



the HOPE of Easter

Corinth



Transformed

- Our mortal bodies must be transformed to enter the kingdom of God
- 1 Corinthians 15:50-53
- Paul summarized his discussion with this simple statement: the mortal body must become immortal because “flesh and blood” cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

Transformed

- In the ancient world, the phrase “flesh and blood” was a common figure of speech to reference mortals.
- The kingdom of God is an eternal kingdom, but our mortal bodies are not built for eternity.
- These bodies continue to get weaker over time until we finally die. We must have a different kind of body.

Transformed

- We have discussed “inaugurated eschatology.”
- Eschatology refers to the end times; inaugurated means that it has begun, but it is not finished.
- The kingdom of God is already here on earth right now, but it is not yet here in all its fullness as it will be in the age to come. It is not of this world (John 18:36).

Transformed

- Paul said that even in this world, those of us who are in Christ are made a “new creation” on the inside (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- But to live in that future new-creation world, we need new-creation bodies as well, because “the perishable” cannot inherit the imperishable kingdom of God (verse 50). Our new bodies have to be fit for that new creation, that “other world.”

Transformed

- C. S. Lewis described Aslan's Country in *The Chronicles of Narnia*: "The new [Narnia] was a deeper country: every rock and flower and blade of grass looked as if it meant more."
- It was like the old Narnia, but more real, as different from the old one "as a real thing is from a shadow or as waking life is from a dream."

Transformed

- Our old mortal bodies simply cannot enter this otherworldly, imperishable eternal kingdom. We must be transformed into an imperishable body to live there.
- Paul described this as a mystery, a theological term he used in his letters to describe things human beings in their finite minds cannot understand unless God reveals it to them.

Transformed

- This is the mystery – we will not all “sleep” (a euphemism for death), but we will all be changed “at the last trumpet,” in a moment.
- This is a description of the final resurrection of the dead, which the Pharisees believed but the Sadducees didn’t and what Martha described when Jesus asked her about Lazarus rising from the dead (John 11:24).

Transformed

- At the end of the age, the Day of the Lord, the dead will be raised (1 Thessalonians 4:16).
- Some Christians will still be alive when the end of the age comes, (“we will not all sleep,”) when Christ returns.
- They will not have to endure a physical death but will be raised to meet Jesus in the sky (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Transformed

- Paul said this will happen “at the last trumpet.”
- The trumpet was used in ancient Israel to announce war but also to call the people to assemble for worship, prayer and fasting.
- The Old Testament describes the Day of the Lord as being announced by a great trumpet sound (Isaiah 27:13).

Transformed

- Jesus also described His Second Coming as His coming on the clouds like the Son of Man in Daniel's vision, with a loud trumpet call, gathering His elect from the four winds (Matthew 24:31).
- Whether we have already died or are still alive, His people will all be changed in the twinkling of an eye to our imperishable form so we can inherit the kingdom of God.

Death is Conquered

- Through Jesus, sin loses its power because death is conquered
- 1 Corinthians 15:54-57
- Paul described heavenly mysteries that are beyond human understanding. He declared with gusto the result of the Resurrection – victory over death!

Death is Conquered

- He framed this victory through the fulfillment of Scripture (Isaiah 25:8; Hosea 13:14).
- Isaiah was describing the final Messianic banquet in the day of the Lord, a feast of rich food and the finest of wines “for all peoples,” when the Lord will wipe the tears from all faces, just as described in Revelation, and He will swallow up death forever (Isaiah 25:6–8).

Death is Conquered

- The Hebrew word for “swallow up” carries the connotation of sudden and total destruction, like being engulfed in flames.
- This is not just God’s raising some people from death, it is the destruction of death forever in the kingdom of God.
- There will be no more death.

Death is Conquered

- Sin is the “sting” of death. The Greek word literally means the sting of a bee, scorpion, or locust that can cause death.
- This comes from Hosea 13:14, where God described redeeming His people from death by His grace even though they had been disobedient and followed after other gods.

Death is Conquered

- The “sting” is the lethal weapon that causes death.
- This language shows us that death is not merely a natural process; it is the consequence of sin.
- Sin gives death its venom because it separates humanity from God, the source of life.

Death is Conquered

- Since the Fall, with a few exceptions of those who were taken up by God, every human being has experienced the same end to this life.
- But that which once “swallowed up” all people is now itself destroyed.
- Death no longer holds the final word because its underlying power (sin) has been atoned on the Cross.

Death is Conquered

- When Paul added that “the power of sin is the law,” he was not saying the law itself is sinful or evil but that the law exposes sin because it shows us what is right and wrong.
- Because God’s law names sin, it reveals guilt and renders humanity accountable.
- The law exposes guilt, and death executes the sentence. If it ended here, it would be a despairing reality.

Death is Conquered

- But then Paul proclaimed the Gospel of the victory of Jesus Christ. This victory is not achieved by our moral effort, law-keeping, or theological knowledge.
- It is given by God (verse 57).
- It's also not a victory over earthly things such as illness, failure, loss or financial struggle. It's not about material success or prosperity.

Death is Conquered

- When we accept Christ, we are made a new creation in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- We are given a new heart. His Spirit dwells in us (1 Corinthians 6:19–20).
- The slavery to sin is broken. We can walk in freedom from sin (Romans 6:16; Galatians 5:1).

Death is Conquered

- The period between – our Christian life on earth – is a process of sanctification, being made more like Jesus every day (2 Corinthians 3:18).
- We can find hope in Christ's victory over sin, not only for our eternal future but for our walk with Him every day.

Death is Conquered

- The Resurrection gives us a mission and a purpose
- 1 Corinthians 15:58
- Paul concluded this chapter with a therefore, which is not only a theological conclusion but a practical application of all he had been saying about the Resurrection.

Death is Conquered

- Four truths of the Resurrection:
 - Christ has been raised from the dead (vv. 1–11, 20).
 - Death has been defeated (vv. 26, 54–57).
 - Believers will also be bodily raised (vv. 35–49)
 - Sin no longer has power over us (vv. 56–57)

Death is Conquered

- This means we can stand firm on the promises of God.
- We can stand firm when Satan attacks (Ephesians 6:10–18). We will not be blown around by the world, by temptation, by “every wind of doctrine,” by human cunning, or by Satan’s deceitful schemes (Ephesians 4:14). Nothing will be able to shake us. We will be able to give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord.

Death is Conquered

- Paul reassured the Corinthians that because of the Resurrection, they could give themselves fully to the work of the Lord.
- They could know their labor was not in vain because this life is not all there is
- We are storing up treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19–21).

Death is Conquered

- Paul said earlier in Corinthians that the Church is building the temple of God together, each of us laying our own “living stone” on the foundations of the apostles and the cornerstone of Christ (1 Peter 2:4–5).
- In the Day of the Lord, what is not built for the Lord will be burned up in the Judgment, but what is built for the Lord will survive (1 Corinthians 3:10–17).

Death is Conquered

- The Resurrection guarantees that nothing done for Christ is wasted. If there were no Resurrection, Christian suffering and obedience would be meaningless (verses 14, 32).
- Our hope in the Resurrection doesn't lead us to sit around and wait for our resurrection. It spurs us to action, to give our lives fully to the work of the Lord. Because what we do for the kingdom in this life will last forever.

WAR IN IRAN

VECTEEZY



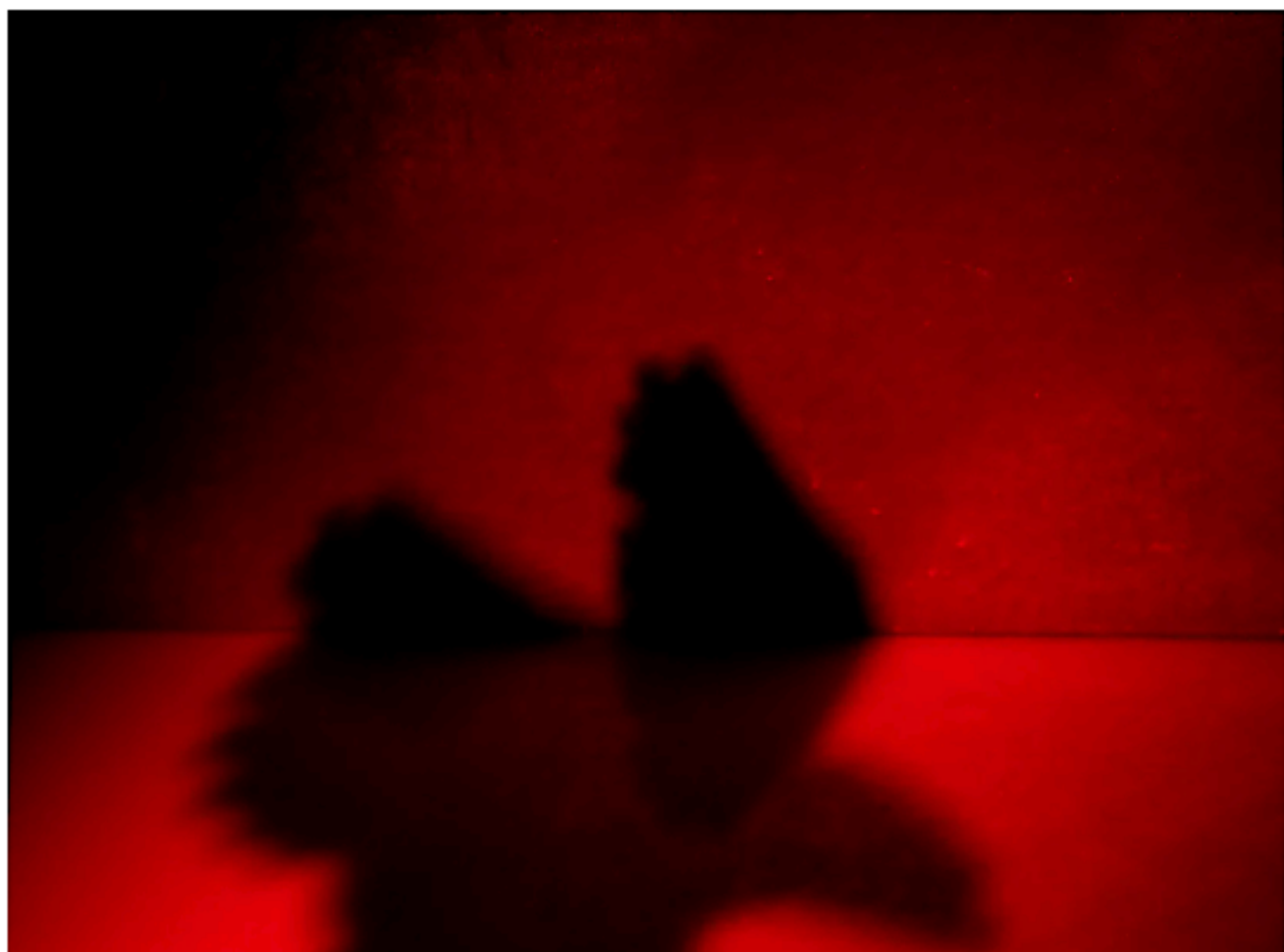
The New York Times

OPINION

BRET STEPHENS

The War Is Going Better Than You Think

March 24, 2026



NR PLUS NATIONAL SECURITY & DEFENSE

The Iran War Successes They Don't Want You to Hear About



An F/A-18F Super Hornet attached to the "Black Aces" of Strike Fighter Squadron VFA-41 launches from the flight deck of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN-72) during Operation Epic Fury, March 14, 2026. (U.S. Navy)

By **NOAH ROTHMAN**

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1091 Comments

Gift

Military Success

- During the 1991 Operation Desert Storm against Iraq's Saddam Hussein, a campaign that is widely considered a brilliant military success, the US-led coalition lost 75 aircraft, 42 of them in combat.
- In this conflict, four manned aircraft have been destroyed, three to friendly fire and one in an accident. Not a single manned plane has yet been lost over Iran.

Military Success

- In the months leading up to the second Iraq war, the George W. Bush administration made a case based on erroneous information that Saddam Hussein possessed weapons of mass destruction.
- In the current war, there is no question that some 970 pounds of highly enriched uranium lie stashed and buried in Iran — possibly enough, with further enrichment and conversion into uranium metal, for 11 nuclear bombs.

Military Success

- U.S.-Israeli forces neutralized roughly 40 senior Iranian leadership figures in the opening salvos of the war.
- The Iranian air force is gone. Most of Iran's air and missile bases have been rendered inoperable.
- Its naval installations along the Persian Gulf coast were incapacitated, and about 120 Iranian ships were disabled or sunk.

Arab Coalition

- The Bush administration had little support from Arab nations during the 2003 invasion of Iraq and its aftermath.
- The Times reports, “Saudi Arabia’s de facto leader, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has been pushing President Trump to continue the war against Iran, arguing that the US-Israeli military campaign presents a historic opportunity to remake the Middle East.”

Christians in Iran

- Numbers: The Christian Institute and Hudson Institute, suggest the number of Christians could be over 1 million, some sources estimating up to 3 million secret believers.
- Persecution: The majority of Christians are converts from Muslim backgrounds. They face severe persecution, arrests, and imprisonment.
- This why many practice their faith in secret.

Strait of Hormuz



Long Term Impact

- Oil - supply lost of approximately 11 million barrels/day, IEA Chief - that will be more than the 1970s oil shocks
- Oil price is more than \$100/barrel (high of \$126/barrel). Qatar LNG plant destroyed (world's largest facility)
- Hormuz Strait - traffic has been down 95%
- Other - fertilizer down 44%, helium, desalinization plants