

WE NEVER NEED TO FEAR DEATH – Part 1

*v1 Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. v2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, v3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. v4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. v5 Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. v6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. v7 We live by faith, not by sight. v8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. v9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. v10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. **2 Corinthians 5:1-10***

I. We never need to fear death because we have a CERTAIN FUTURE.

1. We have a CERTAIN FUTURE because “WE KNOW” about the future – v1 Now we know...

There are two words in Greek that are interpreted as “KNOW” in our English bible. The problem with this is that they have very different meanings in Greek.

The first Greek word is 'ginosko' and refers to “experiential or relational” knowledge. I “KNOW” chocolate is nice because I have experienced it to taste.

The second Greek word is 'eido' and refers to “intuitive or factual” knowledge, like seeing or being aware of something. I “KNOW” this is a BIBLE because I can SEE that it is one.

“WE KNOW” about the future, BECAUSE WE HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE.

WE HAVE SEEN THE FUTURE BECAUSE WE HAVE SEEN JESUS!!!

1 John 1:1-3 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. v2 The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. v3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

2. We have a CERTAIN FUTURE because “WE HAVE” a “BUILDING” – v1 we have a building from God...

There are again two words in Greek that are interpreted as “WE HAVE” in our English bible. The problem with this once again is that they have very different meanings in Greek.

The first Greek word is 'ἔσμεν (esmen)' and refers to “we have” as a state of being, identity, or existence. “I HAVE” grey/white hair.

The second Greek word is 'ἔχω (ekh'-o)’ and refers to “to have, to hold, to possess”. It is used to describe possession or a condition. I “HAVE” a BIBLE because it belongs to me.

“WE HAVE” a “BUILDING”, BECAUSE JESUS HAS PROMISED TO GIVE US ONE!!!

John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. v3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Job 19:25-26 I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. v26 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God;

Philippians 3:20-21 And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ... v21 will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

3. We have a CERTAIN FUTURE because “GOD MADE US” for this purpose – v5 Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose ...

There is a wonderful word used in the Greek translated “who has made us” in our English bible. The word is “Katergazomai”.

The Greek word means “TO WORK AT SOMETHING UNTIL THE TASK IS ACCOMPLISHED”.

1. to perform, accomplish, achieve
2. to work out i.e. to do that from which something results
3. to fashion i.e. render one fit for a thing

The word is used in: **Philippians 2:12-13** Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to **work out** your salvation with fear and trembling, v13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Romans 5:3-5 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering **produces** perseverance; v4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. v5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

GOD DOES NOT FAIL IN ANYTHING HE DOES. HE WILL CARRY YOU ALL THE WAY. HE WILL NEVER LET YOU GO.

Philippians 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

We have a CERTAIN FUTURE because “GOD MADE US” for this purpose

4. We have a CERTAIN FUTURE because the HOLY SPIRIT is “GOD’S SECURITY GUARANTEE” regarding the future – v5 *Now it is God ... has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come...*

The Greek, “*ar-hrab-ohn*”, interpreted as “GUARANTEEING” is our English bible has a very interesting background. It literally means “**money which in purchases is given as a pledge or downpayment that the full amount will subsequently be paid**” – We would call to a “Lay-Buy”, but it much stronger than that.

The background to this word is found in the Old Testament in Genesis 38, which tells the strange story of Judah and Tamar. In this chapter:

1. Judah marries Shua and has three sons with her, Er, Onan and Shelah.
2. Later Judah finds wives for his sons. The wife for Er is a girl called Tamar.
3. Er is declared wicked in the eyes of the Lord, and the Lord puts him to death.
4. Judah then tells Onan to sleep with Tamar in order to fulfil what was then the legal responsibility of Onan.
5. Onan did all he could to prevent Tamar from falling pregnant, because he knew if Tamar had a son, that son would get a double portion of Judah inheritance.
6. Onan is also declared wicked in the eyes of the Lord, and the Lord puts him to death.
7. Judah then sends Tamar back to her family and tells her to wait until Shelah was old enough to sleep with her to produce an heir.
8. A while later Judah’s wife, Shua, dies.
9. After the allotted time of mourning, Judah meets up with Shua father, and they go to shear sheep. Maybe a nice way to say, GOING OUT WITH THE BOYS.
10. When Tamah hears the Judah was coming to “TOWN”, she dresses up as a prostitute and seduces Judah to sleep with her for the price of one sheep.
11. HOWEVER, before Tamar sleeps with Judah, she insists that Judah provide, AN ARABON (something to guarantee payment). We read this in:
Genesis 38:18 He said, "What pledge should I give you?" "Your seal and its cord, and the staff in your hand," she answered. So he gave them to her and slept with her, and she became pregnant by him.
12. Later Judah then tries to send a goat to redeem his ARABON, however, the servant who was sent could not find Tamar (aka, the prostitute.)
13. After a while, Judah wants to send his third son, Shelah, to sleep with Tamar to produce an heir, but when he discovers Tamar is pregnant, Judah refuses to send Shelah.
14. Tamar then reveals that Judah was the “MAN” responsible for her pregnancy by bringing out the ARABON of the “SEAL AND CORD”.
15. Later when Tamar gives birth, she gives birth to a set of twins. In the process of giving birth, one child’s hand appears first. The midwife ties a scarlet cord around the arm, and the arm goes back in. The “second” child then is born first and is given the name Perez, then the one with the cord is born and called Zerah.

WHY IS THIS STORY SO IMPORTANT FOR US?

1. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE “ENGAGEMENT RING” BETWEEN THE GROOM(JESUS) AND HIS BRIDE(THE CHURCH)

Tamar demanded a “RING”. In Hebrew this is *chathan* which is a *signet or ring* with the family seal on it that was usually hung by a leather strap around the neck of the eldest son of the family. *Chathan* is often a word used to show a *marriage or family relationship*. This was a woman posing as a prostitute who was really Judah’s daughter in law. According to the Talmud Sota 10a she was an Israelite who was now seeking to carry on the family line with a child from Judah himself. It is fitting she asked for his *chathan or symbol of the family relationship and marriage*. Before she had a sexual relationship, she wanted to keep it on the up and up and demanded his *chathan or marriage/family ring*. Technically, she was getting married to the Judah, which the Talmud later explains happened.

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE “CORD” BETWEEN US and GOD.

Tamar demanded a “CORD”. In Hebrew this is a *pathal or a cord*. This was really the leather string that held the family ring. But this is no ordinary leather string; a *pathal is an ornamental, strap, intertwined with lace and silk and highly decorative*. Such *pathal(s) or cords* were later used to on the prayer shawl of the Sanhedrin as the religious leaders of the day..

It’s connection to the future is found in Ezekiel 40-42, which says.

Ezekiel 40:2-3 In visions of God he took me to the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain, on whose south side were some buildings that looked like a city. v3 He took me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze; he was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand.

This man, whose appearance is described as being like bronze, uses the linen cord and a measuring rod to measure a future temple and its associated structures. The linen cord symbolizes divine order, holiness, and precision, representing God’s plan to restore His people and establish a new, holy temple.

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE “STAFF” or SYMBOL OF A “TRIBE”.

Tamar demanded a “STAFF”. This was again, no ordinary *staff*, it was a *matteh* in the Hebrew. This was a *rod that was a symbol or badge of a leader, or ruler*.

In the Talmud and Genesis Rabbah goes even further to explain that

1. the *signet or chathan* was also the symbol of the *royal line and the house of David* from which the Messiah would descend.
2. The cord or *pathal*, as mentioned earlier, was the symbol of the *Sanhedrin the ultimate authority in explaining and fulfilling Hebrew law*
3. and finally the *matteh or staff* is the symbol of the *Messiah Himself*.

Jesus was in direct descent of the House of David, who fulfilled the law of God and was the Messiah.

Oh, and one other thing. As a result of this union with Judah a son was born, named Perez who was the great, great, great...grandfather of Jesus. In the Ethiopic or Ge’ez version of the Torah, we find that Perez was to become the king of Persia. About 900 years later Wise Men from Persia came to visit one of their king’s great, great, great...grandchild.