

## “VICTORY OVER DEATH”

**Hebrews 2:14-18**

Message 1591

Death is one of the experiences nobody can avoid. King Solomon once said, “There is a time to die.” Yes, it seems quite clear to everybody that we have a time to be born and we have a time to die. Some people think we have nothing to do with our time to die, but we all know that the time will come. To live is a normal desire. We want to live our entire lifetime. I’m sure you do. So we have medicines to prolong life. We take a variety of steps to keep life going. We sometimes talk about the brittle thread of life.

Death is just around the corner. We never know, we can never be sure, when that moment may come. I am thankful that the Christian faith takes the sting out of death. It does so because we know that there is a life beyond death. The Bible tells us what that life will be like. Then the question is, how can you prepare for it? You must know how to prepare for it if you want be ready for death when it comes.

I want to talk to you about **VICTORY OVER DEATH** from Hebrews 2:14-18.

*14. Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

*15. And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

*16. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.*

*17. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.*

*18. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*

Oh! Praise the Lord! Here is victory over death, and as we examine this claim to victory over death, we should by all means note the **STAGES** of its development.

**THE STAGE OF MORTALITY** is the first stage in the development of victory over death. Death is a part of our existence. We were created, we were brought into a world where the life-death cycle is everywhere. The plants grow, form their seeds and die. Animals are born and they come to a time to die. Death is a part of our existence.

Death is also a part of our sinful existence. The Bible tells us, “The wages of sin is death.” It also says, “The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” But death is a part of our sinful existence as well as our natural existence.

We can say furthermore that death is a part of Satan’s plan. When he came to our first parents in the Garden of Eden, he told Eve that she would not surely die if she ate of the forbidden fruit. He said, “You shall not surely die.” But God had said, “In the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die.”

Here, then, is the first stage of the development of victory over death, the stage of mortality. We are informed in this text that Jesus took part of flesh and blood so He might be able to destroy him who has the power of death.

Death is a bondage, a very serious bondage from which we get no release unless we place our faith in Jesus. Jesus came to release us from this bondage. So in order to help us, He became one of us. Notice again just exactly how the Bible reads, “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.” You see? In order to help us, He became one of us. The first stage is His mortality.

**THE STAGE OF CENTRALITY** is another important part of the development of victory over death. I was especially interested to notice that Jesus took upon Him the nature of the seed of Abraham, not the nature of angels. There are other kinds of creatures, to be sure; there are animals, birds, creeping things, and angels. But Jesus didn’t take upon Him the nature of any of these.

There were other people, too, in the time of Abraham. There were Chaldeans, Horites, Hittites, and various other groups. But He didn’t take upon Him their nature; He took upon Him the nature of the seed of Abraham.

Now, you must remember, of course, that Abraham did have seed. He was the only one chosen; Abraham alone was the one chosen. God did not choose any other man to be the forefather of the Messiah, Jesus. It is very interesting to notice in the book of Genesis that there was a particular seed of Abraham. It was Abraham, then Isaac, then Jacob and the twelve patriarchs.

Now Abraham was chosen in God’s sovereign mind. We cannot raise any question or doubt about that. There was this stage of centrality. Somehow in the sovereign mind of God, He chose one man, Abraham, through whom Jesus Christ was going to take upon Himself flesh and blood. I can’t argue with that, can you? There is no way, because we know that is indeed the case.

**THE STAGE OF FINALITY** describes a third state. This victory over death was being brought into finality in order to reconcile us to God. Really, the only way that anyone can be reconciled to God is through the victory that Jesus Christ effected over death. Without that way there is no hope. But in that way there is hope.

This Scripture says He is to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. That means to bring us back to God. The stage of finality means that God has a way by which we can return unto Him; He will help us. There is wonderful consolation and comfort in the 18th verse, “For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to [rescue] those who are being tempted.” So He was made like us. He took upon Himself mortality so that He might be able to come to this finality of overcoming death, victory over death.

I understand by this Scripture that only by death can death be conquered. In this way, Jesus Christ came to destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil. We have no other way. God’s way is the only way that will work. My friend, I want you to be sure you understand. This is the stage of finality. There are no other ways, except the way that Jesus has designed.

Jesus has won the victory over death by His death and resurrection. So in these three stages we can see how God planned it all for us: the stage of mortality that He took upon Him flesh and blood, the stage of centrality that He took upon Him the seed of Abraham, and the stage of finality where there is no other

way. Believing in Him makes possible your victory. He is the one who has won the victory over death. Believe in Him now.