

## Hebrews 7:14-16

### The Promise of An Endless Life

God has promised us endless life, and He has established a King who can deliver on this promise. The king must be of a different sort. He must rule over a kingdom that has no end and no earthly comparison. He must be able to overcome all foes, including death... there is no hope in an earthly king, no hope in a king that has no eternal power or influence. And hope is needed or we will fail. If we have no hope then we give in to the power of the grave and the power of the kingdom of men. This kingdom and its King will be unlike any that has ever come before, it will be unlike any that will ever come after... it is the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of HIS prepared and chosen, and Kingdom, the King AND the life that He has promised us are based in who HE is, what He has done and has no root whatsoever in our work.

#### I. LIFE PROMISED AND DEFINED

A. From the very beginning of God's working with Israel as a nation He has been clear that life is a relationship with Him.

### **Deuteronomy 30:15–20**

B. His Word is a part of that life

*Deuteronomy 32:45–47 (NKJV): 45 Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel, 46 and he said to them: “Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe—all the words of this law. 47 For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess.”*

C. The Word is that which testifies of Jesus

*John 5:39–40 (NKJV): 39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.*

D. God has given unto Christ the power to give life  
- but it is still defined as a relationship with Jesus, with God.

### **John 6:35–40**

*John 10:10–11 (NKJV): 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come*

*that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. 11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.*

*John 17:1–3 (NKJV): 17 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

## **II. LIFE CAST AWAY**

- A. Man sinned in the garden
- B. Rebellion bred death
- C. In his refusal to believe that God was the life he needed our first father Adam attempted to be his own life, his own God and death entered into creation for WE are not life unto ourselves. We do not have the power to give life, NOR do we have the capacity on our own to make life worth living.

- D. This is part of the root cause of the despair that has destroyed our land, ruined our lives and robbed us of our joy.
- E. Last week we talked about the fact that an endless life MUST have something as a goal, a purpose that is strong enough and grand enough to sustain that endless reality.
- F. We continue to walk in the destruction of that rebellion for no one seeks after God, we have all gone after that which is not life in the hope of obtaining what we threw away in our abandonment of God, His Son and His law.

### **III. ATONEMENT REQUIRED AND PREPARED**

- A. God must be desired - and we do not desire Him on our own.
  - 1. We are not able to do what is needed for we cannot create life... where none exists. Since God is the source of life, we must be returned to Him to find that life which is gone.
  - 2. Paul describes God in Romans 4.17 in these words - "God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did"

3. It is God who alone can make the dead live; who can call the rebel to surrender and in the power of the call create that which is commanded. Since His Word is life, the power of life goes where His Spirit speaks the Word.
- B. But there is still guilt which must be dealt with...

1. The law of God provides a way for which sin is to be atoned - the death of a substitute in the place of the guilty. In the OT the substitute was the life of animals. Bulls, goats, sheep, etc. The price of rebellion, remember was death. Separation from life, and more, separation from God who IS life.

*Leviticus 17:11 (NKJV): 11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'*

2. The structure was established to transfer guilt from the people to the sacrifice...
3. During the day of atonement this was a two-staged exchange.
  - a. Two goats were selected, and a lot was cast between them.

- b. One was to be sacrificed for the sin of the people,
  - c. The other was called the scapegoat, and the sin was confessed over this goat, and he was to bear the guilt outside of the camp of the people and carry it away into the wilderness.
  - d. Thus sin was removed, and guilt was paid for...
  - e. This symbolic act was the temporary demonstration of God which pointed to the work He would accomplish on the cross.
- C. The dilemma is that no animal's blood could ever take away sin.

*Hebrews 10:4 (NKJV) <sup>4</sup> For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.*

- D. Since our sin was not actually being removed, God was merely putting off the required payment to a future date and a greater payment.

E. This was accomplished in the death of Jesus.

*Romans 3:23–26 (NKJV) <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood,*

*through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, <sup>26</sup> to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

#### **IV. LAMB PREPARED**

A. It is important to understand that this was ALWAYS the plan. God ALWAYS intended Jesus to be the atonement for sin, even before the world was made...

1. Revelation 13.8 calls Jesus the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world".
2. Revelation 17.8 announces that those in the book of life have been there since the foundation of the world...
3. Ephesians 1.4 attests that we were chosen "in Him before the foundation of the world"

B. This was ALWAYS the plan, and God is always telling His people just what the plan is...

*Amos 3:7–8 (NKJV): Surely the Lord God does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. 8 A lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord God has spoken! Who can but prophesy?*

C. Jesus Christ is the answer to every single one of God's promises!

*“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20, NKJV)*

D. This was especially important for the disciples to understand, for they were about to witness the unravelling of all their expectations for Jesus. They thought that He would bring back the earthly throne of David, they thought He would overthrow Rome, they expected a million things of Him that He could have provided... but they did not expect the one thing He was going to give them - despite the fact that He told them over and over again just what was coming and what He was really doing...

E. This same dilemma faces us today. If our expectation of Jesus is out of alignment with His Word, if our expectation of LIFE itself is out of alignment with His truth then we WILL be disappointed

F. Remember the definition of life... to KNOW God, to KNOW His Son... This restoration is what Jesus came to bring. For the real consequence of our



rebellion was the destruction of our relationship with God. Every man, woman and child who has ever been born into this world of natural parents, has entered it without a living soul... without a vital relationship with his creator.

*“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”*

*(Ephesians 2:1–3, NKJV)*

G. This is the great need of our lives and the restoration of life to the dead by the power of God is the promise of God to all who believe.

*“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same*

*Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”” (Romans 10:9–13, NKJV)*

## **V. STONES CRYING OUT**

- A. When Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem the final time, He was coming to fulfill the role of sacrifice AND scapegoat in one. He was bringing the only sacrifice that could ever actually pay for sin, and what is more, since He was taking our sin upon Himself He was actually removing the guilt that kept us apart from God.
- B. His death became the one hope we can rely upon.

### **2Corinthians 5.21**

- C. This is the proclamation that was being uttered when the people cried out Hosannah! It means God Save Us! And although the people were talking about Rome, God was speaking of the saving He was coming to do. The promised throne of David WAS actually about to be established and the declaration of the faithfulness of God was so profoundly present that even if the whole of the city was silent, the

very stones themselves would have cried out to rejoice at the fulfillment of the promise.

D. It is the same today. This is the one hope upon which we can rely. The sure promise of God is that He will grant life to all who place their faith and trust in Jesus.

E. Consider the perspective of Paul -

*1 Corinthians 15:19 (NKJV): 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.*

F. Or think on the words of John...

*1 John 5:11–13 (NKJV): 11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

*1 John 5:20 (NKJV): 20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*

- G. Both of these men attest to the simple fact that life without Jesus forever is NOT life. But both also attest to the truth that this has been the everlasting promise of God and that He has kept His promise to us.
- H. This promise has been entrusted to us, we have been called to share it, to live it to attest to its truth and to eagerly await its final consummation in the return of our God and Savior Jesus Christ. Be sure that God both requires and delights in the faithful declaration of His people to a lost and dying world.