

## Interviewing Jesus Devotional

### Week 8

In this, our eight and final installment in the series “Interviewing Jesus,” we turn to Revelation 1:17-18 for the last of Jesus’ “I am” statements. John writes: “When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, **18** and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

I think this may be the most hope filled of all of Jesus’ “I am” statements. It’s quite enough to say, “I died, and behold, I am alive forevermore.” But on top of that he says, “I hold the keys to death and Hades.” I don’t think the Bible ever specifically states that Satan has dominion over this earth, over this world, but it alludes to it in many places.

In John 12:30-31 Jesus said “Now is the time for judgement on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.”

In John 14:30-31, Jesus said, “I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.”

In 2 Corinthians 4:4 we read: “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

Ephesians 2:2 says: “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.”

And finally in Luke 4:5-6, we hear, “And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.”

Jesus didn’t look at Satan and say no, no you don’t have that authority. He didn’t deny Satan’s authority, he just didn’t fall into the temptation of it.

And so when Jesus says, I hold the keys to death and Hades, he is saying there’s a new sheriff in town. That he has come to set some things straight. It’s not as though he is taking

away evil from this world, just the sting of sin and death that results from it. That through his death and resurrection he now has victory over the grave. And the good news is, so do we.

And so with this eighth and final, “I am” statement, he dropped the mic and walked away. The interview is now over.