

Who is Responsible for Death?

(When quoting scriptures, from the Rotherham Emphasized Bible New Testament, I will substitute the Hebrew words Yahoshua (yeh-ho-shoo'-ah) for Jesus, Yahweh and Elohim for God and the LORD and ruah for pneuma (spirit).)

Death was never a part of Yahweh's plan for mankind but rather His desire was for them to live an age-abiding life with Him in the Garden of Eden. There He could commune with His children who were formed in His image and His likeness. Yahweh's will and desire for mankind was frustrated through the disobedience of our parents, Adam and Eve. Their disobedience resulted in death taking its stronghold upon all of mankind. Many Churches teach that Yahweh is in control, that "He has complete authority and control over all human beings and every aspect of the universe."¹ If Yahweh is in control of everything then all death can be laid at His feet; He either caused the death or allowed the death to occur. Other Christian organizations teach that the devil has the power of death. (See Appendix A) Neither of the two cases listed above are correct. The responsible parties for natural death are Adam and Eve, who represent mankind as a whole. The serpent can take some credit because he did deceive Eve into believing his lie, which led to Adam and Eve's demise.² Premature death, on the other hand, has multiple causes. An individual's actions can cause their own premature death; suicide, accident, disobedience to Yahweh, etc. Other men can cause an individual's premature death; an accident or murder. Yahweh can put to death evil individuals either directly or indirectly. The slanderer's deception and manipulation of mankind can indirectly contribute to an individual's murder. (The definitions of killing and murder are listed below³.) Sin also has its place with natural and premature death. It has corrupted our world, the consequence being that sickness, disease, genetic defects, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes etc. exist because of Adam and Eve's decision. Death, our enemy, does have its stronghold upon us but the Good News is that Christ came to destroy death and to set us free "...as many as, by fear of death, were all their lifetime liable, to bondage" (Heb. 2:15).⁴ He has "...paralyzed him that held the dominion of death, that is, the slanderer [diabolos]" (Heb. 2:14). Christ's power and authority over sickness, disease and defects, was also given to us if we but exercise it but if we fall short of exercising this power in its fullness, we can still rejoice in each day Yahweh has made and know absolutely that there will be a day when "...this corruptible must needs clothe itself with incorruptibility, and this mortal, clothe itself, with

¹ Charles F Stanley, God is in Control. <http://ww2.intouch.org/site/c.dhKHIXPKIuE/b.2406769/apps/s/content.asp?ct=3405541>

² And Yahweh Elohim layeth a charge on the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden eating thou dost eat; and of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou dost not eat of it, for in the day of thine eating of it—dying thou dost die (Young's Gen. 2:16-17). And the serpent said unto the woman,—Ye shall not die, For Elohim doth know, that in the day ye eat thereof, then shall your eyes be opened,—and ye shall become like Elohim, knowing good and evil (Gen. 3:4-5).

³ 1. Kill: To put to death; to deprive of life; to slay, slaughter. Murder: a. *trans.* To kill (a human being) unlawfully with malice aforethought; OED

⁴ 1Co 15:26 As a last enemy, death, is to be destroyed; But, whensoever, this mortal, shall clothe itself with immortality, then, shall be brought to pass the saying that is written—Death hath been swallowed up, victoriously; Where, O death, is thy victory? Where, O death, is thy sting? Now, the sting of death, is, sin, and, the power of sin, is, the law; — But, unto Yahweh, be thanks, who is giving unto us the victory, through our Lord Yahoshua Christ. I Cor. 15:54-57

immortality;” a day when “...Death hath been swallowed up, victoriously;” a day when we can say, “Where, O death, is thy victory? Where, O death, is thy sting? (1 Cor. 15:53-55).

The Lies

According to the Word of Yahweh, death (*muth mooth*) is the opposite of life (*chay khah'-ee*). Man made religions teach that death only occurs to the body because man's spirit or soul is immortal. This teaching is contrary to the Word of Yahweh. Yahweh Elohim, the giver of *chay* (life) to Adam and Eve, told Adam that if he disobeyed His commandment that dying (*muth*) he would die (*muth*).⁵ Adam and Eve did die and they are still dead today awaiting their resurrection. If they are raised in the first resurrection, the resurrection of the just, the second death has no authority over them. If they are raised in the resurrection of the unjust, the second resurrection, then they will die again in the second death, never to *chay* (live) again.

Mankind, as a whole, does not like this truth of Yahweh so they have brewed up their own doctrine that makes them feel better; “For there will be a season—when, the healthful teaching, they will not endure, but, according to their own covetings, will, unto themselves, heap up teachers, because they have an itching ear” (2 Ti. 4:3). Their doctrine places good people in heaven and bad people in hell the moment they die. All man-made religions basically teach this doctrine. This man made teaching states that there is no such thing as death; it does not exist. Oh yes, they believe in the death of their bodies but they say their soul or spirit will never die but rather it is released to enter heavenly bliss. The coldness of death is replaced with life in heaven. Men feel better at funerals when the pastor states that this person is not dead but rather he is now alive with the Lord in the heavens just as Adam and Eve were in the Garden. The coldness of death is warmed up by refusing to acknowledge its existence. This teaching, although making one feel comfortable at the funeral parlor, is a cancer that attempts to embitter us to our loving Father, thereby empowering His archenemy, the slanderer.

We become embittered with Yahweh by this teaching because our loved ones who died prematurely are no longer with us! We have now been robbed of their precious presence. These individuals usually die a painful death such as cancer, car accident etc., which we can not understand. We ask ourselves, “Why would Yahweh do such a thing or allow such a wicked thing to happen to innocent, good people?” Why would He take them to heaven, thereby robbing us of all future joy? If He is a God of Love, why would He allow my daughter to be raped and then murdered? The teachings that say, ‘God is in Control,’ that ‘We do not die but just change residences,’ that ‘God wanted another rose petal in Heaven’ are all lies.

⁵ Muth is used two times in this verse. Robert Young's Bible translations says, “and of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou dost not eat of it, for in the day of thine eating of it—dying thou dost die.” (Gen. 2:17)

Before we begin our study of death, let us sum up Yahweh's true future, which is an age-abiding life in the New Jerusalem with our Father and our Brother. We, who have confessed and believed Romans 10:9 are winners through Christ Yahoshua no matter if we die prematurely or naturally. All of us will die, without exception, except for the few who will be alive at our Lord's Presence, which I hope will be today.⁶ None of us are losers even if some of us die prematurely; neither is premature death the will of our Father. Death of a loved one is always costly to any parent especially to our Heavenly Father and is never the will of Yahweh.⁷ Yahweh does not delight in anyone's death, even a lawless individual.⁸

Is Yahweh in Control?

We must first address the question, "Is Yahweh in Control of the affairs of Mankind." Let's test this religious teaching when we are behind the controls of an automobile. At 70 mph, in traffic, let us take our hands off of the steering wheel and our foot off of the brake and see what happens. After the crash we can ask ourselves if we were in control of the car or was Yahweh? We can perform this test one thousand times and the results will always be the same, thereby confirming that we are in control of the automobile and not Yahweh. Control means, "to exercise restraint or direction upon the free action of; to hold sway over, exercise power or authority over; to dominate, command."⁹ Something being controlled has no choice or freedom of will. If Yahweh is in control of the affairs of mankind, then mankind cannot have freedom of will. It could be said that the slanderer professed that Yahweh was in control when he tempted Yahoshua by saying, "...If thou art Elohim's, Son, cast thyself down,—for it is written, To his messengers, will he give charge concerning thee; and, on hands, will they bear thee up, lest once thou strike, against a stone, thy foot" (Mt. 4:6).

Yahweh, as the Creator, relinquished His control over His creation, the earth, and gave it to mankind.¹⁰ He gave Adam and Eve the authority and power to control their own environment; the earth. He also gave them the ability to choose an age-abiding life; to live

⁶ 1 Cor. 15 & 1 Thes. 4

⁷ Costly [yaqar] in the eyes of Yahweh, is, death, for his men of lovingkindness. (Ps. 116:15) "Life is valued very highly in the OT. David would not kill Saul even when he had the upper hand because he valued his life. {#1Sa 26:8-11,21 2Ki 1:13ff} An adulterous woman is most damaging because she claims the most precious aspect of a man, his life. {#Pr 6:26} God also protects and delivers his people from oppression and violence because he values their blood. {#Ps 72:14} Man's life exceeds the value of his ability to redeem himself. He does not have the money, nor can he offer himself, for he is a sinner. {#Ps 49:7ff [H 8f.} Consequently God alone can redeem man, and out of love he will provide the redemption necessary, even at great cost. {#Isa 43:1-4}" (TWOT)

⁸ Eze 18:23 Could I take, delight, in the death of the lawless? Demandeth My Lord, Yahweh. Must it not be in his turning from his ways in which case he shall live? Eze 18:32 For I cannot take delight in the death of him that dieth, Declareth My Lord, Yahweh, Make good your return then, and, live!

⁹ OED

¹⁰ Ps 115:16 As for the heavens, the heavens, belong to Yahweh, but the earth, hath he given to the sons of men. Gen. 1:28 And Elohim blessed them, and Elohim said to them—Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, and subdue it,—and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the bird of the heavens, and over every living thing that moveth on the land.

in the garden forever or die.¹¹ He instructed them that they could choose life by eating of the tree of life or they could choose death by eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They chose death! Men will be judged for their deeds because they, and not Yahweh, will be accountable for their actions.

The Church teaching that Yahweh is in Control is like gangrene in the Body of the Christ. For example, let's consider the event where King Herod murdered the children in Bethlehem.¹² If Yahweh was in control then Yahweh ordered or allowed Herod and his soldiers to murder children, one of whom would have been His only-begotten Son, if a messenger of Yahweh had not warned Joseph in a dream. Why would Yahweh send a messenger to Joseph and have him flee to Egypt if He was in control of Herod and his soldiers? If Yahweh could have stopped King Herod from murdering innocent children then Yahweh and not Herod was responsible for the deaths of these children. The teaching that Yahweh is in control of the affairs of mankind makes men puppets; unaccountable for their actions. If men are puppets then they cannot be judged for their actions; contradicting Yahweh's teachings.¹³ Yahweh is not in control of mankind's decisions.

The Cause for Natural Death

Adam and Eve are responsible for the origination of death and not the adversary nor Yahweh; "For, since indeed, through a man, came death, through a man, also cometh the raising of the dead; For, just as, in the Adam, all die, so, also, in the Christ, shall all be made alive" (I Cor. 15:21-22). The ultimate consequence of Adam and Eve's disobedience was to die or return to dust; "For, dust, thou art, and, unto dust, shalt thou return" (Gen. 3:19). The disobedience of mankind brought mortality to man and corruption to the

¹¹ And Elohim blessed them, and Elohim said to them—Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, and subdue it,—and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the bird of the heavens, and over every living thing that moveth on the land. And Elohim said—Lo! I have given to you—every herb yielding seed which is on the face of all the land, and every tree wherein is the fruit of a tree, yielding seed,—to you, shall it be, for food; and to every living thing of the land—and to every bird of the heavens, and to every thing that moveth on the land, wherein is a living soul, every green herb for food. And it was so. Gen. 1:28-30

¹² Now, when they had retired, lo! a messenger of Yahweh, appeareth by dream unto Joseph, saying, Arise, take unto thee the child and its mother, and flee into Egypt, and be there, until I tell thee,—for Herod is about to seek the child, to destroy it. And, he, arising, took unto him the child and its mother, by night, and retired into Egypt; and was there, until the death of Herod,—that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt, called I my son. Then Herod, seeing that he had been mocked by the wise men, was exceedingly enraged,—and sent and slew all the male children that were in Bethlehem, and in all its bounds, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled, that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet, saying: A voice, in Ramah, was heard, weeping and great mourning,—Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted,—because they are not. Mt. 2:13-18

¹³ Ro 14:10 But, thou, why dost thou judge thy brother? Aye! and thou, why dost thou despise thy brother? For, all of us, shall present ourselves unto the judgment seat of Yahweh;

2Co 5:10 For, we all, must needs be made manifest before the judgment seat of the Christ, that each one may get back the things done by means of the body, according to the things which he practised, whether good or corrupt.

Rom. 20:12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne; and, books, were opened, and, another book, was opened, which is, the book, of life; and the dead, were judged, out of the things written in the books, according to their works.

creation. In the beginning, Adam's natural mortality took 930 years to be fulfilled (Gen. 5:5). It appears that the natural life span of man changed after the flood from 930 years for Adam to 175 years for Abraham (Gen. 25:7); to 120 years for Moses; to 70 years for David (II Sam. 5:4). It also appears from Psalms 90:10 that the natural life span of man, on the average, will be seventy to eighty years. Ideally, I believe that we can all live like Moses who "...was a hundred and twenty years old, when he died,—his eye had not dimmed, nor had his freshness fled" (De. 34:7). Also he was told by Yahweh when he was going to die. I believe his death was painless; it was Moses going to sleep without rising again.¹⁴ This is how I would like to die and since Yahweh is an Elohim of lovingkindness, He hears our supplications; "Beloved! if our heart be not condemning us, boldness, have we, towards Yahweh; And, whatsoever we are asking, we are receiving from Him, because, His commandments, are we keeping, and, the things that are pleasing before Him, are we doing" (1 Jn. 3:21-22).

In Christ's thousand-year kingdom, the natural span of a man's life will be over one hundred years.¹⁵ During this time period, the natural man's death cannot be attributed to the adversary because he has been bound and placed into the abyss for one thousand years. Their deaths cannot be attributed to Yahweh because this is the new heaven and new earth, where Christ is reigning as King. Their natural death will be the result of the Adamic fall. After Christ's one thousand-year reign, the accuser will be released from the abyss. The slanderer will then deceive many of the natural men into warring against Christ, which will lead them into their premature death; fire coming down out of heaven and devouring them.¹⁶ The fire does not come from the accuser but from Yahweh or Christ because of their wickedness! Also this fire does not devour the righteous but rather the wicked.

¹⁴ And Yahweh spake unto Moses, on this selfsame day, saying: Get thee up into this mountain of the Abarim, Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, which is over against Jericho—and behold the land of Canaan, which I, am giving unto the sons of Israel, for a possession; and die thou in the mount whither thou art going up, and be withdrawn unto thy kinsfolk,—as Aaron thy brother died, in Mount Hor, and was withdrawn unto his kinsfolk; (De. 32:48-50)

¹⁵ For, behold me! Creating new heavens, and a new earth,—And the former, shall not be mentioned, neither shall they come up on the heart. But joy ye and exult, perpetually, in what I, am about to create,—For, behold me! Creating Jerusalem an exultation, and, Her People a joy; Therefore will I Exult in Jerusalem, and, Joy in my People,—And there shall be heard in her, no more, The sound of weeping, or the sound of a cry: There shall be thenceforward, no more, A suckling of a few days, or an elder, Who filleth not up his days,—But, a youth, a hundred years old, may die, Yea, a sinner, a hundred years old, shall be accursed, Is. 65:17-20

¹⁶ And, as soon as the thousand years, shall be ended, the Accuser shall be loosed out of his prison, and will go forth to deceive the nations that are in the four corners of the earth, the Gog and Magog, to gather them together unto the battle—the number of whom, is as the sand of the sea. And they came up over the breadth of the land, and surrounded the camp of the saints, and the beloved city. And there came down fire out of heaven, and devoured them; and, the Adversary that had been deceiving them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where *were* both the wild-beast and the false-prophet; and they shall be tormented, day and night, unto the ages of ages. Rev. 20:7-10

The Causes for Premature Death

Yahweh Executing Justice in the Earth

Yahweh is an Elohim of justice and can kill evil people directly and indirectly.¹⁷ Yahweh warns people, by His prophets and others, to repent of their wickedness before He sends judgment. Also He allows the righteous to flee from the scene before judgment falls from heaven, as He did with Noah, Lot and their families. Natural destructive forces such as earthquakes, hurricanes, floods or famines are not Yahweh's judgments upon mankind unless a prophet has given the people warning to repent and they do not, such as in the cases of the plagues upon Egypt. Yahweh used Moses and Aaron as His spokesmen to warn Pharaoh to repent of his ways or the plagues would come upon the Egyptians. In these judgments of Yahweh, His servants are protected. The plagues placed upon the Egyptians did not come upon the righteous Israelites.

Numbers chapter sixteen illustrated the direct justice of Yahweh through Moses when the earth opened up and closed upon people who were trying to overthrow Moses.¹⁸ Also fire came down from heaven and destroyed an additional two hundred and fifty people.¹⁹ Yahweh also enforces justice indirectly through men and women; Moses brought the sea upon Pharaoh's army; Elijah killed 450 of the prophets of Baal (1 Kg. 18:40); Jezebel was killed by the order of Yahweh, which avenged the murder of Naboth (1 Kg. 21:19, 23, 2 Kg. 9:32). Yahweh also works indirectly at putting wicked people to death by commanding his people to perform the task, as was done in stoning.²⁰

Yahweh's messengers have the ability to kill evil people by the order of Yahweh as was done with the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah.²¹ A messenger of Yahweh killed one hundred and eighty five thousand enemies of Yahweh in one night (2 Kg. 19:35). Messengers of Yahweh and His saints will also kill Yahweh's enemies in the Book of Revelations.²²

The Slanderer is a Murderer

The adversary indirectly murders individuals through his willing agents, who are men and women. Yahoshua instructed us that the slanderer, "...was, a murderer, from the

¹⁷ I, am Yahweh, Executing lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness in the earth,—That in these things, I delight Declareth Yahweh (Jer. 9:24).

¹⁸ Nu. 16:28-34

¹⁹ Nu. 16:35

²⁰ But, when a man shall act presumptuously against his neighbour, to slay him with guile, from mine altar, shalt thou take him to die. And, he that smiteth his father or his mother, shall, surely be put to death. And, he that stealeth a man of the sons of Israel and selleth him, or he be found in his hand, shall, surely be put to death. Ex. 21:14-16

Whosoever lieth with a beast, shall, surely be put to death. Ex. 22:19

²¹ For we are about to destroy this place,—for, great, is the outcry of them unto the face of Yahweh, so that Yahweh hath sent us to destroy it. Gen. 19:13

²² by these three plagues, were slain, the third part of mankind, by reason of the fire and the smoke and the brimstone, that proceedeth out of their mouths; Rev. 9:18

beginning” (Jn. 8:44). Cain, who was of the wicked one, murdered Abel (1 Jn. 3:12). Jezebel had the prophets of Yahweh murdered (1 Kg. 18:4). Herod murdered the children in Bethlehem who were two years old and younger (Mt. 2:16). The beast will murder the saints in the Book of Revelations (Rev. 11:7). The adversary cannot directly murder any individual. He needs an agent who has hands and feet. There is not one case in the Word of Yahweh where the adversary murdered someone without human assistance. Yahweh, His messengers and His people have the ability to kill evil people but the adversary, his messengers and his demons do not have this ability. They need humans to accomplish their tasks, such as in the case with Hitler, Stalin and Pol Pot, to name a few. (See the article, “The Authority of the Slanderer, the Adversary, the Deceiver)

Sin, Accidents & Suicide

Obedience to Yahweh’s commandments lengthens one’s life, while disobedience or sin hinders the blessings of Yahweh, which may shorten one’s life (Deu. 5:33, Deu. 28). Israel after leaving Egypt refused to obey Yahweh’s words by not entering into the land of Canaan, which would have prolonged their days. Yahweh then directed them to the wilderness but some went into Canaan to fight anyway, which Yahweh had forbidden. The consequence of their rebellion was death by the hands of their enemy (Deu. 1:29-45). Rebellion against Yahweh resulted in their premature death. Our own coveting tempts us, which leads to sin, which can lead to death; the wages of sin being death.²³ People can also die because of an accident; “Whoso shall smite his neighbor unwittingly, he, not having hated him aforetime; as when one entereth with his neighbor into a forest, to fell trees, and his hand fetcheth a stroke with the axe, to cut down the tree, and the head flieth off from the handle, and lighteth upon his neighbor, that he die, he, shall flee into one of these cities, and live” (Deu. 19: 4-5). People can also choose to commit suicide as in the case of King Saul and Judas.

The Fallen World

The earth has been corrupted because of Adam and Eve’s disobedience.²⁴ Their disobedience catastrophically changed the environment of the earth, which impacts our life expectancy. Storms, famines, diseases, genetic mutations etc. were not part of the Garden of Eden, neither are they part of Yahweh’s will. These natural destructive forces, which have an impact on our natural and premature death, must have resulted from the disobedience of Adam and Eve. People disobeying Yahweh’s commandments can produce the same destructive forces today, while obedience to His commandments can produce life

²³ Let, no one, while tempted, be saying—From Yahweh, am I tempted,—for, Yahweh, cannot be tempted by things evil, and, himself, tempteth no one; But, each one, is tempted, when, by his own coveting, he is drawn out and enticed, Then, the coveting, having conceived, giveth birth to sin, and, the sin, when full-grown, bringeth forth death. Ja. 1:13-15

Ro 6:23 For, the wages of sin, is death; but, Yahweh’s gift of favour, is life age-abiding, in Christ Yahoshua our Lord.

²⁴ “For, the eager outlook of creation, ardently awaiteth the revealing of the sons of Yahweh,— For, unto vanity, hath creation been made subject—not by choice, but by reason of him that made it subject, in hope That, creation itself also, shall be freed—from the bondage of the decay into the freedom of the glory of the sons of Yahweh; For we know that, all creation, is sighing together, and travailing-in-birth-throes together until the present” (Rom. 8:19-22).

and prosperity (Deu. 28). Natural storms, famines, diseases etc. are not from Yahweh but rather they are the result of the fall of Adam and Eve.²⁵

A person having sexual relations not in accordance with the Word of Yahweh can receive life threatening sexually transmitted diseases. Morality, cleanliness and diet, which are in the control of mankind, can prevent diseases thereby lengthening life expectance. Famines can be natural, the result of mankind or from Yahweh. Yahweh will not send the rain if people are wicked, resulting in famine, as was done to Ahab and the Israelites. In the case of a natural famine, Yahweh can warn the righteous people of the coming famine to have them store up food as was done with Joseph in the land of Egypt.²⁶

Victory over Death

Christ Came to Destroy Death

&

Premature Death

Christ came to redeem people from the age-abiding destruction. Age-abiding destruction is the second death described in the book of Revelations.²⁷ Christ came to redeem those who choose to live with Yahweh from the second death. Death and Sheol will be cast into the Lake of Fire because of the sacrificial death of our Lord.²⁸ Yahoshua tasted death for all mankind.²⁹ He was tortured to death, on the cross, in order that, through death,—he might paralyze him that held the dominion of death, that is, the slanderer, and might release those as many as, by fear of death, were all their lifetime liable, to bondage.³⁰ We were reconciled to Yahweh by his death.³¹ Yahweh raised him up from among the dead thereby loosing the pains of death.³² Christ has abolished death.³³ The history and future of death is

²⁵ I believe diseases, killer storms and carnivores began to have an impact on mankind after the flood of Noah. Before the flood occurred, people had life spans of over 900 years. Today, our genetics and diseases do not allow these life spans. It appears that the food source, animal temperament, etc. were different before the flood than we have today, which allowed for these incredible life spans. Men and I believe animals were vegetarians until they left the Ark (Gen. 1:29-30, 9:3). If this was the case then carnivores, such as lions, would not have killed people. After the flood an animal, lightening or disease could lead to a man's premature death. Man's genetic makeup could have changed after the flood because of his new diet, which could be a factor in his days being shortened.

²⁶ Ac 11:28 And one from among them, by name Agabus, rising up, gave a sign, through means of the Spirit, that, a great famine, was coming over all the inhabited earth; which, indeed, came to pass under Claudius.

²⁷ 2Th 1:9 Who, indeed, a penalty, shall pay—age—abiding destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might—

²⁸ And, death and sheol, were cast into the lake of fire. This, is, the second death—the lake of fire. Rev. 20:14

²⁹ Heb 2:9 But, Yahoshua, made some little less than messengers, we do behold: by reason of the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour, to the end that, by favour of Yahweh, in behalf of every one, he might taste of death.

³⁰ ...in order that, through death,—he might paralyse him that held the dominion of death, that is, the Adversary,— And might release these—as many as, by fear of death, were all their lifetime liable, to bondage. Heb. 2:14-15

³¹ Ro 5:10 For, if being enemies we were reconciled unto Yahweh through the death of his Son, much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

³² Ac 2:24 Whom, Yahweh, raised up, loosing the pangs of death, inasmuch as it was, not possible, for him to continue held fast by it.

summed up in I Corinthians chapter fifteen; “For, since indeed, through a man, came death, through a man, also cometh the raising of the dead; For, just as, in the Adam, all die, so, also, in the Christ, shall all be made alive...As a last enemy, death, is to be destroyed...But, whensoever, this mortal, shall clothe itself with immortality, then, shall be brought to pass the saying that is written—Death hath been swallowed up, victoriously...Where, O death, is thy victory? Where, O death, is thy sting...Now, the sting of death, is, sin, and, the power of sin, is, the law” (I Cor. 15:21-22, 26, 54-56). The second death has no power over us because we have confessed and believed Romans 10:9.

Christ also came to destroy premature death by healing the sick, raising the dead, casting out demons and teaching the Word of Life which will lengthen ones days. We also have been given this same power and authority whether we believe it or not.³⁴ If we believe these truths, then premature death will not occur in our lives. If we can not rise to the point of believing and acting upon these truths, then premature death may be part of our lives. There is no shame in attempting to believe and act upon Yahweh’s promises but still falling short of receiving the promises. Our Father is delighted that we walked out upon His promises. As Yahoshua said to the blind men, “Believe ye, that I can, do this? They say unto him, Yea, Lord! Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith, be it done unto you” (Mt. 9:29). Yahweh has promised us that “...all things, are possible, to him who has faith” (Mr. 9:23). If we say His scriptures are not true, then we call Yahweh a liar.

Faith

Peter, because of his faith, walked upon the water while the other disciples did not. I might die from an illness because of my lack of faith while another may believe for his total healing. I rejoice over their faith even though I can not attain the prize. We all win in the end whether some fall short of the goal by dying prematurely and others attain the goal by dying a natural death because we all will be given the life that Christ has acquired, the life that is age-abiding!

Some people are born with great genetics while others may be born with diabetes, heart disease or other life threatening illnesses. Some people live to be 100 years old and have never exercised a day in their lives while a healthy jogger with a genetic defect may have a heart attack while jogging. The person with good genetics does not have to believe for his health but the diabetic must exercise his faith to prolong his days upon the earth. Is this

³³ 2Ti 1:10 But hath now been made manifest through means of the forthshining of our Saviour Christ Yahoshua,—Who, indeed, hath abolished death, and hath thrown light upon life and incorruptibility, through means of the glad-message:

³⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you—He that believeth on me, the works which, I, am doing, he also, shall do; and, greater than these, shall he do, because, I, unto the Father, am going (Jn. 14:12) ...All things, whatsoever ye are praying for and asking, believe that ye have received, and they shall be yours. (Mr. 11:24) Mt 10:8 Be curing, the sick, raising, the dead,—cleansing, lepers, casting out, demons: freely, ye have, received, freely, give. And what the surpassing greatness of his power unto us who believe,—according to the energy of the grasp of his might (Eph. 1:19)

fair? No, but never-the-less it is a reality because of the fall of Adam and Eve. All things are possible to those who believe but some have higher demands placed upon them than others because of their genetics or environment. James the Apostle was murdered by the sword of Herod but Peter although apprehended by Herod to be murdered, escaped.³⁵ Was Peter more righteousness than James? Did Yahweh want His servant James to be murdered and Peter kept alive? Did Yahweh love Peter more than James? Absolutely not, in all cases; “Costly in the eyes of Yahweh, is, death, for his men of lovingkindness” (Ps. 116:15). James dying and Peter living was probably because James’s faith did not rise to the occasion for him to be delivered from Herod as did Peter’s. James did not sin nor is he less thought of nor was it our Father’s will that he be murdered. He will be rewarded greatly for his righteous deeds.

The sin of Adam and Eve corrupted our world thereby producing unfair environments, genetics and circumstances. Our prayers, supplication, intercessions, faith and actions can be the great equalizer, as was illustrated by our Lord and promised by our Father. Faith gives us the victory that overcomes the world.³⁶ Those who have come before us walked in faith, “who, through faith—prevailed in contest over kingdoms, wrought righteousness, attained unto promises, shut the mouths of lions, Quenched the power of fire, escaped the mouths of the sword, were made powerful from weakness, became mighty in battle, overturned, camps of aliens; Women received, by resurrection, their dead...” (Heb. 11:33-35). We are not to blame Yahweh when we do not believe to be delivered from unfair environments, genetics and circumstances. We must accept the reality that we did not rise to the position that was promised by our Father’s Word. We must encourage others that although we did not attain the fullness of Yahweh’s promise, never-the-less they should still shoot for the stars and walk in the fullness of faith, as did Abraham and Sarah; “...he [Abram] was not led to hesitate by unbelief, but received power by his faith, giving glory unto Yahweh. And being fully persuaded (that), —what He [Yahweh] hath promised, able is He also to perform” (Rm. 4:20-21).

Conclusion

Yahweh’s will for mankind, who were created in His image, was for them to live an age-abiding life with Him. Yahweh relinquished His control over the earth by giving it to mankind, who could then choose their own future. His original plan was for His children to choose immortality, by taking of the tree of life, and to rule the earth as Sons of Elohim. They were to be in control of their life and the earth. If they had made this choice then death, grief and pain would not exist but they instead chose mortality by disobeying Yahweh Elohim.³⁷ Yahweh’s contingent plan then came into effect. This plan was for his

³⁵ Acts 12:2-11

³⁶ 1Jo 5:4 Because, whatsoever hath been born of Yahweh, overcometh the world; and, this, is the victory that hath overcome the world—our faith.

³⁷ And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for, the first heaven and the first earth, have passed away, and, the sea, is no more. And, the holy city, new Jerusalem, saw I coming down out of heaven from Yahweh, prepared as a bride adorned for her

Son, a Son who would completely obeyed Him, to deliver mankind from the dominion of death. Yahweh wills long life for all of mankind, who walk in righteousness, justice and lovingkindness thereby fulfilling their calling, as was done by Moses and Paul. Natural death is the result of the Adamic Fall, while premature death can be attributed to many causes, one of which can be the adversary. The adversary cannot murder an individual anytime he wants, neither does Yahweh kill innocent people so they can be with Him in heaven. Death is an enemy and along with Sheol will someday be cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:14). Long life upon the earth is promised to those who live and act upon the promises of our Father's Words. Our hope is not death, as many Churches teach but rather Christ coming back to raise the dead, giving them an age-abiding life, resulting in them never dying again. There will be a day when Yahweh "...will wipe away every tear out of our eyes,—and, death, shall be no more, and grief and outcry and pain shall be no more" (Rev. 21:4)! Praise ye Yah!

husband. And I heard a loud voice out of the throne, saying—Lo! the tent of Yahweh, is with men, and he will tabernacle with them, and, they, shall be, his peoples, and, he, shall be, Yahweh with them; And he will wipe away every tear out of their eyes,—and, death, shall be no more, and grief and outcry and pain shall be no more: the first things, have passed away. Rev. 21:1-4

Appendix A

Hebrews 2:14

“that through death he might destroy him that had [past tense]the power of death, that is, the devil” (KJV).

in order that, through death,—he might paralyse him that held [past tense] the dominion of death, that is, the Adversary” (Rotherham)

We must examine Hebrews 2:14 in its context. If the adversary murdered someone in chapter two then the context would be correct in stating that the adversary has the power of death but no one is murdered by the adversary in chapter two. The death of our Lord is mentioned in chapter two but his death is not attributed to the adversary. Our Lord gave his life and no one took it from him (Jn. 10:17-18).

Natural death is the result of Adam and Eve’s disobedience to Yahweh (Gen. 3:19). The context of Hebrews chapter two speaks of the death and resurrection of Yahoshua, which were accomplished in order to save his brethren. “...In behalf of every one, he might taste of death...when, many sons, unto glory, he would lead, The Princely Leader of their salvation, through sufferings, to make perfect. For, both he that maketh holy, and they who are being made holy, are, all, of One; For which cause, he is not ashamed to be calling them, brethren” (Heb. 2:9-11). The context of Hebrews chapter two is not talking about the adversary but rather about Yahoshua’s brethren being released from bondage; “... these—as many as, by fear of death, were all their lifetime liable, to bondage” (Heb. 2:15). How did Yahoshua release us from bondage?

He released us from bondage by being raised from among the dead, never to die again. The bondage spoken of was from the fear of death. Hundreds of believers witnessed our risen Savior, who will never be bound by death again. Before this event, the adversary bound the people through the dominion (kratos³⁸) of death. Kratos means might, strength or force. The might that he held over men was the fear of death, which binds. Once Yahoshua was raised from among the dead, the fear of death could no longer bind the believer. The slanderer’s ability to bind men through the fear of death has been paralyzed. Many people have been taught that the slanderer has the power (dunamis³⁹) of death, which infers that he can kill anyone at any time; that all deaths are attributed to him. This is not the case. People can die a natural death because of age (a result of the curse), as Moses and Abraham did. People can be put to death by righteous people because they have committed a capital offense (result of their free will doing evil), as Samuel did by slaying King Agag.⁴⁰ People can die prematurely from an accident or an illness caused by natural or spiritual means. People can also be murdered by people who are under the influence of the adversary (Jn. 8:44).

³⁸ 2904 κρατος kratos krat'-os

1) force, strength 2) power, might: mighty with great power 2a) a mighty deed, a work of power 3) dominion

³⁹ 1411 δυναμις dunamis doo'-nam-is

1) strength power, ability

1a) inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth

1b) power for performing miracles 1c) moral power and excellence of soul

1d) the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth 1e) power and resources arising from numbers

1f) power consisting in or resting upon armies, forces, hosts

⁴⁰ 1 Samuel 15:33