

## DAY 7 WEDNESDAY

### HEBREWS 2:14-18 SIN, DEATH AND THE DEVIL

*<sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*

Political/social bondage and oppression in this world are only symptomatic of a greater spiritual enslavement. History reveals that when people are freed from the tyranny and repression of human institutions they remain in bondage to their sin and the sinful world in which they live. There is a universal fear of death that affects all our choices. Just as earthly tyrants coerce their subjects by the threat of death, so does the author of all evil, the Devil. As fallen human beings, we live in spiritual bondage to sin, death and the Devil.

Humanity gave the Devil power when the choice to follow the serpent was made in the garden. By doing so we gave up any possibility being able to deliver ourselves. Yet redemption can ultimately only be achieved through a human being who can take the penalty for all other humans. But such a human would have to be free from guilt himself. It appears to be a water-tight win for the Devil.

In steps the almighty, absolutely just, yet all merciful God. The Son becomes human in total identification with all humanity (temptation, suffering and even death), with the exception of being sinless. No creature could do it, not even an angel. The awesome grace and mercy that is extended to us by God is so beyond our understanding that all we can do is fall down in worship before him. And when we do that, we will find ultimate freedom.

**Lord, I am speechless before your love and grace manifested in lowering yourself to become, not a superhuman, but one like me. As you became like me in all aspects but one, equip me to aspire to be like you in that characteristic of being perfectly obedient to God. Amen.**