

JESUS WINS OVER DEATH

AND IT'S NOT EVEN CLOSE ...



AND LIKEWISE ALL WHO BELIEVE IN HIM WIN OVER DEATH ...

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- This study is a powerful, hope-giving overview of the absolute dominance of Jesus in his battle with and victory over death which he accomplished for his glory and for our eternal good ...

1. **Jesus wins** — He is the resurrection and the life, 11:25-27.

- (John 11:25–27 ESV) Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?**” 27 She said to him, “Yes, Lord; **I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.**” (Cf. *John 20:30-31*).

A. Jesus raises dead people up and makes them alive.

B. The dead people who believe in Jesus are raised up to eternal life.

C. The dead people who do not believe in Jesus are raised up to judgment.

- (Daniel 12:1-2 ESV) At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. 2 And **many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.**

“Many” (12:2 - *Hebrew rabbîm*) typically means all.

- (John 5:28–29 ESV) **Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice** 29 and come out, those who have done good to **the resurrection of life**, and those who have done evil to **the resurrection of judgment.**

2. **Jesus wins** — He is the archenemy of death, 11:28-37.

An archenemy is a person who is extremely hostile or opposed to someone or something; a principal enemy; a chief enemy.

- (John 11:28–37 ESV) When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, “**The Teacher is here and is calling for you.**” 29 And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. 31 When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the

tomb to weep there. 32 Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, “**Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.**” 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, **he was deeply moved in his spirit** and greatly troubled. 34 And he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” 35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” 37 **But some of them said**, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?”

A. Jesus hates death and its consequences and gives a foreshadowing of his contempt for death.

Contempt is the feeling that something is beneath consideration, worthless, or deserving scorn; the act of despising; utter disrespect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike.

B. Jesus is outraged (“deeply moved”) by death.

“**Deeply moved**” speaks of emerging emotions, in this case anger, which overflow one’s spirit. In classical Greek this word describes the snort of a war horse. Jesus is outraged (“deeply moved”) at the effects of death on his human creation.

- (Romans 5:12 ESV) Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, **and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.**

C. Jesus has had enough and is ready to show his dominance over death — “where’s the tomb?”

D. The Jews once again showed division in their thoughts about Jesus.

Some commented on his love while the others criticized his lack of action possibly insinuating his lack of love.

3. **Jesus wins** — He is Lord over the tomb, 11:38-44.

- (John 11:38–44 ESV) Then Jesus, **deeply moved again**, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days.” 40 Jesus said to her, “**Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?**” 41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “**Father, I thank you that you have heard me.**” 42 **I knew that you always hear me, but I**

said this on account of the people standing around, **that they may believe that you sent me.**"

43 When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "**Lazarus, come out.**" 44 The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

- A. Jesus' anger emerges again as they came to the tomb and he commands the stone to be taken away.
- B. Jesus rebukes Martha's lack of faith that she would see the glory of God.
- C. Jesus states the purpose of his prayer.
- D. Jesus resurrects dead Lazarus as he commands him to come out.

4. Jesus wins — He exposes the division between true believers and doubters, 11:45-53.

- (John 11:45–53 ESV) **Many of the Jews therefore**, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, **believed in him**, 46 **but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.** 47 **So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council** and said, "**What are we to do?** For this man performs many signs. 48 **If we let him go on like this**, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." 49 But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. 50 Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." 51 **He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation**, 52 and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. 53 **So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.**
- A. Many believed in Jesus while others determined that he was a threat to their place in religion and society and must be stopped,

Division again: Some believed and some tattled.

- B. The chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council to decide what to do.

They determined that Jesus must die or they would lose their standing in the world—their place and their

nation. Caiaphas prophesied that Jesus needed to die.

A modern day application would be the power struggle within a church fellowship to remove a leader because he is a threat/obstacle to someone's perceived position and desired identity for the church.

- C. From that day on they made plans to put him to death—an organized determination to kill Jesus which is different than the isolated threats before.

- (John 5:18 ESV) **This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him**, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.
- (John 7:1 ESV) After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, **because the Jews were seeking to kill him.**
- (John 8:37 ESV) I know that you are offspring of Abraham; **yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you.**
- (John 8:40 ESV) **But now you seek to kill me**, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did.

- D. The chief priests and the Pharisees were mere pawns in the providence of Almighty God.

- (Acts 2:22–24 ESV) Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 **this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God**, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, **loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.**

- E. The chief priests and the Pharisees were the latest in a long line of foolish rulers raging against Yahweh.

- (Psalm 2:1–6 ESV) Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us." 4 **He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.** 5 Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in

his fury, saying, 6 **“As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”**

F. The chief priests and the Pharisees would do well to heed the warning to the kings and rulers of the earth.

- (Psalm 2:10–12 ESV) **Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.** 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. **Blessed are all who take refuge in him.**

CONCLUSION: Jesus winning means we win ...

I. We win – Jesus laid down his life for us.

- (John 10:11 ESV) I am the good shepherd. **The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.**
- (John 10:15 ESV) Just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; **and I lay down my life for the sheep.**
- (John 10:17–18 ESV) For this reason the Father loves me, **because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.** 18 **No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.** This charge I have received from my Father.

II. We win – Jesus submitted himself in his humanity and in his humility to accomplish his gospel mission—his death, burial and resurrection.

- (Philippians 2:8 ESV) And being found in human form, **he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**
- (1 Corinthians 15:3–4 ESV) For I **delivered** to you as of **first importance** what I also **received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,** 4 **that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures.

III. We win – Jesus utterly humiliated the forces of darkness when he nailed our record of debt on the cross and then rose from the grave.

- (Colossians 2:13–15 ESV) And you, who **were dead in your trespasses** and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made alive together with him,** having forgiven us all our

trespasses, 14 **by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.** 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities **and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.**

IV. We win – Jesus died to destroy the power of death held by the devil.

- (Hebrews 2:14–15 ESV) Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, **that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,** 15 and **deliver all those who through fear of death** were subject to lifelong slavery.

V. We win – Jesus has complete dominance over death—he has the keys of Death and Hades.

- (Revelation 1:18 ESV) And the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, **and I have the keys of Death and Hades.**

VI. We win – Jesus exercised his overwhelming power and influence in achieving our victory over death as he swallowed up death in victory.

- (1 Corinthians 15:54–57 ESV) When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: **“Death is swallowed up in victory.”** 55 **“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”** 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, **who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

VII. We win – Therefore be this ...

- (1 Corinthians 15:58 ESV) **Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.**

We are more than conquerors in Christ ...

- (Romans 8:31 ESV) What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?**
- (Romans 8:37 ESV) No, **in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.**