

# The Death of Death

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July 30, 2023

John 11:1-44

What JOHN 11 is about is the DEATH of DEATH. REMEMBER the SIGNS are PICTURES of SPIRITUAL REALITIES. The raising of LAZARUS from the DEAD is a PICTURE of CHRIST defeating DEATH.

- We come face-to-face with the GREATEST CONSEQUENCE in the world.
- John Owen coined the phrase, *the Death of Death*

If Adam and Eve plunged the entirety of MANKIND into DEATH.

- Romans 5:12 – [12] *Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.*
- SIN is the GREATEST problem in the WORLD.
- It LEADS to the most TRAGIC of CONSEQUENCE in the WORLD.

## Death is UNIVERSAL

- It impacts all MEN.
- Death is UNIVERSAL.

## Death is UNNATURAL

- *Death spread to all men*
- Romans 6:23 – [23] *The wage of sin is death.*
- God said “that the day you eat of the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil, you will surely die.”
- The original design of mankind was to live forever in the GARDEN. In a state in which man would live forever.
- DEATH is the MOST devastating part of the CURSE.

## Death is FINAL

Hebrews 9:27. [27] *... it is appointed for man to die once and after that comes the judgment.*  
There is no reincarnation.

- Ecclesiastes 9:4 – [4] *But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. [5] For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten.*
- While you are still in this world. There is opportunity for VIRTUE. Opportunity to LOVE. Opportunity to LIVE.
- Opportunity to advance God’s GLORY.

## Death is SUDDEN

- Psalm 90:10 – [10] *The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty; yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.*
- Psalm 90:12 – [12] *So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.*
- Isaiah 40:6b – [6b] *All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.*

- Isaiah 40:8 – [8] *The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.*
- For this REASON it good to consider DEATH. To remind ourselves that LIFE is SHORT.
  - Proverbs 7:2 – [2] *It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart.*
  - Proverbs 7:4 – [4] *The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning...*

#### Death is TERRIBLE

- Psalm 55:4 – [4] *My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen upon me.*
- Psalm 55:5 – [5] *Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me.*

#### Death is DEFEATED

JESUS came to DEFEAT SIN and DEATH forever.

- Hebrews 2:9 – [9] *...Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*
- Hebrews 2:14 – [14] *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, [15] and deliver all those who through the fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*
- 1 Corinthians 15:20 – [20] *But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. [21] For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.*

*Why hasn't GOD irradiated DEATH?* The moment that DEATH is irradiated SIN is also irradiated. The moment that sin is irradiated, there is no more opportunity to come to faith in CHRIST.

- Or as Jesus said in Matthew 24:14 – [14] *And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*

### 1) God uses Death to bring Him Glory

11:1 – [1] *Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. [2] It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. [3] So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." [4] But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."*

- The ultimate purpose of the illness is not death.
- This is a reminder that God uses even the worst things for His glory.
- The most God-glorifying event in the history of mankind – the CROSS of CHRIST was also the apex of the glory of God.
- The reason why God allowed sin and death to enter the WORLD, is because He wanted to demonstrate HIS GLORY in GRACE Without sin there can be no grace.
  - Ephesians 1:5 – [5] *he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, [6] to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.*

[5] *Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. [6] So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.*

- Jesus stayed two days longer so that they might walk longer in the VALLEY.
- And the authentication of the MIRACLE.

## 2) Christ's Death will Happen According to God's Divine Plan

11:7 – [7] *Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." [8] The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?"*

11:9 – [9] *Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of the world. [10] But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."*

- The Jewish Day was measured always by twelve hours... fixed according to the sunlight.
- Though a slightly different numbering system... we also have about twelve hours of sunlight.
- Jesus's point. Just as God has pre-ordained twelve hours in a day.
- There are fixed certainties that God has ordained for Jesus to accomplish. And the JEWS will not be able to stop that.
  - John 7:30 – [30] *So they were seeking to arrest him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come.*
  - John 8:20b – [20b] *...but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.*
- Jesus is saying... it is still LIGHT. And even though there is DANGER all around, He must still act.

*It's an IMPORTANT reminder to TRUST in the SOVEREIGNTY of GOD.*

- Matthew 6:27 – [27] *And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?*

## 3) Death is Not the End

11:11 – [11] *After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him."*

The Bible refers to death as "sleeping." The Bible describes the time when the soul is separated from the Bible as 'sleeping' more of way of metaphor.

- Deuteronomy 31:16 – [16] *And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, you are about to lie down with your fathers."*
- For example, Daniel says in Daniel 12:2 – [2] *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*
- Jesus used this throughout his ministry. Matthew 9:24 – [24] *he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping."*
- Stephen's death is described by Luke as "sleeping." Acts 7:60 – [60] *And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*

- 1 Corinthians 15:51 – [51] *Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed...*
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13 – [13] *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.*

This doesn't mean that the SOUL sleeps. The Soul either goes to Heaven or Hell (Hades).

- Thief on the Cross – Today you will be with me in Paradise.
- Christ says, "Into your hands I commit my spirit."
- 2 Corinthians 5:8 – [8] *we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

11:12 – [12] *The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." [13] Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. [14] Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, [15] and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.*

- NOW the DISCIPLES are in on the PLAN. That Jesus has allowed Lazarus to die.
- Part of the reason he allowed Lazarus to die was to increase their faith.

#### 4) Christ is Worth Dying For

11:16 – [16] *So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."*

- On the one hand... this fails to understand Jesus's statement that He is going to be working in the "day time."
- Yet, This STATEMENT is a MARK of a TRUE DISCIPLE of the LORD JESUS CHRIST.
  - Luke 9:23 – [23] *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. [24] For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."*
  - Hebrews 13:12 – [12] *So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. [13] Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured.*

#### 5) Jesus is the Source of Life

11:17 – [17] *Now when Jesus came. He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. [18] Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, [19] and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother.*

[20] *So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. [21] Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. [22] But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." [23] Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."*

John 11:24 – [24] *Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."*

- Martha already possessed a theology of the resurrection.
- She knew and understood Daniel 12:2.

John 11:25 – [25a] *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.*

- This is another of Jesus's I AM statements. That He is the essence of God.
- Jesus says – I am the VICTORY over DEATH. I am the RESURRECTION.
- He will literally go through DEATH for his PEOPLE and SECURE their RESURRECTION.
- John 1:16 – [16] *For from his fullness is grace upon grace.*

#### 6) Faith in Christ is Necessary to Have Life

[25b] *Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, [26] and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*

- You must simply look to HIM. He's the snake lifted up in the wilderness.
- John 3:14 – [14] *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, [15] that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.*

John 11:27 – [27] *She said to him, "yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."*

- *Eternal Life hinges on believing that Jesus is the CHRIST. The anointed one.*
- *It is only by faith in Him, that you receive the life that Christ offers.*

#### 7) Jesus Mourns the Death of His Own

John 11:28 – [28] *When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." [29] And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. [30] Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Marth had met him. [31] When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. [32] Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord if you had been here, my brother would not have died." [33] When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. [34] And he said, "Where have you laid him? They said to him, "Lord, come and see." [35] Jesus wept.*

- If JESUS knows what he is about to do, why does he weep? Seems odd doesn't it.
  - The reality of Lazarus's life was precious to him.
  - The reality of all his saints lives is precious to him.
  - It's his love for us. His compassion for us.
  - Psalm 116:115 – [115] *Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his saints.*
- Point being. The reality of death and its difficulty is not lost on our LORD.

#### 8) Jesus Raises the Dead

John 11:38 – [38] *Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. [39] Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." [40] Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"*

[41] *So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. [42] I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." [43] When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." [44]*

*The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said them, "Unbind him, and let him go."*

- Jesus can raise the DEAD. He can give you a NEW LIFE.
- If anyone is in Christ, He is a new CREATION.
- The last words are fitting – unbind him and let him Go. Jesus came so that we would no longer be in slavery to sin and death.