**R919\_Rumination for Sept. 04, 2022**

The **T**heme: **A Time to Die** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *A time to be born, and a time to die…* Eccl. 3:2

The **T**hots:

Intro. How did Death come about? Why must we Die?

1. **God’s Command** **regarding the Enjoyment of His Creation. Gen. 2:16, 17**
2. **E**njoy and **E**at All: *The LORD God commanded…Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.* 2:16
3. But**E**at not*…of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it:*

*For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely* ***die****.* 2:17

1. **Satan’s Conspiracy** **to twist God’s Command. Gen. 3:1**
2. He quot**ed** God – *“Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”*
3. He twist**ed** what God said: *Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof,*

*then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.* Gen. 3:4b, 5

1. **Man’s Commitment of Sin** **with the Woman**.
2. The **D**esire: *When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes,*

 *and a tree to be desired to make one wise,* Gen. 3:6

1. The **D**eed*: she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat…gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*
2. The **D**eath: *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin;*

 *and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*: Rom. 5:12

1. The **D**ust of **D**eath: *dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.* Gen. 3:19
2. **The Consequence** **of Sin** **- Continuation of sin down the ages. Rom. 5:12**
3. *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin;*

*and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*:

1. *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:* Rom. 3:10
2. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;* Rom. 3:23
3. *For the wages of sin is death;* Rom. 6:23a
4. **The Commission to Save Sinful Man.**
5. God’s **C**ompassion for **S**inful Man that He **S**ent His **S**on, Jesus to Save him. John 3:16
6. ***G****od so loved the world, that He* ***G****ave His only begotten Son –* Jesus
7. *She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS:*

*for He shall save His people from their sins. ­*Mt. 1:21

1. *Lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* Mt. 3:17
2. *John seeth Jesus…saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.* Jn. 1:29
3. *The* ***G****ift of* ***G****od is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord* Rom. 6:23b

*In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son*

*into the world, that we might live through Him.* I Jn. 4:9

1. The **G**uarantee: *He that hath the Son hath life…he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.* I Jn. 5:12
2. **C**hrist’s **C**ommitment to **S**ave **S**inful Man – He died for all!

*God commendeth His love toward us, in that…*

1. Christ **D**ied for us.
2. ***W****hile we were yet* ***S****inners, Christ died for us*. Rom. 5:8
3. ***W****hen we were yet without* ***S****trength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.* Rom. 5:6
4. ***W****hen we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his* ***S****on,*

*much more, being reconciled, we shall be* ***S****aved by His life.* Rom. 5:10

1. Christ’s **C**onquest of **D**eath to **S**ave us – He Rose again from the dead! I Cor. 15:54-57
2. *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.*

*O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

1. *The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.*

*But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1. No more **C**ondemnation for those in **C**hrist. Rom. 8:1
2. *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.*
3. *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.* Jn. 5:24
4. Christ’s **C**ommission to those who have His life: I Cor. 11:23, 24

 *The Lord Jesus the same night in which He was betrayed took bread: And when He had given thanks,*

 *He brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.*

*O death where is thy sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
O keys of hell, why change Ye hands at Calvary?
Lo, on that hill God’s wrath was placed,*

 *Our sins erased, And death made nil.* [S. Po­po­vich](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/p/o/p/o/popovich_s.htm)

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 919**

1. Are you afraid to Face Death? Some people and some cultures would not even allow such a word to be mentioned or asked. They are superstitious and would jinx such questions. But Death is a reality. Whether a person likes it or not, he or she has to face it one day. The Bible states very clearly, “*It is appointed unto men once to die…”* (Heb. 9:27)

Consider how some men in the Bible faced this question:

The Psalmist **F**aced it without **F**ear –

He declared: *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me*. (Psa. 23:4)

Elijah **F**orlorn after his **F**ight with the **F**alse prophets wished for death: I Kgs. 19:4

*But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now,*

 *O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.*

Hezekiah **F**orewarned of his **F**uture Death pleaded for an extension of Life: II Kgs. 20:1-6

His **P**rospect: *In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. The prophet Isaiah…said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.*20:1

His **P**leading: *I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before Thee in*

 *truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in Thy sight.*

 *And Hezekiah wept sore.* 20:3

His **P**rayer Answered: *Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people,*

 *Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD. And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.* 20:5, 6

Jonah **F**elt **F**orsaken and **F**rustrated when God **F**orgave Nineveh. He wanted to die.

*Wherefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me;*

*for it is better for me to die than to live.* Jon. 4:3

*And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.* Jon. 4:8

Jesus **F**oreknew He had to die in His mission

*From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto His disciples, how that He must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.* Mt. 16:21

Jesus had to die to take our place, so that we could live!

To prove that He had accomplished all that for us, God raised Him from the dead.

Jesus is the only Person on earth Who died, rose again and never to die anymore!

Thus, He is able to claim:

*I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen* Rev. 1:18

There is no one on earth in all history who could make such a claim.

Thus, He now can offer Life to those who are dead in sin:

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.* Jn. 5:24. For those who believe, there is now no more fear of death! **REFLECT**

1. Apostle John wrote in I John 5:11-12, NKJV **–** *And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

Do you have this eternal life in order not to fear death?

John also wrote: in John 3:3 *– Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.* **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:**

*If you are born once, you will die twice; if you are born twice, you will only die once!*