

Christ

Christ's Resurrection and The Defeat Of Satan

Readings

Colossians 2:15
Hebrews 2:10

Introduction

We have often heard the expression, "While there is life there is hope" and that is true to an extent. However, despite all the medical advancements through the years, the medical abilities are never more helpless as when an individual dies. Resuscitation can be valiantly attempted, however, sooner or later the physician will be forced to deliver the devastating news, "I am sorry, we did everything we could".

- a) Death is more than the cessation of life. There is a spirit dimension, for while the body most often goes to dust the spirit never dies, but continues to live in that other dimension.
- b) Furthermore, it is a reminder of the present power of Satan for it is he who has the power of death (Heb. 2:14), and with "death" as his associate, he is the greatest enemy in all earth's history.

This diabolical individual is void of any compassion, caring not for breaking hearts or lonely nights. As I say, when it comes to death, humanity universally is without power spiritually and physically (Rom. 5:6). Christ was never a dying man, but deliberately He entered death and exiting it, He defeated Satan (Heb. 2:15). Such was and is the greatness of His defeat of Satan that He will raise every individual, irrespective of how the body is disposed of.

When The Lord God gave the promise to Adam, it's basic message was the defeat of Satan through the death and resurrection of the Lord. No one saw the Lord rise from the dead and no one alive today has ever spoken to any of the eyewitnesses, and we do not see Satan defeated today. Since faith is always built on evidence, "What is the evidences that Satan is defeated and what does it mean to us?"

Things As They Now Appear

As we look around this world, death reigns universally. No matter what country of the world, what tribe or culture, nationally or internationally, death comes to all. There is not a place in the world where there is no death. It has affected the celestial world for we speak of stars dying. The horticultural world, we see that happen in the fall and autumn months, the same zoologically and in the human world.

In this dark picture there is one ray of hope - Christ- for He alone is the One who came, and by His resurrection destroyed him who had the power of death (Heb. 2:10), and by His appearing, "abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Tim. 1:10).

The Greatness Of The Enslaving Power And Kingdom

To appreciate any deliverance and liberation there is a need to know in what ways did, or does, Satan rule, for it is in these ways his power must be broken.

- a) He has control over the kingdoms of the earth (Matt. 4:8-9).
- b) He keeps people in the fear of death (Heb. 2:15).
- c) He holds the power of death (Heb. 2:14).
- d) He is the deceiver and seeks to blind from truth (2 Cor. 4:4).
- e) He keeps people in bondage to traditional beliefs, habits, mind control, philosophies, adjusting God to man's own desires (Col. 2:8; 18-23).
- f) Of these the greatest is the power of death, the last enemy to be defeated (1 Cor. 15:26). Death is Satan's supreme tool. When Christ broke the power of death through His bodily resurrection, then the power of Satan was utterly broken.

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Great are the words of Christ, angels and men which the Spirit has inspired:

- a) "He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matt. 28:6).
- b) "And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses" (Acts 3:15).
- c) "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it" (Acts 2:24).
- d) "Paul, an apostle, not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead" (Gal. 1:1).
- e) "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:40).
- f) "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day" (Matt. 16:21).
- g) "He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee" (Lk. 24:6).

He was seen having a physical body, thus a bodily resurrection:

- a) While it is true no human saw the Lord rise from the dead, no one needed to, the fact that He was seen after His resurrection was the proof He had risen.
 - i) "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have" (Lk. 24:39).
 - ii) "To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:3).
 - iii) "And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord" (Jn. 20:20).
 - iv) "Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side" (Jn. 20:27).

By the bodily resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, Satan was shown to be defeated. Christ entered the strong mans dominion and spoiled his house (Matt. 12:29).

- a) By the indisputable fact that the crucified, dead and buried Jesus rose from the dead! What then are some of the indisputable evidences?
 - i) Those by whom He was seen:
 - i) It is important to appreciate that after His defeat of Satan, Christ was seen, touched, spoken to, ate, and blessed. He was seen on earth and from Heaven. The evidence showing that he defeated Satan, bruised His head is supported, not by circumstantial evidence, but by eyewitnesses. Furthermore, these eye witnesses were bias against the resurrection, and knowing the hostility the confession of such would bring them into, they would not easily proclaim belief in such a fact. How many times and by how many people was the mighty conqueror Lord seen? The following seems to be the order of the appearances.
 - ii) Between His resurrection and ascension the Lord was seen by:
 1. Mary (Mk. 16:9). She then returned to tell of the Lord's appearance to her.
 2. The women on the way (Matt. 28:9).
 3. Simon Peter (Cephas) privately (Lk. 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:5).
 4. The two on the road to Emmaus (Mk. 16:12-13; Lk. 24:13-35).
 5. The ten disciples on resurrection day (Jn. 20:19).
 6. The eleven disciples the following Sunday (Jn. 20:26).
 7. The disciples at the sea of Tiberias (Jn. 21:1).
 8. The disciples on the mount on Galilee (Matt. 28:16-17).
 9. Over 500 brethren at one time (1 Cor. 15:6).
 10. James (1 Cor. 15:7).
 11. The disciples on the ascension mount (Lk. 24:50-51; Mk. 16:19; Acts 1:9).

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- iii) After His ascension the Lord was seen by:
 - 1. Stephen (Acts 7:55-56).
 - 2. Paul (Saul) on the Damascus Road (Acts 9:3-6; 22:6-11; 26:13-18).
 - 3. Paul while in Arabia (Gal. 1:1, 12, 17; Acts 20:4; 26:17).
 - 4. Paul in the temple (Acts 22:17-21).
 - 5. Paul in the prison (Acts 23:11).
 - 6. John on the island of Patmos (Rev. 1:12-20).

- iv) Those who did not see Him alive but believed it:
 - 1. The guards who were at the grave (Matt. 28:11-15).
 - 2. The religious leaders (Matt. 28:13).

We often speak about the empty tomb and I understand what is meant, the body of the Lord was no longer there, but I thank God it was not an empty tomb but a vacated one, for the defeat of Satan was manifested by the bodily emptied tomb. Thank God that there were evidences left there that showed He had risen. The folding of the napkin that had been about His head is beautiful for it shows the relaxed orderliness of the Lord. This was no hurried activity to get out of the grave, getting out of death. He stood as the majestic Victor, and in the beauty of holiness in which all is perfect, He rolled up the napkin and put it in a separate place.

a) Glorious are the words:

- i) "That through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14).
 - ii) "Having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it" (Col. 2:15; 1 Jn. 3:8).
 - iii) "Who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Tim. 1:10).
 - 1. Death was the citadel of Satan, none who were brought into it ever came back from it by their own power. Through the preceding ages Satan had tried to bring to death the purpose of God, but the purposes of God are non frustrating. "The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne" (Psa. 132:11). When the Lord was born and at times in His life, Satan tried to have Him killed, for Satan wanted Christ dead but he did not want Christ to enter death. To enter death for Christ, it was not the result of an inherited sin nature or personal sin, it was a mastery showing His power over Satan. When the Lord was on the cross, then Satan wanted Him to come down, for he knew that Christ was going to enter his domain. Thus, Christ entered death but also had the power to exit death.
- b) When the Lord entered death this was much bigger than a man giving up the spirit. I see here a work in the spirit sphere so devastatingly shattering to the government of Satan that the way it was shown to man was by the earthquake. It became the portent of that which lies yet ahead when the Lord will bring a catastrophic crushing to the political dominants of this world (Dan. 2:44; 7:26-27), to the heart failing manifestation of his impending wrath (Rev. 6:15-17), and eventually the annihilation of this entire universe (2 Pet. 3:10).
- c) This was one man going into the spirit world of Satan and breaking his power. In His entering death the Lord began the breaking the back of all satanic power, a breaking that was finished when He rose from the dead, and on resurrection ground, He stood supreme as the mighty Victor.

Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Saviour,
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

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Refrain
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes,
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever, with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Saviour;
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!

May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13

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