Christ the Breaker - Part 3

"I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel. I will put them together like sheep in the fold; Like a flock in the midst of its pasture They will be noisy with men. The **Breaker** goes up before them; They break out, pass through the gate, and go out by it. So their king goes on before them, And the LORD at their head." (Micah 2:12-13-note)

OUR BREAKER HAS BROKEN THE POWER OF DEATH - Our BREAKER broke the power of death when He was broken on Calvary and three days later broke forth from the tomb. "God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power," (Acts 2:24). He broke forth from the Tomb, crying "I am alive forevermore and I have the keys of death and of Hades." (Rev 1:18, cf Ro 6:9) Therefore, now we can confidently cry "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (1Cor 15:55) When Christ arose, He provided the earnest (down payment) of what He will one day accomplish for all who fall asleep in Him, resurrecting "each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming." (1Cor 15:23) "It is the very joy of this earthly life to think that it will come to an end!" (Spurgeon) Indeed our last day will be our best day, for death is not an extinguishing of the light, but is a putting out of the lamp, because "day dawns and the Morning Star arises in our hearts." (2Pe 1:19, cf Mal 3:1). "We are not here to stay; we are here to go!" (Blanchard) "Yes, Christ the Lord is risen, Has come forth from the grave; He BREAKS the chains of death for you, And now has power to save." (Woodruff)

The world, with sin and Satan, In vain our march opposes; By faith we shall break through them all, And sing the song of Moses.

The Breaker broke the powers of hell, Did all its hosts o'erthrow, Death, hell, and sin, the monster train, He openly did show.

'He dragged them to the judgment seat, Then cast them down to hell; The power of his almighty arm His hellish foes did quell.

OUR BREAKER HAS BROKEN THE POWER OF THE DEVIL - When our BREAKER was broken, He also broke the power of the devil and "set free those who have lived all their lives as slaves to the haunting fear of dying." (Heb 2:14-15) Indeed, "He whose Head is in heaven need not fear to put his feet into the grave." (M Henry) Remember that Calvary stands for Satan's fall! Alexander Maclaren affirms that "It is not possible that we should be held by the impotent chains (of death) that He has (forever) BROKEN." Solomon assures that Jesus "shall break in pieces the oppressor." (Ps 72:4) Our Breaker is strong to "smite the foes of His people. Oppressors have been great breakers, but their time of retribution shall come, and they shall be broken themselves. Sin, Satan and all our enemies must be crushed by the iron rod of King Jesus. We have, therefore, no cause to fear, but abundant reason to sing "All hail the power of Jesus' Name (the Breaker)! Let angels prostrate fall. Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all." (Spurgeon)

THE HEAD OF THY CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Charles Wesley

Thou dost conduct Thy people Through torrents of temptation, Nor will we fear, while Thou art near, The fire of tribulation.

The world with sin and Satan In vain our march opposes, Through Thee we shall break through them all, And sing the song of Moses.

OUR BREAKER AND PROPHECY - In Daniel Christ is the Breaker, the "Stone that was cut out without hands," Who "will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, and will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, but will endure forever." (Daniel 2:34,

44-note, cp Ps 118:22, 1 Peter 2:8-note) Spurgeon comments that "as surely as Jehovah is the Living God, the Kingdom of Christ will yet BREAK in pieces all the powers that resist it. 'He shall BREAK them as with a rod of iron. He shall dash them in pieces like a potters' vessel." (Psalm 2:9) In Revelation, we see that Jesus is declared "Worthy to take the book and to break its seals; for He has been slain (referring to our Breaker's scars)" (Rev 5:9-note). And when the Breaker breaks the seals of the Scroll, this solemn acts sets in motion the final outpouring of God's wrath in a successive unfolding of the Seal, Trumpet and Bowl judgments (Revelation 6-19).

He'll break the strings of nature soon, And bid the prisoner fly Beyond the reach of sin and gloom, His glory to enjoy

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Vain the stone, the watch, the seal, Christ has burst the gates of hell; Death in vain forbids His rise, Christ hath open'd paradise.

OUR BREAKER'S EFFICACIOUS WORK SUMMARIZED: Spurgeon writes Christ the Breaker "has conquered every foe that obstructs our way to God. Cheer up now dear faint-hearted warrior. Not only has Christ traveled this road, but He has slain all our enemies. Do you dread sin? He has nailed it to His cross (Col 2:14-15-note). Do you fear death? He has been the death of Death (Heb 2:14-15-note, 1 Cor `5:55). Are you afraid of hell? He has barred it from coming against any of His children. They shall never see the gulf of perdition. Whatever foes may be before the Christian, they are all overcome (1 John 5:4-5-note, Jn 16:33, Gal 6:14-note, Ro 6:12-note, Heb 2:14-15). There are lions, but their teeth are broken (Da 6:16-21, 22-note); there are serpents, but their fangs are extracted; there are rivers, but they are bridged or fordable (Isa 43:2); there are flames, but we wear that matchless garment which renders us invulnerable to fire (Da 3:16-18; 3:23-3:27-note). The sword that has been forged against us is already blunted; the instruments of war which the enemy is preparing have already lost their point. (cf Isa 54:17) God has taken away in the Person of Christ all the power that anything can have to hurt us (cf Lk 12:4-5). Well then, the army may safely march on, and you may go joyously along your journey, for all your enemies are conquered beforehand. What shall you do but march on to take the prey? They are beaten, they are vanquished; all you have to do is to divide the spoil (cp Zech 14:1). You shall, it is true, often engage in combat; but your fight shall be with a vanquished foe. His head is broken (Ge 3:15). He may attempt to injure you, but his strength shall not be sufficient for his malicious design (cf 1Jn 4:4-note). Your victory shall be easy, and your treasure shall be beyond all count (cf 1Cor 15:57, Mt 6:19-21-note)."

OUR BREAKER'S WORK MUST BE REMEMBERED - Each time we take communion, in a sense, we remember Christ as our BREAKER. Isaiah writes "He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed." (Isa 53:5) Paul instructed us that "The Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread and when He had given thanks, He BROKE it, and said "Take, eat: this is My body, which is BROKEN for you: this do in remembrance of Me." (1Cor 11:23-24KJV, Mt 26:26, Mk 14:22, Lk 22:19)

Spurgeon laments "that Christians may forget Christ! Forget Him Who never forgot us! Forget Him who was BROKEN and poured out for our sins! Forget Him Who loved us even to the death! Can it be possible? Yes, it is not only possible, but conscience confesses that it is too sadly a fault with all of us, that we suffer Him to be as a wayfaring Man tarrying but for a night. He Whom we should make the abiding tenant of our memories is but a visitor therein. Does not your conscience say that this is true? Do you not find yourselves forgetful of Jesus? It is the incessant turmoil of the world, the constant attraction of earthly things which takes away the soul from Christ. While memory too well preserves a poisonous weed, it suffers the rose of Sharon to wither. Let us charge ourselves to bind a heavenly forget-me-not about our hearts for Jesus our Beloved Breaker, and, whatever else we let slip, let us hold fast to Him." William MacDonald writes that "When we come to the Lord's Supper and hear the Savior say, "This is My body, BROKEN for you," the only proper response is, "This is my life, Lord Jesus, broken for you." (Ps 51:17, Ro 12:1, Jn 12:24)

Indeed, the Breaker was sent to "bind up the brokenhearted." (Isa 61:1)

May Robert Hawker's prayer be ours--"Lord, make this sweet service (communion) to all Your redeemed, a commemorating, communicating, refreshing, soul-strengthening feast to Your saints here below, until we come to sit down with You at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in heaven (Rev 19:7-9)." Amen

Jesus I Come

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night;

Jesus, I come; Jesus I come. Into Thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my sickness into Thy health, Out of my wanting and into They wealth, Our my sin and into Thyself, Jesus I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come. Into the glorious gain of Thy cross, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of earths sorrows into Thy balm, Out of lifes storms and into Thy calm, Out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus. I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come. Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of myself to dwell in Thy love, Out of despair into raptures above, Upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come. Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the depths of ruin untold, Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold, Ever Thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to Thee.

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