

## **Dead Before Feeling the Pain**

How many times have we heard someone say, “They died instantly;” “Dead before hitting the ground,” or the classic, “They died peacefully in their sleep”?

Recalling the text of Job, we can examine some mistakes made by Job’s friends regarding the cause of his suffering: several conclusions are based upon the perceptions of what Job’s friends saw or deduced based upon experience. When reading the scriptures, it is explicitly stated that God used pestilence, famine, and/or sword because of the iniquities of Israel (Jeremiah 14:12). Jehovah aroused the attention of David with a famine: “And there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David sought the face of Jehovah. And Jehovah said, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he put to death the Gibeonites” (2 Samuel 21:1), and it was not until David rectified the transgression “that God was entreated for the land” (Vs. 14). However, not all adversity comes because of personal iniquity, as it was the case with Job. What is the point? The point? Good question. The point is, as David said, “I have been young, and now am old” (Psalms 37:25), and these are simply a few things I have seen. I do not recall why the title resonated in my brain, but it is one that seemed pertinent at the time. So, here is a thought or two along those lines:

The scriptures reveal that “Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (Luke 2:52). In this we find four areas of life: 1) Advancing in Wisdom, i.e., as a man, Jesus gradually grew in wisdom and knowledge, i.e., intellectually. 2) Advancing in stature, i.e., in the stature of his body. 3) Advancing in Favor with God, i.e., he was highly esteemed by God. Two other men who advanced in favor with God were Enoch, in that he “walked with God,” and Noah, who “found favor in the eyes of Jehovah” (Genesis 5:24; 6:8). Hebrews 11:5, 7 tell us these men were men of faith. 4) Advancing in Favor with men, i.e., regarded in high esteem among the good men of his time, “and the multitudes sought after him, and came unto him, and would have stayed him, that he should not go from them.” (Luke 4:42). Thus, Jesus advanced Intellectually, physically, spiritually, and socially.

So, as to not abuse the reader’s time (I know, too late), we will deal with these areas of growth as they apply to being “Dead Before Feeling the Pain.” I will expand on these conditions more fully, for the brave of heart, in additional articles. But for now...

1. Advancing Intellectually: Dead before feeling the pain of ignorance. Solomon said, "Wisdom crieth aloud in the street; She uttereth her voice in the broad places; She crieth in the chief place of concourse; At the entrance of the gates, In the city, she uttereth her words: How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? And scoffers delight them in scoffing, And fools hate knowledge? Turn you at my reproof: Behold, I will pour out my spirit upon you; I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and ye have refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man hath regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, And would none of my reproof: I also will laugh in the day of your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as a storm, And your calamity cometh on as a whirlwind; When distress and anguish come upon you. Then will they call upon me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, And did not choose the fear of Jehovah: They would none of my counsel; They despised all my reproof" (Proverbs 1:20-30).
2. Advancing in Stature: Dead before feeling the pain of physical neglect. Solomon said, "The glory of young men is their strength;" (Proverbs. 20:29), and Moses said, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten, Or even by reason of strength fourscore years; Yet is their pride but labor and sorrow; For it is soon gone, and we fly away" (Psalm 90:10). "Strength: First, this word signifies a faculty or "power," the ability to effect or produce something. The word is used of physical "strength" in the sense of power that can be exerted: "If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength..." (Ecclesiastes 10:10). Quite often this word appears in a military context. Here it is the physical strength, power, and ability to perform in battle that is in view" (Vine's). There are those, who through neglect, and/or abuse have not the strength to provide for themselves and are dead before feeling the pain of physical neglect, oh, too late: "Cast me not off in the time of old age; Forsake me not when my strength faileth" (Psalms 71:9).
3. Advancing in Favor with God: Dead before feeling the pain of disobedience. "But she that giveth herself to pleasure is dead while she liveth" (1 Tim. 5:6). Solomon said, "A good man shall obtain favor of Jehovah; But a man of wicked devices will he condemn" (Proverbs 12:2).

4. Advancing in Favor with men: Dead before feeling the pain of their actions: David said, concerning those in his court, “I will set no base thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; It shall not cleave unto me. A perverse heart shall depart from me: I will know no evil thing. Whoso privily slandereth his neighbor, him will I destroy: Him that hath a high look and a proud heart will I not suffer. Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: He that walketh in a perfect way, he shall minister unto me. He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: He that speaketh falsehood shall not be established before mine eyes. Morning by morning will I destroy all the wicked of the land; To cut off all the workers of iniquity from the city of Jehovah” (Psalms 101:3-8). “A slandering tongue is called a triple tongue with the Jews, because, as they say, it kills three persons; him that carries the slander, him that receives it, and him of whom it is related” (T. Bab. Erahin, fol. 15. 2. Vide Targum Jon. in Deut. 27. 4.). Solomon said, “Let not kindness and truth forsake thee: Bind them about thy neck; Write them upon the tablet of thy heart: So shalt thou find favor and good understanding In the sight of God and man” (Proverbs 3:3-4).

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