

Theme: Adam's sin brought us slavery to death, but Jesus, the Second Adam, has conquered and gives freedom from death to His people through the resurrection.

## I. Intro - What Will You Be Preaching On?

- A. Call from the Capital - what is your topic?
- B. Obviously the Resurrection! But what about COVID?
- C. The reality of death is always there - and answered!
- D. What does the resurrection of Jesus accomplish?
- E. How does this complete the biblical story and give us hope?

## II. Created For Freedom and Life

- A. We were created to be the free rulers of creation
  - 1. We have seen this in Genesis 1-2
  - 2. If we would simply embrace the limits and commands of God, we would rule over everything  
When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, <sup>4</sup> what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? <sup>5</sup> You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and **crowned him with glory and honor.** <sup>6</sup> **You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:** <sup>7</sup> all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, <sup>8</sup> the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.  
Psalm 8:3–8
    - a. A reflection upon Genesis 1-2 and our place
    - b. Despite our small stature, we were created for the glory and honor of ruling over all creation

- 3. Paul says restoring this is what Jesus came to do  
For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet... <sup>27</sup> For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:25, 27
  - a. Paul is quoting Psalm 8 - and says it is about Jesus!
  - b. What Adam messed up by his sin, Jesus came to restore
  - c. God still intends for humans to be free and rule over creation as His vice-regents.
  - d. Jesus has begun doing this already!

## B. The problem: the curse and death!

- 1. Psalm 8 is a beautiful poem about the glory of humanity
- 2. But it does not deal with the curse - and death!
- 3. This is why Paul says Jesus is putting the enemies under His feet - He is taking back what was lost!

## III. Death Through Adam, Life Through Christ

- A. Adam's sin of rebellion made us all slaves to death  
For **since death came through a man**, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as **in Adam all die**, so in Christ all will be made alive. 1 Corinthians 15:21–22
  - 1. Death came through Adam - Genesis 2:15-17; 3:19
  - 2. Death did not just enslave Adam, but all humanity because we are all in Adam (also Romans 5:12-21)

3. We have made many scientific gains, but every one of us is enslaved by death.
4. COVID has been a constant reminder of this over the past year, but the death rate will still be 1 per human even after COVID!

B. Christ is the Second Adam Who reverses the curse

So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. 1 Corinthians 15:45–47

1. The first Adam, the last Adam - Jesus!
2. The first Adam came from dust and then received his spirit; the Second Adam Jesus came from heaven and took our flesh
3. To truly understand the work of Jesus, we must understand that He is the Second Adam, Who came to fulfill the obligations that Adam failed and to become the head of a renewed humanity!
4. Jesus fulfilled Adam’s obligations and exceeded Adam in every way!

C. Death through Adam, life through Christ (2nd Adam)

For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 1 Corinthians 15:21–22

1. Note the clear parallel of contrast of two Adams
2. The first Adam brought us slavery and death, while the Second Adam Jesus brings freedom and life!

3. Jesus tasted death so we might be freed from its power (Hebrews 2)

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone... <sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. Heb 2:9,14–15

- a. The writer is talking about Psalm 8 and the call for humanity to rule over all God created
- b. He indicates we do not see this yet - but we see Jesus Who has opened the way for this to happen!
- c. To do this, Jesus came as a human, tasted and defeated death and the devil, and frees us!

D. Jesus’ resurrection guarantees our resurrection

For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. 1 Corinthians 15:22–23

1. In Christ we WILL BE made alive - future
2. Jesus is the firstfruits of the resurrection, guaranteeing we will be raised
3. This will happen when He returns

E. The Second Adam will subject everything to God as was intended from the beginning

Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 1 Cor 15:24–26

1. In the end, all will be subject to God through Jesus, the Second Adam
2. He is presently doing this and will complete it when all of His people are raised and death is destroyed forever
3. God's plan to have humanity rule over all things to have them submit to God will be done!

#### IV. Applying the Word

A. Am I in Adam or in Christ?

1. Everything depends on which Adam I am in
2. All of us are born in the first Adam and inherit slavery and death
3. But through repentance and faith, we can be transferred into Jesus, the Second Adam, and receive freedom and eternal life!
4. If you have never done so, look to Christ in faith today and receive eternal life and freedom!

B. Christian - celebrate victory over death!

1. Jesus conquered death and gives His victory to us!
2. We can have full confidence, faith, and hope in the face of death

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee  
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;  
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow  
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.

...

One short sleep past, we wake eternally  
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.  
John Donne, Holy Sonnet X

- a. This should be our posture in the face of death!
- b. Jesus has conquered and we will rise!

C. The Table of Life

1. Here we remember the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus
2. Here we look forward to the return of Christ, our resurrection, and the marriage supper of the Lamb!
3. Come and let your soul feast at the Table of Life!

D. Response Song: I will rise

#### Freedom From Death Through the Second Adam

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

April 4, 2021

Communion

Revelation 1:4-6

Teaching keywords: 2nd Adam; freedom; humanity; Easter; resurrection

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth, Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father. Go forth, blessed and filled with His resurrection power and be a blessing to others. Revelation 1:4–6

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. <sup>24</sup> Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>27</sup> For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. <sup>28</sup> When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all. 1 Corinthians 15:20–28