

Acts 2²⁴

Why did Jesus rise from the dead?

Easter Sunday morning: 8 April 2007
Preacher: Geoff Findlay

Children's talk: Death traps

Introduction

Because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him (Acts 2²⁴)

*Death cannot keep his prey – Jesus my Saviour:
He tore the bars away – Jesus my Lord.* (Lowry)

1. Because death is a judgement from God

The soul who sins shall die (Ezek 18²⁰)

*He who deigned for me to die,
Lives, the bands of death to sever.* (Gellert)

2. Because God's justice was satisfied by Jesus' death

A sacrifice of atonement ... to demonstrate God's justice (Rom 3²⁵⁻²⁶)

*Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid, Here in the death of Christ I live.* (Townend)

3. Because Jesus is the eternal God

Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God (Rom 9⁵)

*No other work, save Thine, no other blood will do;
No strength, save that which is divine can bear me safely through.* (Bonar)

4. Because God wanted you to know the defeat of death

Death is swallowed up in victory (1 Cor 15⁵⁴)

*Vain the stone the watch the seal, Christ has burst the gates of hell;
Death in vain forbids His rise, Christ has opened Paradise.* (Wesley)

Conclusion

Therefore encourage each other with these words (1 Thess 4¹⁸)

*We acclaim your life, O Jesus, now we sing Your victory;
Sin or hell may seek to seize us, but Your conquest keeps us free.* (Hayford)



Questions answered



What did death mean for the 1st criminal on the cross beside Jesus?
How is this typical of the death of every unbeliever?



What did death on the cross mean for Jesus?
How did He escape from the jaws of death?



What did death mean for the 2nd criminal on the cross beside Jesus?
How is this typical of the death of every believer?



Is death natural?
What do we mean by this?
Where did death come from?



How was the wrath of God against sin satisfied?



How could Christ pay the penalty of everlasting suffering and finish that payment completely?



What happens to the doctrine of salvation if Jesus is not fully God and fully man in the one person?



Why did Jesus not ascend directly to heaven upon His defeat of death?



Where is the sting of death for the believer?
What is the sting of death for the unbeliever?



What are we to do with these precious truths?



Things to pray about



Glorify God for the resurrection of Christ!



Pray for those known to you who are not yet ready to face death?



Search the Scriptures



How was it possible for Enoch & Elijah to be translated straight to heaven without facing death? (Gen 5²⁴, 2 Kings 2).
What does this teach us about the way of salvation in the Old Testament as compared to that in the New?
What does it teach us about our own entrance into heaven?
(We will be exploring some of these things in the service tonight.)