

The Annihilation of Death

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” ⁽¹⁾

Since God is life and only life, death did not exist in the original heaven and earth. Everything was eternal like it's Creator.

“So God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” ⁽²⁾ Humans and nothing else in creation was capable of dying since death did not exist. God is life. The original earth and heavens contained no death whatsoever and, therefore, Adam and Eve were exempt from death.

At some time before God created heaven and earth a band of angels rebelled against their heavenly Maker. This act of rebellion brought them into hatred of the God who loved them and created them. Their hearts of love for God became transformed into hearts filled with hatred of God. A most ridiculous thought possessed these angelic creatures. They imagined themselves capable of overthrowing the God of the universe, the Creator of everything.

God warned Adam, the first human, about the possibility of death that results from rebellion against divine instructions. God commanded the man, *“You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”* ⁽³⁾ Regrettably, the first man and woman failed to love their Creator supremely and, therefore, ignored his command. You see, when we don't love God we care nothing for his Word. Adam's disobedience to God transformed the possibility of death into the reality of death. Death then ruled the human race. *“Sin entered the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.”* ⁽⁴⁾

The Defeat of Death

Our infinitely wise God cannot be outwitted by Satan or all the sinners who ever live! Before the creation of the world God devised the plan for rescuing sinners from death. This plan cost God more than we can imagine.

The person we call Christ existed forever as the second person of the Trinity. This Christ put away his infinitude and became a two cell human in a young Jewish lady named Mary. This Jesus was truly human and truly God.

Jesus' humanity subjected him to trials, tests, and temptations millions of

times more subtle than the temptation Satan presented to Adam and Eve. Nevertheless, this truly human Jesus rejected all temptation and submitted himself to unbelievable suffering at the hands of vicious sinners. Jesus never succumbed to the temptation to disobey heavenly Father. All the torture, pain and agony Jesus endured never succeeded in causing him to disobey heavenly Father. The son of God who never deserved death died because of humanity's sin against God.

JESUS DEFEATED SATAN AND DEATH! Truly, Jesus' death resulted from the sins we committed against God for, "*In him is no sin.*" ⁽⁵⁾ Jesus' death did not result from sin against his heavenly Father, for there was no sin in him. He shared in our humanity "*so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death, that is the devil.*" ⁽⁶⁾

When a human accepts the forgiveness made available to us through Jesus' blood and submits to his lordship, the Spirit of Jesus moves into that human. Their dead spirit becomes enlivened just like the moment when God breathed life into Adam's nostrils! ⁽⁷⁾ The human body of those who accept Jesus as Lord eventually experience death, but the Spirit lives forever. On top of that, the day comes when God resurrects the human bodies of everyone who follows Jesus. Then, the human spirit joins this resurrected body and lives eternally without any deterioration or death! Eventually, death will be thrown into the lake of Fire and in that way eliminated from God's creation. ⁽⁸⁾

God not only defeats death, he annihilates it for all eternity! "*And the devil who deceived [humanity] was thrown into the lake of burning Sulphur...forever and ever.*" ⁽⁹⁾ The elimination of the cause of death results in eternal life for all who follow Jesus. We share his eternal life!

Footnotes

1. Genesis 1:1
2. Genesis 1:27
3. Genesis 2:16-17
4. Romans 5:12
5. 1 John 3:5
6. Hebrews 2:14
7. Genesis 2:7
8. Revelation 20:14
9. Revelation 20:10