



April 20, 2025

Trampling Over Death by Death

Luke 24:1-12

Introduction

We believe in the literal physical resurrection of Jesus

Death doesn't have the last word, life, love wins. Death is defeated.

Still we see a lot of dying around us still

How are we to understand the whole picture?

What is Death?

Dismantling, disintegration, disorder, loss of energy, stasis

Opposite of life which is communion, synergy, momentum, growth

God is Life: step outside God's way and you enter into death

Sin is stepping outside God's way, away from life, thus it seeds death: **Romans 5:12, 6:23**

Devil is the manager, *evil* in the product, *sin* is the action, *death* is the result

The Irony of the Cross!

Jesus surrendered to death, death swallowed life, life disintegrated death from inside

Jesus turns death on itself—by asserting itself, death kills itself!

A great irony: death does to itself what it seeks to do others

On the cross there is a mystic cosmic reaction over all created reality: **Colossians 1:20**

This “life destroying death through death” dynamic we will call the “resurrection gene”

And that gene attaches itself to EVERY instance of sin death and evil anywhere and everywhere

Which means that every death seed will now will follow the pattern of the cross

Every instance of death will lead to **transformation** or **evaporation**

Excursus: The Big Picture

Why did God create in the first place?

Love in the Trinity. The Father wanted to express love to the Son.

Because the Bible ends with wedding feast with a Bride presented to the Son: **Revelation 19:6-8**

Thesis: the reason for the creation is to give a Bride (Beloved Community) to the Son

Image bearers placed in a world to BECOME worthy lovers of the Son through will

Like dough in the pan before rising in the oven.

The first creation then is **probationary**, a first phase, for image bearers to become a worthy bride

If all had gone well there would have been an eventual graduation: mortal to immortal

Perhaps like Jesus on the Mt. of Transfiguration, or Enoch, or Elijah

Instead humans opted for self-centeredness and pride which introduced death

Now two problems: 1) humans moving **away** from love, and 2) humans dying

God has two options: start over (either let this die out, or wipe out: think Noah)

Or, use the plague of evil/death to destroy itself and unwittingly vault His original plan forward

To do this He must become human and forfeit His life, and enters into death

But as Jesus has life in Himself, from inside death, He kills death, and installs the “resurrection gene”

Four Things That Must Pass Away

The former things of the probationary creation (mortal becoming immortal): **1 Corinthians 15:53**

Anything contaminated with or drained of vitality by participation in/contact with sin/evil: **Rev 21:27**

Active evil agency, embodied in the Devil: **Heb 2: 14**

The mechanism of death itself: **1 Corinthians 15:26; Revelation 20:14**

Death, former terrorist kidnapper, is now delivery boy, in three senses

Death is being used as a force of formation for the Beloved community: **2 Corinthians 4:11**

Death delivers some (those open to God) to be swallowed **into** life: **2 Corinthians 5:1-5**

Death delivers some (those resisting God) to be swallowed **by** life: **Revelation 20:15**

The Take Away Today

Jesus’ “resurrection gene” is now everywhere at work in the whole creation upending death

Every instance of death is a diminishment of itself!

And the vision for the Beloved Community as the Bride of Christ is on track to be a reality

Made possible by Jesus death and resurrection

The Bride/Beloved Community will have flowing in its vein the very life blood of Jesus

Which grants it legitimate entry into the very dance of the Trinity for all eternity.