

## **THE DAY THE DEVIL WAS DESTROYED**

### **Hebrews 2:14-18**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION-**

- a. These verses... affirm the incarnation of Jesus Christ.
- b. The word “incarnation” literally means “in the flesh”... one moment the Lord Jesus Christ was in Heaven robed in robes of glory ... the next moment He was on earth wrapped in swaddling clothes ... one moment the Lord Jesus was walking on the streets of gold ... the next moment He was lying helplessly on a pile of straw in an animal trough.
- c. Jesus Christ...became a man...became a human being...in a unique way.
- d. Jesus did not become a human being as the result of the union between a man and a woman... Jesus became a man as the result of the virgin birth.
- e. Jesus was born of a woman... but He was conceived in the womb of His mother by the power of God.
- f. Not only was Jesus born uniquely... He was also born voluntarily.
- g. You and I didn't decide to be born... we did not have any choice in the matter... but Jesus did... Jesus chose the time and the place to come into the world to make our salvation possible.
- h. These verses help us understand... why Jesus came.

#### **II. JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO RELEASE US FROM THE POWER AND FEAR OF DEATH-**

- a. *Hebrews 2:14 (NKJV) “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.”*

- b. Jesus came into this world to die... as the birth of Jesus was unique and voluntary... so the death of Jesus was also unique and voluntary.
- c. The death of Jesus was a sacrificial death... the death of Jesus was a powerful death ... the death of Jesus was a life-giving death... the death of Jesus was a victorious death.
- d. During the six hours that Jesus was on the cross...Jesus took our sin ...and the punishment we deserve because of our sin...the Bible says that the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all... and then Jesus died for us.
- e. Now when a person turns from their sin and believes in Jesus and receives Him as their Lord and Savior... what Jesus did at the cross is transferred and applied to them...their sin debt before God is paid in full and covered by the death of Christ... and they are finally, fully and forever forgiven.
- f. But at the cross... not only did Jesus die for our sins... in the unseen, spiritual dimension... on the cross Jesus went toe to toe... in spiritual combat with Satan for the souls of mankind.
- g. When Jesus died... Satan thought he had won... it was not until three days later... when Jesus arose from the dead... that Satan realized it was he who had received the deathblow at Calvary... it was he who had been defeated at the cross.
- h. The earliest gospel verse in the Bible is found in Genesis 3:15... it is called the proto-evangelon ... or the “first gospel.”
- i. *Genesis 3:15 (NKJV) “And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”*
- j. In this verse... God said that one day Satan would do battle with the “seed” of a woman... and in that battle... Satan would bruise the Seed’s heel... but the Seed would crush Satan’s head.

- k. Women do not carry the seed... men carry the seed... “seed of the woman” speaks of the virgin birth of Jesus Christ.
- l. Genesis 3:15 predicted the spiritual battle that happened on the cross between Christ and Satan... on the cross Jesus was bruised... on the cross Jesus was wounded...He suffered...and He died.
- m. But while Satan was bruising Jesus on the cross... Jesus was crushing the head of Satan... and Satan did not even know it... until Jesus rose in victory over the grave.
- n. Colossians 2:15 says that at the cross... Jesus disarmed and defeated Satan and his forces... shaming them publicly by His victory over them on the cross.
- o. Because of what Jesus did at the cross... and because of His resurrection from the dead ... death no longer has a hold on those who believe in Him.
- p. Because of His death on the cross... and His resurrection from the dead ... those who believe in Jesus no longer need to live in fear death ... for the believer in Christ... death is the door which leads to glory.
- q. Unbelievers have every right, reason and cause to fear death... death separates them from God forever... but those who believe in Jesus have no reason to fear death.
- r. Though the body of a believer may die... it won't stay dead... Jesus will one day raise the body of every believer from the grave... He will remake them... glorify them ... and rejoin our body with our soul which goes to Heaven when we die.
- s. Jesus came into the world to release us...from the power and fear of death.

Release us from the power and fear of death

### **III. JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO RECONCILE US TO GOD-**

- a. *Hebrews 2:17* “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His

*brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”*

- b. Propitiation is an important word in the Bible... it is a word that is vital to understanding the gospel of Jesus Christ and the greatness of our salvation... but it is a word that no one ever uses anymore.
- c. Propitiation it is the act of satisfying, placating, appeasing the anger of one... who has been angered and offended.
- d. The Bible... has several examples and pictures of propitiation... in the Old Testament...Jacob sought to appease his brother Esau's anger with a series of gifts... after he had ripped off his brother's birthright and blessing.
- e. Abigail... sought to appease David's anger with a gift of food and provisions...after her husband Nabal had insulted David and his men.
- f. King Hezekiah sought to appease the king of Assyria's anger against him and Israel...by sending the king a large shipment of silver and gold.
- g. What does propitiation have to do... with salvation?
- h. While it is true that God loves us... it is also true that God is offended by and angered by our sin.
- i. Sin may not be such a big deal to us... but it is a big deal to God.
- j. God's anger is not like our anger... our anger can sometimes be an overreaction to the harm done to us... our anger can at times be unjustified ...our anger... left uncontrolled...will often lead us to sin.
- k. While God's anger is always a righteous anger...our anger is often not.
- l. That is why the Bible warns us not to allow our anger to last, linger and get out of hand... we are told to be angry and sin not... and we

are told not allow the sun to go down on our wrath or anger.

- m. God's anger is much different from ours... God's anger is His settled, consistent, righteous and controlled disposition against sin.
- n. *Psalm 7:11 (NKJV) "God is a just judge, And God is angry with the wicked every day."*
- o. God cannot and He will not just write-off and ignore our sin... if we are going to be saved from our sin... if we are going to be forgiven of our sin...then God's anger against our sin must be appeased... it must be satisfied.
- p. The problem is...there is nothing we can do to appease God's anger for our sin.
- q. Those who worship false gods ... are constantly trying to do things to appease the god or gods they worship.
- r. In Old Testament times... that is what child sacrifice was all about... those who worshipped gods like Molech and Chemosh... would sacrifice their children to these false gods...in an attempt to appease them.
- s. We cannot appease God for our sins... and no one else can appease God for our sins.
- t. So what are we to do?... there is nothing we can do ... but God... the One we have offended... has done something for us.
- u. When I was in seminary... I knew a man who was struggling to stay in school and support his family.
- v. He finally decided... if something did not happen...he was going to have to leave school at the end of the next semester.
- w. But a few days before the semester was to end... he got a letter from the seminary in the mail telling him that he had receive a scholarship

that would enable him to continue in school... and the scholarship came ... from the seminary itself.

- x. The seminary had decided to assume this man's debt and pay its own bill ... so that he could continue to go to school.
- y. We cannot pay our own sin debt... there is no way we can appease and satisfy God's anger for our sin... and no one else can either.
- z. So God decided that He would do for us what we could not do for ourselves ... God decided to assume the debt we owe to Him Himself ... God decided to satisfy His law and His anger against our sin... Himself on Himself... and He did this by sacrificing and giving His only begotten Son on the cross for us.
- aa. When Jesus was on the cross... the full force of God's judgment against our sin was poured out on Him... and when we believe in Him ... our sin debt is paid... and God's anger against our sin is finally, fully and forever satisfied... Jesus is our propitiation!
- bb. *Romans 8:1 (NKJV) "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus..."*
- cc. Jesus came into the world to release us from the power and fear of death... and Jesus came into the world to be our propitiation... and to reconcile us to God.

Release us from the power and fear of death... reconcile us to God

#### **IV. JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO RESCUE US FROM TEMPTATION-**

- a. *Hebrews 2:18 (NKJV) "For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted."*
- b. When Jesus was in this world... Satan unloaded every temptation he had at Christ.
- c. Hebrews 4:15 says... that when Jesus was in this world He was... "in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

- d. Throughout the Lord's life on earth... Satan attacked His mind with temptation... he attacked the Lord's soul... and heart.
- e. Satan tempted Jesus to a depth and to a degree... and in ways... that you I could never know... but Jesus never sinned.
- f. Just because you are a Christian... does not mean that Satan will no longer tempt you sin... if Satan tempted Jesus to sin... you better believe that he will tempt those who follow Christ to sin.
- g. As saved as we are... as long as we live in this world... we will still be tempted.
- h. In fact... the moment you gave your life to Christ... you became a special target of Satan's temptations.
- i. Satan does not like to lose a soul to God... and he may not be able to steal us away from God... but he will do all he can to hinder our Christian growth ... to hinder our usefulness as Christians... to rob us of joy... to cause us to doubt our salvation... to cause us to ruin our testimony ... and to see us fail and fall in the Christian life.
- j. The Bible says that Satan is a lion... and Christians are lambs and sheep... how can we resist and win over the temptations and the wiles of Satan?
- k. Jesus knows what it is like to be tempted... He faced every temptation that you and I will ever face and far more.
- l. Because Jesus won over every temptation and sin He faced... He is ready, able and willing to help those who believe in Him when we are tempted.
- m. As you walk with the Lord ... as you rely upon Him... trust in Him... as you remain faithful to Christ... as you pray and worship and serve and stay in the Word... the Lord will enable you to grow in victory over Satan, sin and the temptations you face.
- n. When Jesus saved... He saved us immediately from the penalty of sin

... as we walk with Him and grow in Him... He will enable us to grow in victory over the power of sin... and one day when we go to Heaven... the Lord will deliver us forever from the presence of sin.

- o. Jesus came into the world...to rescue us from a life lived in bondage to temptation and sin... to help us to grow in victory over Satan and sin.

## **V. CONCLUSION-**

- a. Jesus came into the world... to release us from the power and fear of death... to reconcile us to God... to rescue us from a life lived in bondage to temptation and sin.
- b. None of that means anything... to those who refuse to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord... be saved today!