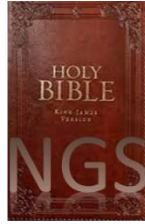


# ROMANS RAMBLINGS



Romans 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Have you ever read a prediction by Nostradamus? I find it so odd that many of his predictions don't really fit the events people attach them too. Genesis 2:16-17 says *“And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”* Later on, in Genesis 3 we find Eve having a discussion with a Serpent. The crafty Serpent replies in Genesis 3:4 *“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”* I will contend this is the first prediction of the Bible that was bang on!

God did know that they would die. He told Adam in Genesis 2. The Serpent knew that it was true. Genesis 5:5 is the fulfilment of this prophesy *“Altogether, Adam lived a total of 930 years, and then he died.”* Here is another one. In Genesis 3 God tells The Serpent *“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”* Thousands of years later we have Jesus saying in John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* It might not look like it but that is the moment that God took back control from the Serpent.

In reality, God was always in control. Yet, prophesy has to make its way to completion. It just does. God became a man. The devil tried to kill him. The birth, death and resurrection of Jesus is a victory for humans over the Serpent. Yet, the resurrection of Jesus beat death and crushed the Serpents hold on people. The Serpent got his day to strike the heel of humankind, but his day in the sun is over. However, there is more. Adam and Eve are called the fallen. They are also the first to sin. This word sin is basically to do something that hurts someone else for your benefit. When they disobeyed God, Adam and Eve sinned against God. Through the years after, God demanded a sacrifice for sin. It's called to make atonement. This atonement was to give over the best that you have. It had to be a real sacrifice. Something that hurt to give up. Why? God demands the best from us. He didn't get that from Adam and Eve.

How can God atone for the fall of human-kind? Shouldn't we atone? The problem is that our best is not the best. What if God chose to offer a perfect sacrifice that covered all sin past, present, and future? A sacrifice, so great, that if paid, it put us back into God's favor? What would that look like?

It comes down to this. Romans 8:38-39 *"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."* God chose to sacrifice his only Son to give us life in his kingdom. It's not as bad as it sounds. Jesus had to die for our sins. Yet, he had to die so that he could beat death. Jesus had to die so that the price was paid. It had to be a price so big that only the love of God would do it.

This Romans Road is paved from Eden to you and me. God created each of us. We all come from a fallen nature that is against God. No one is good enough except Jesus. He was the

only human without sin. The perfect sacrifice. He brings us across the sin chasm. Yet, there is more. For a holy God to allow fallen humans return into a holy heaven there has to be a change. Sinful humans cannot be in the presence of God. The blood of a sacrifice is said to wash the sin act clean in the eyes of God. As the price is paid, the act is forgotten and forgiven by God. The blood of Jesus covers us. When God sees a saved sinner, He sees the sacrifice and payment of His Son. It's all in the blood.

The wages of sin is death. Your life has been atoned for by Jesus with his blood payment. Next week I want to end this tour down the Romans road by talking about the gift of God. Is it all about death on a cross, sin, and payments? Does God demand things and is angry all the time? For this next week I want you to think deeply about what cost it would take to atone for the whole of humanity throughout eternity. From Eden to now is a ton of sin. What if Jesus paid it all? What if the payment also contained a gift?