

# VICTORY IN THE MORTAL BATTLE

LONG, LONG AGO...

## MORTAL BATTLE

- Death
  - Separation of soul from the body
  - Separation of person from person
  - Separation of God from His people
  - Separation of the cosmos from perfect order
  - Separation of the human from wholeness

DEATH WILL BE JUDGED

## SIN BROUGHT DEATH

<sup>12</sup> When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, *for everyone sinned*.

Romans 5:12 (NLT)

*Alternative: "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all; because of death all have sinned" (Rom. 5:12)*

DEATH OUT THERE

## A TROUBLED LIFE

- Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward. Job 5:7 NIV
- Ecclesiastes 12

- <sup>1</sup> Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honor him in your youth before you grow old and say, "Life is not pleasant anymore."  
<sup>2</sup> Remember him before the light of the sun, moon, and stars is dim to your old eyes, and rain clouds continually darken your sky.  
<sup>3</sup> Remember him before your legs—the guards of your house—start to tremble; and before your shoulders—the strong men—stoop. Remember him before your teeth—your few remaining servants—stop grinding; and before your eyes—the women looking through the windows—see dimly.  
<sup>4</sup> Remember him before the door to life's opportunities is closed and the sound of work fades. Now you rise at the first chirping of the birds, but then all their sounds will grow faint.  
<sup>5</sup> Remember him before you become fearful of falling and worry about danger in the streets; before your hair turns white like an almond tree in bloom, and you drag along without energy like a dying grasshopper, and the caperberry no longer inspires sexual desire. Remember him before you near the grave, your everlasting home, when the mourners will weep at your funeral.  
<sup>6</sup> Yes, remember your Creator now while you are young, before the silver cord of life snaps and the golden bowl is broken. Don't wait until the water jar is smashed at the spring and the pulley is broken at the well.  
<sup>7</sup> For then the dust will return to the earth, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.  
<sup>8</sup> "Everything is meaningless," says the Teacher, "completely meaningless."  
<sup>9</sup> Keep this in mind: The Teacher was considered wise, and he taught the people everything he knew. He listened carefully to many proverbs, studying and classifying them.  
<sup>10</sup> The Teacher sought to find just the right words to express truths clearly.  
<sup>11</sup> The words of the wise are like cattle prods—painful but helpful. Their collected sayings are like a nail-studded stick with which a shepherd drives the sheep.  
<sup>12</sup> But, my child, let me give you some further advice: Be careful, for writing books is endless, and much study wears you out.  
<sup>13</sup> That's the whole story. Here now is my final conclusion: Fear God and obey his commands, for this is everyone's duty.  
<sup>14</sup> God will judge us for everything we do, including every secret thing, whether good or bad.  
Ecclesiastes 12:1-14 (NLT)

## EVERYONE DIED BECAUSE OF ADAM'S SIN

- <sup>13</sup> Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break. <sup>14</sup> Still, everyone **died**—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come.  
Romans 5:13-14 (NLT)

## CONTRASTING WHAT ADAM AND GOD BROUGHT

<sup>15</sup> But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought **death** to many. But even **greater** is God's wonderful **grace** and his gift of **forgiveness** to many through this other man, Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:15 (NLT)

## BEING MADE RIGHT WITH GOD

<sup>16</sup> And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins.

Romans 5:16 (NLT)

## ONE

<sup>18</sup> Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.

Romans 5:18 (NLT)

## GOD'S WAY

<sup>19</sup> Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous.

Romans 5:19 (NLT)

## MIRROR, MIRROR

<sup>20</sup> God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant.

Romans 5:20 (NLT)

## VICTORY IN THE MORTAL BATTLE

<sup>21</sup>So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to **death**, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in **eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:21 (NLT)

## THERE IS GOOD NEWS

- Death entered at Adam's sin as darkness eclipses the sun
- Life in Christ defeats death as light pushes back the darkness
- Death brought limitations and brokenness
- Life in Christ brings hope and healing