

## **DEATH SWALLOWED UP**

### **“Death has been swallowed up in victory.” (15:54)**

Most people think more about life being swallowed up than death. We refer to life being swallowed up as the Jonah complex. The **Jonah complex** says, “just when you think your life couldn’t get worse, it gets swallowed up by a great fish (Jonah 1:17).

It takes God and a divine perspective of life to see the victory in a Jonah complex:

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” (Rom.8:28)

Today’s lesson has a different message because it is death being swallowed up rather than life.

However, it also requires God and divine perspective to see the victory in it

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1Cor.15:57)

<b>This lesson will study five aspects of what Paul meant by “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”</b>
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### **1. Paul was quoting from a messianic passage in the Book of Isaiah.**

“He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth.” (Isa.25:8)

John quoted the second part of this same verse in Rev.21:4. This verse is quoted often at funerals.

“And He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” (New Heaven and Earth)

Isa.25 and 1 Corinthians 15 are both referring to aspects of eschatology of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

“Then comes the end when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death.” (1 Cor.15:24-26)

### **2. The Greek word for swallow up is katapino (a.p.ind.3ps). Katapino literally means to drink something completely down. Therefore Jesus Christ drank down all of death on the cross.**

The Greek word for death is (ho) thanatos. The definite article (ho) with thanatos requires us to think of a specific category of death. In this case, it the spiritual death of Adamic sin (Gen.2:17).

The proof that He drank it ALL down was His resurrection from the dead.

“For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.” (1 Cor.15:16-17)

### 3. **The origin of spiritual death is Adam's violation of Gen.2:17.**

“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.” (Rom.5:12)

“For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.” (1 Cor.15:22; 2 Cor.5:17)

“For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.” (Rom.5:17, 21)

Every member of the human race is physically born spiritually dead because of AOS. Spiritual death means separated from God in time apart from faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” (John 5:24)

### 4. **Paul was quoting from Hosea 13:14 when he taught that Jesus Christ took the sting out of death by His death, burial, and resurrection.**

“O death, where is your **sting**? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor.15:55b-56)

The Greek word for sting is kentron. Sting is used as an analogy for the sting of a deadly venomous snake or scorpion (Rev.9:10).

The antidote for the absolute cure of the sting of death is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“But we do see Him who was made for a little lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.” (Heb.2:9)

“But thanks be to God, who gives us **the victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor.15:57)

“For I am not ashamed of **the gospel**, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” (Rom.1:16)

### 5. **The sting of death was removed by the First Coming of Jesus but DEATH itself will not be removed until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.**

“So Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.” (Heb.9:28)

“When this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’” (1 Cor.15:54; Isa.25:8)

“The last enemy that will be abolished is death.” (1 Cor.15:26)

“And there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” (Rev.21:4b)

Believer in resurrection body: “So that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life.” (2 Cor.5:4b)

**Easter thought: “Every sunrise morning in your life is Easter.**