

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

JESUS HAS BROKEN THE DEVIL'S POWER OVER YOU

Hebrews 2:14 – 15 “Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.”

There are a number of companies that will do an ancestral search through your DNA. Through your biological parents you received your genes. You are forever connected to them through this passing on of their DNA to you. Jesus took upon Himself (Philippians 2:5ff) human DNA with the exception of the sins with which human beings are conceived and born. Through His incarnation (He became human), Jesus shares in your humanity. Through your baptism, Galatians 2:20 says, “(you) have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer (you) who live, but Christ lives in (you); and the life which (you) now live in the flesh (you) live by faith in the Son of God, who loved (you) and gave Himself up for (you).”

Jesus is your true brother. The Formula of Concord says, “Christ redeemed human nature as His work, sanctifies it, raises it from the dead, and gloriously adorns it as His work.” (FC Ep I 5-6) Jesus frees you “who all (your) life have been held in slavery by (your) fear of death.” (Hebrews 2:15) His death absorbed God’s judgment against you because of your sin. On the cross Jesus took upon Himself all of your sins and God’s judgment of death because of them. He has defeated the power of death in your behalf.

Not only did Jesus overcome the power of death in your behalf, but also did as God had promised Adam and Eve, He crushed Satan’s head. (Genesis 3:15) Through Jesus’ saving work on the cross and the faith God has gifted you in His Son, you who were a sinner have been declared by Him sinless. He has given you the sure and certain promise of life with Him, the angels and all the saints in Heaven. Luther summarizes, “[Christ’s] works are truly divine works such as: to justify, to restore to life, to save.”

(This devotion heavily paraphrases the note on verse 14 found in The Lutheran Study Bible)

Prayer: Thank You Jesus for overcoming Satan’s power over me. Amen.

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.

Crown Him the virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn!
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of love, Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.
(LSB 525)