

INTRODUCTION: Why is it so hard for modern humanity to think about death?

- We live in a culture of _____ that _____ itself from death and tries to _____ death
 - Endless options of entertainment keep us from thinking about _____ and _____
 - Blaise Pascal, “Being _____ to cure death...men have decided, in order to be happy, not to think about such things.”
- Sadly, even the _____ can make it hard for us to think about death
 - Many Western churches have embraced _____
 - _____ won’t be sung or preached when the goal is to keep consumers happy and uplifted

In the 1st 3 chapters of the Bible (Gen. 1-3), God shows us 5 things about death:

(1) God did not build death into His original creation (Gen. 1:1-31)

- a. Gen. 1:1 → God is the true and _____ God (Num. 14:2; Isa 49:18; Jer. 46:18)
- b. God made not just this world and universe, but all living _____ (1:20-25)
- c. The living creatures God made were to model themselves after their _____
- d. Like all living creatures, humanity was to multiply and _____ the earth (1:28)
- e. The living God made a world full of _____ that was to bring forth more life
- f. And when God finished His work of creation, He declared “it was _____ good” (1:31)

(2) God made humanity body and soul (Gen. 2:7)

- a. 1st, God formed Adam’s body from the _____ of the ground
- b. 2nd, God formed Adam’s soul when He “*breathed into his nostrils the breath of _____*”
- c. Adam only become a living creature when God _____ together his body & soul
- d. As His image-bearers we are made body and soul to be living creatures in _____ with Him
- e. If a person’s soul and body are separated, that person ceases to be a _____ creature

(3) God gave Adam a warning (Gen. 2:16-17)

- a. _____ Adam sinned and even _____ he was tempted to sin, God issued a warning
- b. God gave Adam 2 commands here: _____ this. _____ do this.
- c. Adam was to submit to God’s _____ in order to live
- d. Warning: if Adam disobeyed God’s word he would _____ (abundantly) die (Rom. 6:23)
- e. Death is not a _____ process or part of life. Death is God’s _____ against sin (Rom. 5:12)

(4) Death is universal (Gen 3:19)

- a. We all know from both _____ and _____ that each of us will die
- b. Scripture also testifies to this reality:
 - i. Heb 9:27: “it is _____ for man to die once and after that comes judgment”
 - ii. This is demonstrated in the genealogies after the _____ (Gen. 5:5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20)
 - iii. Beyond Enoch, none of Adam’s descendants _____ death (Rom. 5:12)
 - iv. The universal reign of _____ testifies to the universal reach of _____

(5) Death is cosmic (Gen. 3:17-18)

- a. Scripture says along with death as the penalty for sin, God also curses _____
- b. After the fall, the world continues on, but creation now lies under God’s _____
- c. This world is marked not just by death, but _____, _____, and _____ (Rom. 8:20-22)
- d. Creation’s groaning points forward and looks forward to something _____

Conclusion: God tells us not just the _____ of death, but the _____ of death entering His world

- Physical death is an _____, _____ sign of eternal separation from God and life in Him
- Death forces us to reflect on _____ things. Death is an enemy, but it is also an _____
- God does not _____ these things to taunt or torment us
- God reveals these things in the opening pages of His Word to help us see our need for a _____
- At the beginning of Scripture we not only see the reality of death, but the reality of the _____
- The rest of Scripture tells of the generations of the woman’s offspring, from whom comes 1 who will crush the head of the _____, _____, and _____ (Heb. 2:9; 2 Tim. 1:10; Heb. 2:14)

Death lies ahead for each of us. But united to Christ, the Author of life, death only serves to bring us into the fullness of _____ and _____ life with Him and in Him.