

April 4, 2021

"He is not here; He has risen!" Luke 24:6-7

One has to consider the four thousand years of death that came before Jesus, to really appreciate the magnitude of what took place on that resurrection morning. Death had been a certainty in the world ever since sin poached man's allegiance from God. For four thousand plus years God had worked to re-establish a covenant with man, but sin's degradation of humanity resulted in their unwillingness to keep their part of the covenant.

So Jesus came. God and man combined. He lived to fulfill the covenants that had been broken over the preceding years. Then, despite fulfilling the human side of the covenants, Jesus also took upon Himself the penalties of sin. He took on death--that certain outcome for all born under sin.

Jesus died. He **died!** He laid His life down on the cross—subjected Himself to death—and then picked His life back up again in victory for us all. Thus, when he was resurrected, death was truly defeated.

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! 1 Corinthians 15:55-57.

The Lord, fully aware of our flawed and sinful condition, sent His son to fulfill the covenant for us. Jesus is the 'better promise' upon which the new covenant is built. Jesus lived the life that fulfilled the covenant. Jesus died the death to satisfy the wages of sin. And on that first Easter morning 2,000 years ago, Jesus rose in victory over death.

All who accept Jesus Christ can share in this victory over death.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10