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THE BRIEF

Brief
#107

The Last Enemy that Will be Destroyed?

Adam's failure to trust in, and obey, the word of God resulted in his authority being removed and his life terminated,

You (God) made (Gr. elattoo; decreased in authority; lessened in rank, or influence) him a little lower than the angels.... (Hebrews 2:7a; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Therefore, only Christ could be relied upon to provide the necessary "atonement" for every repentant sinner. Otherwise, all the disobedient angels and human beings would inherit everlasting death,

For the wage paid by sin is death.... (Romans 6:23a; cf. Proverbs 10:16; The Jerusalem Bible; emphasis added).

Then the desire (to transgress God's law) conceives and gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it too has a child, and the child is (everlasting) death (James 1:15; The Jerusalem Bible; Ed. notes in parentheses).

It is probably not a coincidence that Christ asked his Father whether there was yet another way that could provide the atonement necessary for repentant sinners to inherit everlasting life, but in reality, Adam was the last resort and he failed,

He (Christ) went a little farther and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, "O my Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." (Matthew 26:39; Ed. Note in parenthesis; emphasis added).



For the Wage Paid by Sin is Death

Thankfully, Christ went through a horrible death to emphasize how serious sin is, and the extent to which he and his Father were prepared to go to in order to vanquish this scourge on humanity,

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³*But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at his coming* (first resurrection of the dead). ²⁴*Then comes the end* (Gr. talos; ultimate fulfillment of God's plan of salvation), *when he (Christ) delivers the kingdom to God the Father* (following the second resurrection of the dead; cf. Rev. 20:4-6), *when he puts an end to* (Gr. katargeo; abolishes) *all rule and all authority and power.* ²⁵*For he must reign till he has put all enemies under his feet.* ²⁶***The last enemy that will be destroyed is (everlasting) death*** (1Cor. 15:22-26; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

So, Christ and his Father have always been working diligently (cf. Jn. 5:17), since the rebellion of Satan, to restore peace and harmony within the family of God. However, the primary source that consistently works against peace and harmony is Satan. Therefore, until the devil is dealt with, turmoil and death will continue,

*Inasmuch then as the children (of Adam) have partaken of flesh and blood, he himself (Christ) likewise shared in the same, that through death he might destroy **him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,*** ¹⁵*and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage* (of deception, leading to sinful conduct and death; cf. Rev. 12:9) (Hebrews 2:14-15; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

In "The Brief #108", Satan's cunning schemes will be exposed, and the good news of everlasting life explained.