

Hebrews 2:14-3:1 Victory

Seek and Destroy missions are a part of military strategy just as much as Search and Rescue missions are.

A) This past week America rejoiced as an Enemy was brought to Justice in a Covert Mission.

B) An Enemy was put down and destroyed – A nemesis to society is no more.

1) Definite cause for Celebration.

C) But I have an even better story to share – A greater enemy has been destroyed

1) SEE Jesus employed his own Seek and destroy mission 2000 yrs ago.

Cc) His mission was also a Search and Rescue mission. - Enemy destroyed – WE were rescued!

D) The Impact of the Victory is still as powerful today as it was when the mission was first accomplished.

The passage we are looking at tonight/today tells us three reasons why Jesus came.

#1 To Destroy our greatest enemy.

#2 To rescue man from bondage.

#3 To continue to help and assist believers as their beloved High Priest.

Read the Passage Ch.2:14-3:1

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, {He became a human being – left the glory of Heaven and made himself a little lower than the Angels for this purpose.}

That through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, {He didn't come to rescue fallen Angels – now Demons.} - but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. {Abraham is the father of faith – All who put their faith in Jesus are of the seed of Abraham.}

17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. {Propitiation = Satisfy the payment for sin =death.}

18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. Heb 3:1

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

So the Writer of Hebrews tells us

#1 Jesus became a man to destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

Wait a second you say: The Devil is not destroyed – I can look at this messed up world and know He is alive and well.

A) Understand the word – The word destroy used here is not annihilated.

B) The Devil has not been put down – not yet- at least.

C) The Greek word for destroy is katargeo – it means to make idle, make ineffective, to render inactive. To nullify or bring to nothing.

D) See the Devil still has a weapon but in the life of the believer it has been put out of commission.

1) Like a Tank that no longer runs or shoots it simple sits there to look intimidating.

E) It sits there as a reminder of the power that it once had.

Did the devil create death?

A) Death was the divine sentence against sinners pronounced in the Garden (Gen. 2:17).

"Death is the awful reality of divine judgment, not satanic victory," wrote Philip Hughes.

B) Death was the penalty for man's sin!

1) Spiritual death was first – Separation

Bb) Followed by Physical death – The body would one day shut down and cease to exist.

C) That can Result in Eternal death- separated from God for all of eternity. Banished to live an existence of utter torment.

D) In his role as man's adversary – the devil can demand that the penalty be paid.

But the Devil's power over death has been conquered by a MIGHTIER WEAPON- Eternal life!

A) Jesus became a man – to pay the Price for Sin – HE DIED – in our place. - took our punishment.

**B) There was a casualty in the mission – It was his!
1) For a brief moment – Hell had thought that they won! – The Son of God has been Killed!**

Jesus didn't stay dead – He rose! – Beat death.

A) Made a way for those who would put their trust in Him – beat death.

B) So that now in the life of the believer death is no longer a banishment, it is a return from exile, it is going home.

C) In 1 Corinthians 15 Paul beautifully lays out what now awaits the believer in Jesus Christ in death.

1) Death is a passage – this mortal puts on immortality – New bodies – new home.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

55 "O Death, where is your sting?
O Hades, where is your victory?"

56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

C) 2 Corinthians 5:8 "To be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord."

Philippians 1:21

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

D) Listen for the unbeliever – this world is as good as it gets – all down hill from here. No party's in Hell.

1) For the believer the opposite is true – better – Upward and onward from here.

Which is why a believer in Jesus doesn't need to fear death.

#2 Jesus became a man to rescue us from the fear of Death. Release = rescue

According to most surveys that have been done – the #1 fear that most people have is public speaking. Followed by #2 Death!

Reality – Give a short speech or be killed – the majority would give the speech.

A) Death is the number one fear of man!

Someone has written, There is a **preacher of the old school** but he speaks as **boldly as ever**. He is not popular, though the world is his parish and he travels every part of the **globe and speaks in every language**.

He **visits the poor, calls upon the rich**, preaches to people of every religion and no religion, and the subject of his sermon is always the same. He is an eloquent preacher, often stirring feelings which no other preacher could, and bringing tears to eyes that never weep.

His arguments none are able to refute, nor is there any heart that has remained unmoved by the force of this appeals. He shatters life with his message. **Most people hate him; everyone fears him**. His name? **Death**.

Every tombstone is his pulpit, every newspaper prints his text, and someday every one of you will be his sermon.

Stats on death are impressive – 10 out of 10 die!

A) People are afraid to die – Because of

- 1) Separation from family – loved ones.
- 2) Sometimes pain.
- 3) The unknown
- 4) Non being – Atheist.

Pastor Kent Hughes tells of the novelist William Somerset Maugham, who at the age of ninety treated death smugly.

“There are moments when I have so palpitating an eagerness for death that I could fly to it as to the arms of a lover...I am drunk with the thought of it. It seems to me to offer me the final and absolute freedom...I neither believe in immortality nor desire it. I should like to die quietly and painlessly, and I am content to be assured that with my last breath, my soul, with its aspirations and its weaknesses, will dissolve into nothingness.”

Maugham seemed to almost brag about having no fear of death. But a year later the novelist hovered at the brink of death and his tone changed.

Maugham's Mediterranean villa and the accompanying servants were the envy of the wealthy on the Riviera. But as he approached death, none of this seemed important. His visiting nephew records what took place.

The following afternoon, I found Willie reclining on a sofa, peering through his spectacles at a Bible which had very large print.

He looked horribly shriveled, and his face was grim. "I've been reading the Bible you gave me...and I've come across the quotation: *'What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?'*

I must tell you, my dear Robin, that the text used to hang opposite my bed when I was a child.... Of course, it's all a lot of bunk. But the thought is quite interesting all the same."

That evening in the drawing room after dinner, Willie flung himself down onto the sofa. "Oh, Robin, I'm so tired...." He gave a gulp and buried his head in his hands.... Willie looked up and his grip tightened on my hands. He was staring towards the floor.

His face was contorted with fear, and he was trembling violently. Willie's face was ashen as he stared in horror ahead of him.

Suddenly, he began to shriek. "**Go away!**" he cried. "**I'm not ready.... I'm not dead yet....I'm not dead yet, I tell you....**"

His **high-pitched terror-struck voice** seemed to echo from wall to wall. I looked round, but the room was empty as before.”

“Voices from the edge of eternity.”

UNDERSTAND

It WAS NOT the physical pain of death that wrenched the soul of this man; it was the stark reality of entering into the realm of darkness, unprepared for what he faced.

See the #1 Reason people fear death is Judgment.

A) That is what the person who is living apart from God is always trying to escape- put out of his mind.

B) The stark reality and inner conviction – there is a God – and one day I will answer to Him!

C) But the opposite is true for the Believer in Jesus Christ – don't fear death – I look forward to it.

1) Death is not the end – it is the beginning.
Jerome – Peace.

D) Simeon – Depart in peace.

1) Boat – Made to sail – these bodies are limited

S0 For the believer Death is a passage!

A) We don't fear seeing God – Jesus was judged in our place – WE will be rewarded.

B) We don't fear death because – No more pain

1) Fully known - Know all things

C) We don't fear death because it means we will be more alive than ever!

The hope of the Christian is expressed by the epitaph Benjamin Franklin wrote for himself, engraved on his tombstone in the cemetery of Christ's Church in Philadelphia:

“The body of Benjamin Franklin, printer, like the cover of an old book, its contents torn out and

stripped of its lettering and gilding, lies here food for worms. But the work will not be lost, for it will appear once more in a new and more elegant edition, revised and corrected by the Author.”

So our enemy has been destroyed –rendered in active and we have been rescued –set free from the bondage of being in fear of death.

A) But we are still living in this fallen world – still struggle with the flesh. –

B) Still battle with the Devil. – Do we simply live waiting to die?

1) No not at all -

C) See that brings us to the 3rd reason the author points out that Jesus became a man.

#3 Jesus became a man to be our High Priest!

17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Now this is the first time that Jesus is referred to as our High Priest in the NT

A) This is the major theme in the book of Hebrews.
Ch.3 -13 mentions this term 17 times.

B) The ministry that Jesus has right now as our high Priest.

1) The role that He wants to play in our lives as we live for Him in this fallen world.

C) To many of us the idea of a Priest is a bit foreign because we did not come out of that kind of religious back ground.

But in Israel – The High Priest was the Chief spiritual leader in Israel.

A) He had special clothes that separated him from the rest of the Priest and the people.

B) His Job was to represent the people before God – and God before the people.

1) He was the spokesman for both.

C) It was the High Priest and the High Priest alone who could go into the Holy of Holies –

1) Only once a year – Day of ATONEMENT.

Sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice – mercy seat

D) To many in Israel the High Priest just seemed larger than life – so far above them –

1) So spiritual.

One of the things that the writer of Hebrews wants us to understand – it that our High Priest is very relatable – He became one of us.

A) Notice how He is described – He is a Merciful and Faithful High Priest.

B) Merciful = Compassionate! – Get in someone else's skin feel what feeling – Root Canal.

1) Labor pains

C) Jesus got in our skin – He was tempted or tested just like we are.

Does that mean that every test that a human being ever faced Jesus was tempted in all of them? NO!

A) The Bible makes it clear that our battle is three fold –

B) We battle the world, our flesh and the Devil.

EVERY TEMPTATION falls into that 3fold realm

1) The Devil uses the world and things in the world to tempt our flesh.

C) Jesus was tested according to that same 3 fold battle. –

1) Satan used the things of this world to appeal to his flesh – Stone to bread –

2) Save yourself skip the cross.

D) Our problem is that we have a sinful nature – so the enticements to our flesh are stronger.

Jesus didn't have a sinful nature – but He was flesh just the same and the temptation and test were real.

A) So He is a merciful High Priest – meaning – He is compassionate – He can relate to our struggle.

B) Merciful can also be translated – full of Mercy!
I love that picture!

C) Mercy is not getting what we do deserve!

1) We deserve death – punishment – wrath

D) Here is what our High Priest gives us instead – 2nd chances/ 3rd chances / 4th, 5th

1) Pastor Rob how can you be so merciful to so and so? – Jesus is so merciful to me.

E) I don't have it altogether – I still struggle all the time with my flesh and my motives.

1) Jesus gives me MERCY!

Lamentations 3:23 “His mercies are new every morning!”

A) They never run out- never over use!

B) Your High Priest is a Full of Mercy.

1) He can relate to your struggle.

C) And He is also a faithful High Priest –

1) Faithful = fully committed and trustworthy.

Faithful – He does what He says – He keeps His promises – He is always ready to bring aid.

A) Aid = Help – Assist

B) Jesus your high priest wants you to know – You are not in this alone. – I am with you – for you.

1) Ready to help you whenever and wherever you call on my name.

C) Come along side of you – empower you, comfort you – give you wisdom, courage.

D) Our Merciful and faithful High Priest has an endless supply of Aid to those who simply draw near to him. -

E) So why do we so often try to carry our burdens alone?

1) The one who destroyed your greatest enemy – Rescued you from Bondage –

2) He is with you and for you!

So what do we do with this information?

Ch. 3 V.1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,

Know Holy – You are Holy -

Know – Going to Heaven – Partakers

Consider Jesus – Keep eyes on Jesus!