

Monday,
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THE BRIEF

Brief
#108

Death Reigned through the One.

In The Brief #107, it was shown that the enemy of mankind is death (cf. 1Cor. 15:26), and Satan currently has the power to make sure that death reigns, or continues unchallenged (cf. Heb. 2:14),

*For if by one man's offense (trespass; sin) **death reigned through the one**, much more those who receive abundance of grace (forgiveness of sin) and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life (everlasting) through the One, Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses).*

Satan's ability to make sure death reigns is based on his cunning schemes to manipulate and deceive mankind about God's word, which is the only reliable source of truth. By doing this effectively, it guarantees that sin and death will continue. However, if Satan's existence was clearly understood and his clandestine actions exposed, he would begin to lose his control as more and more people would see the connection between their sinful conduct and subsequent death sentence. Repentance of sin would then follow and even though people would still die, it would be not be permanent as Christ confirmed,

*Jesus said to her (Martha), "I am the resurrection and the life (everlasting). He who believes in me (that includes his teachings; cf. Mt. 19:16-17), **though he may die, he shall live** (John 11:25; cf. 3:16, 36; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

It is important to note that Satan's "*modus operandi*" has not changed since the creation of Adam.



You Will Not Surely Die

*You (Jewish religious leaders) are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. **He** was a murderer from the beginning, and **does not stand in the truth** (of God), **because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it** (John 8:44; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

One of Satan's most popular lies today is very similar to the one he told Eve,

*And the serpent (Satan; cf. Rev. 12:9) said to the woman, "**You will not surely die.**"⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:4-5; Ed. note in parenthesis).*

But Adam was told not to entertain Satan's ideas and values because they were contrary to God's and would harm he and his wife. However, Satan lied and said that his values would not harm them. He argued that his values would enable them to become "*like God*"; implying that they could disobey God's command and still enjoy everlasting life. The truth was that God knew they were not yet capable of fully grasping "*the consequences of Satan's values*", which led to sin and death. This is why God commanded Adam to avoid interacting with Satan, who is metaphorically compared to "*the tree (symbol of a spirit being; cf. Eze. 31:16-18) of the knowledge of good and evil*". Today, Satan's message is the same; you can disobey God's word, and still go to heaven when you die. Therefore, you don't "*technically*" die, which is the same lie Satan told Eve. But here is God's truth on this subject,

*For the living know that they will die; but **the dead know nothing...** (Eccl. 9:5a; emphasis added).*

*.... for **there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going** (Eccl. 9:10b; cf. Job 14:10-12; emphasis added).*

The dead do not praise the Lord, nor any who go down into silence (Psalm 115:17; cf. 146:4; emphasis added).

Specifically, Satan lied to Adam about God's word/truth, and continues to embellish upon similar lies to the present day,

In The Brief #109, we will examine another method used by Satan to deceive mankind.

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