

## My Thoughts For Sunday, 17 July 2016

### “You Surely Will Not Die”

*“The serpent said to the woman, ‘You surely will not die!’”*

Genesis 3:4

These five little words- “You surely will not die”- Genesis 3:4, were spoken by that original father of the lie we have come to recognize as none other than Satan himself. Satan was determined in his jealousy of and hatred for God to make every attempt to take God’s human creation, Adam and Eve, and turn them, and in effect all humanity away from God and become above God as the ruler of all creation. Those five little words spoken in deception so many years ago set into motion a chain of events that would not see full culmination for many centuries. These words were spoken directly to Eve in the Garden of Eden sometime after the six days of creation were complete in his first attempt to lead mankind away from their Creator.

The Creator, our Triune God, consisting of one God in three persons, namely, God the Father, Jesus His only begotten Son and the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1&2, John 1:1-5) had created all things and as the last act of creation, had designed man -Adam- and his helpmate -Eve- to be in dominion over all of creation. (Genesis 1:26). Upon Satan’s first lie by which he deceived Eve, who in turn brought Adam under Satan’s temptation, mankind fell into sin, as we read in Paul’s letter to the Roman Christians, *“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.

As we look at the punishment God delivered to Adam and Eve and His now fallen creation, we see His supreme act of His endless love for this ultimate creation. This act of love was given verbally by God as He meted out His punishment to Satan for his act of deceit and to Adam and Eve for their display of mistrust for their God. We find God’s statements of consequences for the actions of Satan, Adam and Eve written for us in Genesis 3:14-19. I make specific note of the outcome promised to Satan of his ultimate destruction which also was God’s first promise of a Savior for fallen man. *“Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life and I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”* Notice here God tells Satan that the seed of the woman would rise up and crush his(Satan’s) head and Satan in turn would only be able to strike the heel of the woman’s seed. In the centuries that would follow this promise four specific and definite events would occur and be prophesied about by many of God’s people. There would be no need for anyone to be surprised as these events occurred if only mankind would listen to and follow these prophesies. They became the fulfillment of God’s original promise to Adam and Eve.

The prophet Isaiah gave us the beginning of the fulfillment of God’s promise, recorded for us at Isaiah 9:6 where he wrote; *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,*

*and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*” Here he was, God, come down to us as a baby destined to be the ultimate ruler, forever. As we journey through the short years of His earthly life we see this baby, Jesus, grow up and lead a perfect life. A life without sin. Something we could never do because of our inherited sinful state. During this life and His ministry, He showed us the ability we have to enjoy life with a direct relationship with Him, just as His followers did. We through faith and prayer can talk to Him and receive answers to those prayers. *“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Again we encounter our fallen state as humanity rejected the prophesy that had been before them for years about this coming Messiah. He just didn’t add up to their expectations as the ultimate ruler. So began the third stage of events. The people He had come to redeem scorned and ridiculed Him rather than give Him the honor that was due. They created cause to crucify Him, fulfilling another prophesy, putting Him to death on the cross. Again Isaiah’s prophesy is seen in fulfillment as recorded at Isaiah 53:5; *“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”* In His death, He took all the sins of the whole world upon Himself and suffered a death He didn’t deserve to clear us from the guilt of our sins and suffer the death we deserved.

Then, phase four in our account. Triumph! Three days after His death on the cross, in our place, He was raised to His rightful position again as God and ruler over His creation. He was raised triumphant as He had completed the goal He was to complete here on earth for us. He has beaten Satan, conquered death and hell. When He uttered His final words from the cross, *“IT IS FINISHED”*, He meant just that. He had totally fulfilled His mission, fulfilled His promise to Adam and Eve, fulfilled the redemption of fallen man to a position of acceptance and righteous justification with the Father in heaven. *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* Romans 5:1

Now, as you go through this life, know that you are not alone. Walk with Him. Talk with Him. He promises that He will never leave you. Listen to His Word, the Bible, and cast all your cares and concerns on Him. Take this good advice and promise written by the Psalmist, *“Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.”* Psalm 55:22. He is offering a very personal relationship with Him, to all believers. There are no strings attached. Believe and be saved from the destruction coming upon this fallen world.