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Casting Off the Cords of Death?—P3

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12 NASB).

Since the Fall, man has dreamed of breaking through the boundaries God has placed on him, which constrain his evil desires—David prophesied about this conspiracy in Psalm 2.

Another boundary, “cord,” or “fetter” that the great men of the earth are trying to cast off today is DEATH because it brings an end to each man’s will, desires, and work in the world. Death is a limit and a restraint on what he can do and how long he can do it. As billionaire technologist Larry Ellison declares, “death makes me very angry,” and billionaire Peter Thiel sees death as man’s “great enemy.”

From the Fall, man has sought after fountains of youth, elixirs of life, and alchemy, but today he believes he will finally achieve this dream through his increase in “*knowledge*” (Daniel 3:4). In 2015 news headlines ran: “Tech Titan’s Latest Project: Defy Death” and “Fixing the ‘problem’ of ageing is the mission of Silicon Valley, where billions is pouring into biotech firms working to ‘hack the code’ of life – despite concerns about the social implications.” Thiel says, “The great unfinished task of the modern world is to turn death from a fact of life into a problem to be solved — a problem towards whose solution I hope to contribute in whatever way I can...I think our society is dominated by people who are into denial or acceptance, and I prefer to fight it.”

While the desire to escape the bonds of death is very real, God has placed that boundary in man’s way, as Job reflected: “[man’s] days are determined, the number of his months is with You; and his limits You have set so that he cannot pass” (Job 14:5). God “*made from*

one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation” (Acts 17:26).

Even so, God does not bear responsibility for placing this boundary in man’s way. He did not cause man’s death. Man bears the guilt for his own death, because it is the outcome of his rebellion against God—the judgment God warned Adam and Eve would happen should they rebel. And when Adam and Eve followed Lucifer’s rebellion and tried to make themselves “*like God*” (Isaiah 14:14), God upheld this righteous judgment. The ONLY way to overcome “*the cords of death*” (Psalm 18:4a) and obtain immortality is through repenting of our rebellion to God and being reconciled to Him in His mercy by the blood of Jesus Christ—Jesus paid the price required by God’s judgment through His death for your rebellion as He stood in your place and “*abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel*” (2 Timothy 1:10).

But man is unwilling to surrender his rebellion in exchange for eternal life by reconciliation to God through Jesus. Man wants to be able to continue deciding for himself what is “*good and evil*” (Genesis 3:5) without suffering the consequence of death in himself. So, in the eyes of the rulers and powers, God and His Anointed stand in their way, and so they conspire to “*burst their bonds*” (Psalm 2:3). Like Lucifer, they will not succeed, for though he tried with all his rebellious might to make himself like God, he “*will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit*” (Isaiah 14:15b).

It seems that God will allow man a taste of his desire during the Tribulation when, ironically, “*men will seek death and will not find it; they will long to die, and death flees from them*” (Revelation 9:6). Be careful what you wish for—only Jesus will truly abolish death (1 Corinthians 15:23-26). Even so, Amen.

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