shorter. Adam's disobedience brought death - *spiritual separation from God* – on himself and all of his descendants. The Bible tells us that ...

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

By one man death entered into the world. “Death” was a stranger to humanity, the monster in the closet. While the monster stayed locked in the closet it had no power over God's creation. Adam let the monster into the room by sinning against God. Adam, hearing the music of God's loving voice, rejected His song in favor of the monster's dirge. As a result all of Adam's children are born physically alive but *spiritually dead*, unnaturally separated from God. We sin – actively disobey God – because the monster of death scarred our forefather.

How to kill this real monster called “death”?

You must turn unto Jesus. It is Jesus Christ Who took upon Himself flesh and blood, Jesus Christ Who left the splendor of Heaven to come and be our Redeemer. Jesus showed His power over the monster when He healed the nobleman's son with but a word (**John 4:47**). “**Go thy way, thy son liveth**” - and the monster died. When Mary and Martha thought that the monster had eaten their brother Lazarus it was Jesus Who said “**He but sleeps** –

let Me go and waken him” (John 11:11). Lazarus rose from the grave, and lived to tell the story of Jesus and His love. It was no handkerchief that dried the tears from a grieving widow's face, but the Savior's tender word: **“Weep not”. “Young man, I say unto thee, arise”(Luke 7:13-14).** Christ Jesus, the **Dayspring from on High has visited us. He gives light to those who sit in death's dark shadow (Luke 1:78-79).** He gives eternal life to those who believe on Him.

Have you called upon the Name of Jesus? Have you believed Him and put your trust in Him? If so, then rejoice! for death has come to death, and the Victor is Jesus Christ and all those who believe on His Name.

May God touch your hearts with His Word.

1. Jesus Christ Destroyed Death By Destroying It's Source

FOCAL Hebrews 2:14-15 **Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; {15} And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.**

Who has the **power of death**? Look at the latter part of verse 14: **“through death He (Jesus) might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil”.** Who has the power of death? Satan! Again, going back to the proper definition of “death”, death is “separation

from God”. Satan was the very first one to rise up in revolt against God, separating himself from God, *dying spiritually* as it were. Isaiah prophesied of Lucifer (also known as Satan) in:

Isaiah 14:12-15 **How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! {13} For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: {14} I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. {15} Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.¹**

With five terrible **“I will”**s Lucifer allowed pride to enter into his heart. He separated himself from God, and pridefully plotted to make himself God. It is the **devil** (also known as Satan or Lucifer) who came bringing death into the Garden of Eden.

The devil took on himself – not the likeness of man – but the likeness of a *serpent*, a poisonous and deadly thing, and came into the Garden to deceive Adam.

What did Jesus do in response to Satan's attack on humanity? He became like us.

FOCAL Hebrews 2:14 **Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also**

¹ Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, is actually being compared

himself likewise took part of the same ...

Since **the children are partakers of flesh and blood** Jesus had to be willing to **take part of the same**. Though Eternal God Jesus Christ stepped away from glory to become like us. Imagine! The Creator became the created! Though ...

Colossians 2:9 ... in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

Jesus did not hesitate to take humanity upon Himself. He did not come to this earth in robes and splendor as was His right. He did not come with a crown upon His head, or a scepter in His hand. He did not come with ten thousands of angels heralding His approach. He did not come on a chariot of fire, nor did He come to the applause of thousands.

The Bible says that He

Philippians 2:7 .. made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

He came as a Servant. Though He was and is the Highest of the High, the

1 Timothy 6:15-16 ... blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; {16} Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; ...

Jesus came to earth born of a little Virgin named Mary, born into the family of a lowly carpenter named Joseph. Why did Jesus come in such a lowly way? Our context tells us that

CONTEXT Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Adam brought death on all his children, so Jesus, in order to save us from death, had to **taste death for every man**.

Jesus died to Heaven – separated Himself from Heaven – so that He could reunite us with God. Jesus died to glory – separated Himself from the glory that was rightly His – so that He could **“bringing many sons unto glory”**.

As Jesus Christ hung on that Cross at one point He cried out:

Mark 15:34 ... Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

He Who had never known a time where He could not call out to the Heavenly Father found Himself **forsaken, spiritually separated** from God because of the weight of our sins. The mighty shoulders that took the Roman lash

without a cry now bowed to the point of breaking as He experienced spiritual death for us. What does the Scripture tell us?

Philippians 2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Jesus Christ took death on Himself for you and for me. All of your offenses and my offenses against Eternal God were nailed to His Cross – and He was then nailed over top of them!

Just as the shingles on a roof stand between the roof and the rain, Christ stands between the believer and God's judgment.

The rain of Judgment struck the Son of God on that terrible Hill Golgotha. Jesus bore the penalty for our sin then, though Immortal God, willingly surrendered His physical life. He said:

Luke 23:46 ... Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

He bore our spiritual death. He bore our physical death. Jesus Christ died so that He might ...

FOCAL Hebrews 2:15 ... deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Oh, how Satan hated that day when death died! When Jesus Christ took the penalty of our sin on Himself He made a way whereby God could *make us alive again* through the operation of the Holy Spirit. ALL Trespasses are forgiven the Christian. As The Scripture s aptly puts it:

Colossians 2:13-15 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; {14} Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; {15} And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

You were dead, dear Christian, but are now alive. You were servants of sin, but now are servants of God. You were children of Adam, but are now Children of God. You were always trembling in the face of him who **has the power of death**, but now laugh in his face for Christ's sake.

Christ has destroyed death at its Source. Blessed Be God Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

**2. We Who Are Freed Are Dead To The Law
But Alive To Righteousness**

FOCAL Hebrews 2:16 ... For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed

of Abraham.

Jesus Christ **did not take on Himself the nature of angels**. He did not come to die for fallen Satan, nor the demons that followed Satan in revolt from God's Heavenly Throne. This is particularly highlighted in a sermon Jesus preached just before His crucifixion.

Those who reject salvation by faith in Christ, reject a *right relationship* with God and choose instead to stay in a state of spiritual death, marked by loveless and selfish lives.

They refuse to be a blessing to others, withholding food, clothing, and shelter from those in need. Jesus said of these people:

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, **Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:**

Those who refuse to have a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ *cannot* enter into God's Heaven. They must go to the same place **prepared for the devil and his angels**. But you do not have to go to this place, dear friend. The Bible tells us that:

FOCAL Hebrews 2:16-17 ... For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but **he took on him the seed of Abraham.**

Jesus Christ **took upon Himself the seed of Abraham.**

This is very significant!

The Bible doesn't say that Jesus **took upon Himself the seed of ADAM**, nor does it say He **took upon Himself the seed of NOAH**. It doesn't here speak of the **seed of MOSES**, but it says that **He took upon Himself the SEED (Flesh) of ABRAHAM**. Why Abraham? Because Abraham *predated the Law of Sinai*.

God gave the Law to Israel at Sinai because His chosen people *refused* to accept salvation by faith in Him. The **Law was given that the offense might abound (Romans 5:20)**. Rather than make things better the Law was intended to show Israel that we *cannot* work our way out of sin and death. We could not be our own saviors. **The law worketh wrath (Romans 4:15)**. Attacking sin and death with the law is like trying to drive a plastic stake through the mythical vampire's heart – all you do is make the monster mad.

Jesus Christ **took upon Himself the seed of Abraham** because Abraham served God *by faith*, not by law. We hear this echo throughout the New Testament:

Romans 4:3 .. Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Galatians 3:6-7 Even as **Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.** {7} Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

James 2:23 .. Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Abraham believed God – He had faith in God's promise – and acted accordingly. Abraham was pre-Sinai. He did not believe God because it was written on stone tablets.

Abraham knew God is the faithful monster killer.

When Jesus Christ came to this earth He **took on Himself the seed of Abraham**, paying for the sins of all the world. He did not die just for **Israel**, nor did He die for **those of Sinai**. His death would not profit those who reject Him as Savior. But His life and His death would profit **the seed of Abraham**, all who believe on His Name. What did Jesus promise to all? He said:

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Those who believe in Jesus are **passed from death unto life**. We are no longer separated from God, but we are intimately bound with the Source of Life. Furthermore, the Christian *knows* that he or she has **passed from death to life**. How? The Scripture says:

1 John 3:14-16 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that

loveth not his brother abideth in death. {15} Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. {16} Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

How does the Christian know that he is a Christian? Life reigns in Him. God the Source of Life is also defined as Love, and He lives in the hearts of those who are His. Dead things exude death, but New Creatures in Christ exude Life.

The Bible says:

Galatians 5:22-26 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, {23} Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. {24} And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. {25} If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. {26} Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

You, dear Christian, have been freed from death so that you might spread life. You have His promise that **you shall never see death (John 8:51)**.

FOCAL Hebrews 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for

the sins of the people.

Jesus Christ conquered Satan and conquered the monster death. Spiritual death has been removed, it's sting is gone. He has **made reconciliation for the sins of the people**. His Blood was shed for you so that the separation brought between you and God by your forefather Adam *could be removed*. That separation is removed, and you are bound to God forever, if you have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We who are freed from the Law and death are not freed so that we can *wallow in death*. We are freed so that we can **“walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4)**.

Jesus Christ conquered death for us when He shed His Blood unto death on Calvary. But He also rose again, and lives forever *making intercession for us*:

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Death is dead, it's Source is defeated, and we who believe have a High Priest Who sits in the Heavens representing us before the Heavenly Father. We are *saved to the uttermost*.

Are you part of the Redeemed? Are you part of the Saved? Does Jesus **make reconciliation** for you? If you do not have a relationship with God by faith in Him then

you are yet dead in your sins. The monster is out of the closet, and rules your life with glee.

My prayer is that you know Him and the power of His resurrection. That you know death is dead *for you*. That you know Satan is a defeated enemy because He Who loves you gave Himself for you.

And if you don't know Him, today is a great day to come unto Him and be saved.

May God touch your hearts with His Word.