

# *The Old-Time Evangelistic News*

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Are You Ready For Death? (Part 4)

I Samuel 20:3

Does that not show you that God keeps His word and does exactly what He says He will do? It is so plain to see. God told Adam and Eve that if they ate of the fruit that they would die. In chapter 3, they ate the fruit. Reading along, you come to chapter 5, and you find the summation of Adam's life. He lived a long time—950 years. But the long life did not stop God's word from being fulfilled. Genesis 5:5 records concerning Adam—*“and he died.”* Again and again, every man descending from Adam (except Enoch) has the same thing recorded about them—*“and he died.”* God did not see fit to record the names of the women who were married to these men, but if their names had been listed, they would have ended with the clause “and she died.”

It does not matter how wealthy one is—and many of these men were probably very wealthy—death will come. It does not matter how long one lives—and these men, as recorded in these verses, lived very long lives—death will come. You can try to avoid it and put it off as long as you can, but you cannot escape it—death will come. I cannot say it enough. God told Adam and Eve what would happen if they ate of the fruit. They ate of the fruit, and death came exactly as God said it would.

In Genesis 5, we find ample evidence that God does what He says He will do. Death is portrayed in Scripture again and again. If God proves His Word to be true this early, can the remainder of Scripture be believed? Yes it can! It is all true. Death is prophesied and portrayed. But it does not stop there. Continuing on through Scripture, men and women die, proving that the Bible is God's Word and accurate. You had better be ready for death whenever it may come!

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Having considered The Closeness of Death, we now turn our attention to **The Certainty of Death**. We saw clearly in Scripture that death is close at hand. As much as we would try to deny it and even try to avoid it, death is certain. It is not hard to see death. As I mentioned at the beginning of the message, death is everywhere. We can hear about it on the news, read it in the paper, and see the cemeteries all around us. People die every day. But we do not think that death will affect us. It will be the other person or family that faces death, but not us. But, as David realized, death may affect us sooner than we think and will, one day, affect us for certain.

Notice what Scripture says concerning the Certainty of Death. In Genesis 2:16-17, we find that the certainty of death is Prophesied by Scripture. Adam and Eve had been created perfect and were placed in a perfect environment. Adam's creation is described in Genesis 2:7, and Eve's creation is explained in Genesis 2:18-25. In between these creations of man and woman, some sobering verses are found. God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden and said that he could eat of all the trees in the garden except for one—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. This was the only thing that God said that they could not do. To some, it does not seem particularly harmful, but it was the command of God, and He expected Adam and Eve to obey His command.

God gave the command to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and then He gave the consequence if they disobeyed His command. It is found at the end of Genesis 2:17—*“For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”* In this statement God proved that He meant what He said. He was not playing around with Adam and Eve. If they ate of the forbidden fruit, they would *“surely die.”* It was not a possibility or a probability that they would face the judgment of God. It was an absolute certainty.

There are some who may say that Adam and Eve did not fully understand what death meant. After all, they had never seen death. They had just been recently created, and there was no death. They did not understand what God was saying because no plants had died, nor had any animals. This was not a fair command, nor a fair consequence. “God is being totally unfair” is what I imagine many people think. But God is not being unfair. He gave the command and the consequence. Whether Adam and Eve fully understood what God was saying concerning death does not matter. They did understand the command—*“Thou shalt not eat of it.”* But as we know from the next chapter, they chose not to obey God's command.

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In this phrase “*surely die*” the certainty of death is seen, but God also speaks about the quantity of death that is certain as well. Some will say, “What do you mean by that preacher? There is only one death. It is when they put you in the grave.” That is death, but that is only half of it. That is physical death. There is another death that is even more important to talk about—spiritual death. In the Hebrew language, die is used twice in this verse. It could be phrased “dying thou shalt die.” The Hebrews would double a word to emphasize the meaning, thus the “*surely die*.” But in this verse, because of the subject matter, it also talks about the quantity of deaths. God is telling Adam, “Not only will you die physically, but you will die spiritually.” One day his soul would separate from his body—physical death. But he would also be separated from God—spiritual death.

Because of what the rest of Scripture teaches, we know what happened. At the moment Adam and Eve ate that fruit, they died spiritually and began to die physically. When they took a bite of that fruit, Adam and Eve were immediately separated from God spiritually and could no longer fellowship with God. They knew something was wrong which is why they tried to hide from God when He came to talk to them. But spiritually, they were already dead and a sacrifice would have to be offered to allow them to fellowship with God again.

This spiritual death is passed unto all men. At the moment of conception, we are physically alive, but we are spiritually dead. Ephesians 2:1 describes what we are like before salvation. It says, “*And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.*” If we remain spiritually dead and die physically, we will face the second death described in Revelation 20:14 and 21:8. The second death is when those who have rejected Christ are cast into the lake of fire. They will be tormented day and night forever in flames and will be eternally separated from God. This is the result of Adam and Eve’s rejection of God’s command to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

What is the remedy for spiritual death? Jesus Christ is the remedy. He alone through His death and resurrection can make alive those who are spiritually dead. Adam passed along spiritual death. Jesus can make us spiritually alive. If we will trust in Him, we will be made spiritually alive and will not have to suffer the second death. Adam and Eve messed everything up, but Jesus can make everything right, if you will accept Him as your Savior.

Adam and Eve died spiritually at the moment that they ate of the fruit, but they began to die physically as well. Because of the condition of the earth when they were living, and the canopy of water that was over the earth before the flood, they

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lived much longer than we do, but their length of life did not change the prophecy that God gave—they still died.

That brings us to the second point under The Certainty of Death. Not only was it prophesied by Scripture, it was also Portrayed in Scripture. It was not long after Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden of Eden that they had two sons—Cain and Abel. The two sons bring offerings to God and make a sacrifice. Cain brought his fruit, but it was not what God commanded, and God did not accept his sacrifice. Abel brought a lamb—a blood sacrifice just as God commanded—and God accepted his sacrifice. Cain became angry and killed his brother Abel. Just as God prophesied, death was a result of Adam and Eve’s sin. It did not take long for God’s prophecy to become a reality. It was not even Adam or Eve that died first. It was their son, slain at the hand of their other son. Sin always has its consequences. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and exactly as God said, death resulted from that disobedience. But that was only the first death.

God spent four chapters describing a short period of time from Creation to the Fall to the birth of Cain and Abel and concluding with the murder of Abel by Cain. He then spends one chapter—chapter 5—summing up about 1700 years. When chapter 6 begins, Noah is the main character, and we are at least 1700 years removed from Creation. But in that summation chapter, we find that the prophecy of death came true exactly as God said that it would.

Nine men are recorded by name—Adam, Seth, Enos, Cainan, Mahalaleel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, and Lamech. All except Enoch are very similar in the description of their life. All are given about three verses. It describes their birth, their life, and their death. As you read through these verses, you will see over and over again that God’s word came to pass. It always does. People will deny it and debate it, but the same thing is always true—God does what He says He will do.

As I said, the descriptions of the lives of these men are very similar. In fact, aside from the names and the numbers of years, the verses are exactly the same. Most people are astounded at how long the men lived, but that is not what I want to focus on right now. (As I mentioned earlier with Adam and Eve, the length of life is longer because of the canopy of water that was over the earth before the flood. By the way, these are normal lunar years of 360 days. The Jews used and still do use a lunar calendar consisting of 360 days. It was not, as some say, a partial year of only 100 or so days.) What is important in this chapter is the clause that ends every third verse or so. Except for Enoch, the description of each man’s life ends with the same three words. It is the very sobering three words—“*and he died.*”

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***Preaching the Gospel to the Sinner, Encouraging the Believer,***

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***and Exalting the Name of Jesus Christ, Until He Comes Again!***

