

Hebrews 2:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Analysis

The incarnation's purpose is stated: to destroy (Greek 'katargēsē' - render powerless) death's master, the devil. Christ 'partook of' (Greek 'meteschē') flesh and blood, emphasizing full humanity. The Reformed doctrine of Christ's active obedience requires genuine humanity - He had to be truly human to obey as our representative. His death defeated Satan not by force but by accomplishing redemption, removing Satan's legal grounds to accuse (Colossians 2:14-15).

Historical Context

Jewish thought in the Second Temple period associated Satan with death based on Wisdom 2:24. The author draws on this tradition while presenting Christ's death as the means of Satan's defeat, paradoxically using death to destroy death.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's victory over death and Satan free you from fear?
2. Why was it necessary for Christ to become fully human to save humanity?

Interlinear Text

ἐπεὶ οὖν τὰ παιδία κεκοινώνηκεν σαρκός καὶ
Forasmuch then G3588 as the children are partakers of flesh also
G1893 G3767 G3813 G2841 G4561 G2532

αἵματος καὶ αὐτῶν παραπλησίως μετέσχεν τῶν αὐτῶν
blood also himself likewise he G3588 himself G846 G3898 G3348 G846

ἵνα διὰ τοῦ θανάτου καταργήσῃ τὸν τὸ κράτος
that through G3588 death he might destroy G3588 G3588 the power G2904
G2443 G1223 G2288 G2673

ἔχοντα τοῦ θανάτου τοῦτ' ἔστιν τὸν διάβολον
him that had G3588 death G5124 G2076 G3588 the devil G1228
G2192 G2288

Additional Cross-References

2 Timothy 1:10 (Parallel theme): But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Romans 8:3 (Parallel theme): For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

Colossians 2:15 (Parallel theme): And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

John 1:14 (Parallel theme): And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Isaiah 25:8 (Parallel theme): He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

Hosea 13:14 (Parallel theme): I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.

Hebrews 9:15 (Parallel theme): And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

1 Corinthians 15:50 (Blood): Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Revelation 1:18 (Parallel theme): I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Isaiah 53:12 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.