

~~Death~~ Jesus Reigns

(Easter Sunday 2026: 4/5/26)

Houston, we have a problem: **death reigns like a king over this world.**

It took the throne right after Adam disobeyed and ate the fruit God told him not to and here's what death represents: **it's everything that's wrong with this world.**

It's a signal, a massive **neon sign that a fatal flaw entered in** and now we're missing something. Something that we once had, and now we've lost.

There's a part of us to this day that **yearns for that which we lost.** It searches, but can't find. Is there some way to avoid death or at least delay it? The entertainment industry has profited from this longing by offering up its versions.

One of the best movie experiences I ever had was the early 80's when I went to see **"Highlander."** Christopher Lambert plays this mysterious figure who starts right out getting into a dramatic sword fight—in modern times—with another guy. He wins and when he does, this lightning comes from nowhere and envelopes him, but he lives. As the movie progresses, a female sleuth is delving into his mystery and the big moment comes when he reveals his secret to her...and us, his audience. Ah, I can still remember!

"My name is Connor MacLeod of the clan MacLeod. I was born 400 years ago in the highlands of Scotland. I am immortal."

When I heard that in the theater, my hair stood on end! I went home that night, **dreaming of what it would truly be like to live forever?** My hunger for such things led me to vampire novels and transhuman technology such as replacing aging body parts with robotic ones, or the transfer of one's consciousness into a computer.

Another movie came out during that time called “The Lost Boys” about vampires. Keifer Sutherland is the leader of a vampire gang who tries to recruit a teenage boy into their ranks. Not only did the vampires live forever, but they had super speed, super coordination, and could FLY like Superman! What’s not to like??

Here it was: not only would you never see the sun again, but during a “training” session KS character tells the teen boy: “to complete your journey you must feed!” At which point he and his gang attack some innocents and kill them. The rest of the movie is the moral conflict of the teen vs the overwhelming desire for blood that’s now within him.

Why did I indulge such things? **In the attempt to feed the impossible hunger inside of me** of reversing this terrible curse called death.

Trying to get back what I, and the rest of humanity, lost in the GOE.

Yet all these things are cheap Temu copies, aren’t they?

- The Highlander never got old, but he could still die in a swordfight if an opponent took his head.
- And there was a constant rivalry of those immortals where they were after each other all the time, so they were always looking over their shoulder.
- Vampires didn’t get old, but couldn’t be exposed to sunlight, needed to drink blood, and tended towards being evil.
- Not to mention someone else gave up their lives so the vampire could go on, or even worse, be turned into one themselves.
- And who wants to replace most of their body with robotic parts? And how limiting would it be to upload one’s consciousness to a computer?

Even though these things were “immortality” they weren’t LIFE.

They all came with *a terrible price the “recipient” had to pay*...for the rest of their supposed everlasting existence.

Then I **read something fascinating in the GOE history** and let me share it with you now. Right after Adam & Eve at the FF, this is what happens:

[Gen 3:22-24 ESV] 22 Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. **Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever--**" 23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. 24 He

drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way **to guard the way to the tree of life.**

The real reason God kicks them out of the GOE isn't because they disobeyed—**it was to protect them.**

After their disobedience, sin and death entered into them. They were just like we are now: knowing both good and evil, joy and sadness, pain and pleasure, gain and loss, everything.

What's worse is that their disobedience caused **separation from God and the new ability to do and be evil.**

The Lord knew that if He allowed them to stay, they would eat of the OTHER tree—the Tree of Life. **If they did, they would live forever in this [gesture to self] condition.**

Now we're back to **Highlander, vampires, or transhumanistic tech.** In the land of fantasy, all allowed for immortality, but we'll pay a terrible price for them. The same would apply if Adam and Eve had been allowed to stay. **They would have eaten from the TOL and remained in a state of sin and separation forever.**

Some of you might be thinking that *never getting older and dealing with sin is better than getting older and dealing with sin.* I disagree completely.

The passions of this flesh, as Paul said in Romans, **drive me to do evil and continue to disobey what God has commanded.**

- It inspires me to do what I shouldn't, and to not do what I should.
- Paul goes on to say that desires of the flesh are at war with that of my spirit—which wants God and the things of God.

If I had to live forever that way, or you had to, we would never be free. Like the Highlander or a vampire, we'd be trapped in an endlessly unpleasant cycle that we repeat over and over whether we want to or not.

This [gesture to self] is made from the stuff of this world, and this world is dying.

What we need is an everlasting life not made from this world. It needs to be composed from another world where there is no death, no sin, no devil, no aging, no sickness, and no disease.

Therefore this [gesture to self] needs to die.

- The cycle needs to end so that we can be reborn—born again—into something brand new.
- The Creator of this brand new also needs to be God Who is the only one Who can pull this off.
- That means He needs to offer it us, make it available, and provide some way of obtaining it.

He did...and His name is Jesus Christ.

[Jhn 5:21-29 ESV] 21 For as the Father **raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.** 22 For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, **whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.** He does not come into judgment, but **has passed from death to life.** 25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when **the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.** 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so **he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.** 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when **all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life,** and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

Look at the Father-Son inheritance: *just as God the Father has the authority and power to raise the dead to life, so does God the Son, Jesus.*

The Son Jesus will judge who gets the resurrection of eternal life.

So who gets the resurrection into eternal life? Verse 24: **whoever hears the Gospel and believes in Jesus!**

What happens to that person?

Jesus explains in verse 24: **that person has passed—been promoted—from death to life. Eternal life. Immortality.**

Verse 25: at some point in the future, all those who believed in Jesus while alive, then died, *will HEAR HIS VOICE and rise from the dead.*

Verse 29: the ones who believed while they were alive, then died, **will be raised into a “resurrection of life” and He means is forever life.** Not like we are now. Not like the Highlander, and not like a vampire.

Why not? **A price always has to be paid for immortality.**

- In the case of the highlander, he was always looking over his shoulder for someone who wanted to take his head.
- In the case of the vampire, it's driven by a need too strong to resist even though it means the death of others, and can never see the sun.

Who paid the price for the eternal life that Jesus is offering?

Jesus did.

He came down here in a mortal, human form that's just like ours. One subject to death, pain, sickness, injury, sorrow, and loss. He submitted Himself to His own creations—us.

[Isa 53:4-5 ESV] 4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

He picked up His Cross, carried it to Calvary Hill, and there *He was crucified and died.* But that's not the end of the story.

[Mat 28:1-10 ESV] 1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as

snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

[Jhn 20:19-20 ESV] 19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, **the doors being locked** where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, **Jesus came and stood among them** and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Jesus rose from the dead but **did not come back into the same body as before**...this one can teleport or walk through walls. Although visible to the naked eye and able to be touched, it's clearly made of something a bit different. Something that will never get older, sick, weak, tired, feel pain, or die. Here's an important bit about Risen Jesus that Paul explained to the Romans:

[Rom 6:9 ESV] 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, ***will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.***

This is the immortality we need and the one that only Christ can give. This is the everlasting life promised to all who repent and believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. One where death will never again have dominion.

communion

CALL TO SALVATION