

HAVE YOU HEARD THE JOYFUL SOUND?
JESUS SAVES, JESUS SAVES!



NO FEAR

NO FEAR

REST IN PEACE

JESUS SAVES

NO FEAR

JESUS SAVES HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS FROM DEATH

-IN SAVING US FROM DEATH JESUS RENDERS THE DEVIL POWERLESS AND BECOMES OUR MERCIFUL AND FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST-

I. PART ONE: WE NEED TO KNOW THAT IT WAS NECESSARY FOR JESUS TO SHARE FLESH AND BLOOD WITH US SO THAT THROUGH DEATH HE COULD SAVE US FROM DEATH AND THE FEAR OF DEATH.

- (Hebrews 2:14–15 LSB) Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

A. As God's human creation we are living souls who share in flesh and blood—we are earthy.

- (1 Corinthians 15:45, 47 LSB) So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ... The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.

B. It was necessary for Jesus to share flesh and blood with us so that through death he could bring us victory over death and the fear of death.

C. Jesus had to share flesh and blood with us so that through his death we could bear the image of the heavenly and inherit the kingdom of God.

- (1 Corinthians 15:49–50 LSB) And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly. 50 Now I say this, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the corruptible inherit the incorruptible.

D. To save us from death Jesus had to share flesh and blood and submit to his role as slave in the purpose of God even to the point of death on a cross.

- (John 1:14 LSB) And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- (Philippians 2:8 LSB) [*Christ Jesus*] ... Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

E. Through his death Jesus rendered the devil powerless—he deactivated the devil's power of death.

Render powerless ... καταργέω [katargeo] ... to render idle, inactivate, inoperative; to cause a person or thing to have no further efficiency; to deprive of force, influence, power; to put an end to, to annul.

II. PART TWO: WE NEED TO HAVE A SOUND, BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE DEVIL'S POWER OF DEATH.

A. Here is some general information regarding the power of death of the devil for us to keep in mind.

1. **The devil is a created being and like all created beings is subject to God.**
2. **The devil is, and always has been, subject to the sovereign rule of God in his actions.**
3. **So whatever his power of death is it likewise is subject to the sovereign rule of God.**

B. Life and death are God's decisions.

- (Deuteronomy 32:39 LSB) See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded, and it is I who heal, And there is no one who can deliver from My hand.

1. Every day of our lives has already been recorded in God's book.

- (Psalm 139:16 NLT) You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

2. We live from day to day as God wills.

- (James 4:15–16 NLT) What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." 16 Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.

3. Satan was not allowed to harm Job physically without God's permission and he was not allowed to kill Job during his time of testing.

- (Job 1:12 NLT) "All right, you may test him," the LORD said to Satan. "Do whatever you want with everything he possesses, but don't harm him physically." So Satan left the LORD's presence.
- (Job 2:5–6 LSB) "However, send forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You in Your face." 6 So Yahweh said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, only spare his life."

4. Christ has the keys of death.

- (Revelation 1:18 LSB) And the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forever and ever, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

III. PART THREE: WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND HOW CHRIST RENDERED THE DEVIL POWERLESS.

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN GOD AND THE DEVIL ...

Overview: The devil's power of death relies on psychological schemes (*mind games*) that are based on lies, temptations and accusations.

A. The devil initiated his plan to bring death to God's good creation in the Garden of Eden with Eve.

B. He deceived Eve with a lie and a temptation.

- (2 Corinthians 11:3a LSB) ... as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness.
- (1 Timothy 2:14 LSB) And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into trespass.

THE LIE: You will not die from eating from the tree.

- (Genesis 2:17 LSB) But from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat from it; for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."
- (Genesis 3:4 LSB) And the serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!"
- (Romans 5:12 NLT) When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

THE TEMPTATION: Eat from the tree and be like God.

- (Genesis 3:5 LSB) For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.
- C. The devil knew that they would die—that they would be separated from God and the life God had provided for them.
- D. This was his first step toward gaining control over God's human creation.
- (1 John 5:19 LSB) We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.
- E. The devil lies, tempts and accuses in order to blind people to the truth of the gospel.
- (2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV) In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is

the image of God.

F. That is why our first piece of armor against Satan's mind games must be truth.

- (Ephesians 6:11, 14 LSB) Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ... Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness.

UNDERSTANDING THE DEVIL'S METHODOLOGY ...

Overview: The devil uses the sting of death as a basis for his accusations to carry on his campaign of fear and deception.

- A. The devil uses accusations to wound his adversary and to undermine his or her ability to stand.
- B. The accusations of the sting of death are based on the person's death—his separated position from God.
- C. The accusations may be true or false, justified or unjustified, with or without rational basis.

MAINTAINING A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE IN THE BATTLE ...

Overview: We need to have a precise, biblical understanding as to just what the sting of death is and how the devil uses this powerful weapon against us.

- A. The sting of death is sin.
- (1 Corinthians 15:56 LSB) Now the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
- B. The power of sin is the law—the rules of God, his moral code—which is written on our hearts.
- (Romans 2:15–16 NLT) They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. 16 And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life.
- C. The devil uses a person's guilty conscience to sting him with accusations and condemnation.
- D. This stinging generates fear by which the devil uses to manipulate the person.
- E. This weapon is so effective and powerful that the devil deceives the whole world.
- (Revelation 12:9b LSB) ... the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world.

IV. PART FOUR: WE NEED TO KNOW HOW JESUS BECAME OUR MERCIFUL AND FAITHFUL HIGH PRIEST AND HOW THAT RENDERS THE DEVIL POWERLESS TO HARM US.

- (Hebrews 2:16–18 LSB) For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the seed of Abraham. 17 **Therefore, He had to be made like His brothers in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.** 18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, **He is able to come to help those who are tempted.**

A. Christ does not give this help to angels but to the seed of Abraham.

- (Galatians 3:7 LSB) **So know that those who are of faith, those are sons of Abraham.**
- (Galatians 3:9 LSB) So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.

B. To give us this help Christ had to be made like his brothers and sisters in all things.

C. To give us this help he had to become our merciful and faithful high priest.

D. As our merciful and faithful high priest he helps us by making propitiation for our sins.

- (1 John 2:1–2a LSB) My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. **And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins.**
- (1 John 4:10 LSB) In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us **and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

E. Christ rendered the devil powerless by taking the sting out of death.

- (1 Corinthians 15:57 LSB) **But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!**

F. In making propitiation for our sins Christ rendered the devil powerless by removing absolutely any basis the devil would have to accuse us.

- (Romans 8:1 LSB) **Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**
- (Romans 8:31, 33–34a LSB) What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who is against us? 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died.**

G. Christ totally defeated and publicly shamed the devil and the forces of darkness when he canceled our debt of sin by nailing it to the cross.

- (Colossians 2:14–15 LSB) **Having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us which was hostile to us, He also has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them in Him.**

H. So if a believer lives in fear of death, then that person has been deceived by the devil's lies and is not being led by the Spirit.

- (Romans 8:14–17 LSB) **For as many as are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons by whom we cry out, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, also heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.**

I. Jesus our brother is our merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God.

- (Psalm 57:10 NKJV) For **Your mercy reaches unto the heavens,** And Your truth unto the clouds.
- (Psalm 36:5 NKJV) **Your mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

J. As our merciful and faithful high priest he is able to come to help us when we are tempted to sin regardless of where we are or the particular temptation.