



The Conquering of Death

1

The Problem of Death

- ¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Ge 2:15–17)
- Cain and Abel
- Genealogies
 - The repeated refrain: “...and he died.”

2

Dealing with Death

- Homer
- Plato
- Christianity

3

John's Prologue as a New Genesis

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
(Jn 1:1-5)

4

John 18-19

Maunder Thursday: Jesus and his disciples go to a garden to pray (Jn 18:1)

Good Friday: Jesus is dressed up like a king. Pilate announces to the crowd, "***Behold the man!***" (Jn 19:1–5)

Friday Evening: Jesus exclaims, "***It is finished,***" and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (Jn 19:30)

Jesus is laid in a tomb in a garden where he was crucified (Jn 19:41–42)

5

John 20

Easter Sunday:

- "Now ***on the first day of the week*** Mary Magdalene came to the tomb..." (Jn 20:1)
- "¹⁹On 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..." (Jn 20:19)

6

Easter as the New Creation

- ⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. (Jn 1:9-10)
- **20** ...Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, ***while it was still dark...***¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but ***she did not know that it was Jesus.*** (Jn 20:1, 14)

7

Easter as the New Creation

- ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.
 - Gethsemane – “Whom are you seeking?”
- ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God
 - At the tomb to Mary: “Whom are you seeking?”
 - ‘...my Father and your Father,...my God and your God.’ (Jn 20:17)
- ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
 - ²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. (Jn 20:22)
 - ⁷then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature (Ge 2:7)

8

The Defeat of Death

- Death is an intruder in God's good creation (Gen 3)
- Death is tied to sin
- If sin is defeated, death must be defeated
- ¹⁴ If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and ***your faith is in vain...***¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, ***your faith is futile*** and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Co 15:14–19)

9

Resurrected with Christ

- 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. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." (1 Co 15:20–27)

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- We are grafted into a new rootstock

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14

How are the dead raised?

- ³⁵ But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶ You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹ For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰ There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

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- ⁴² So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. (1 Co 15:35–44)

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