

The Broken Chrysalis

John 11:25 – “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live”

The Monarch Butterfly is one of the most beautiful of God’s creation. The life of these creatures, however, is something quite unique. With an adult lifespan that only averages 2-6 weeks, the Monarch lives to its fullest capability with what time it has. After only four days in the egg, the caterpillar emerges to the world searching for food (milkweed). Two weeks later the caterpillar encloses itself within a jade-colored chrysalis (cocoon) that has a crown of gold. It is here that the soon-be butterfly really grasps the heart and imagination. For ten days the butterfly undergoes an incredible transformation that can only be described as miraculous. 24 hours prior to emerging from the cocoon, though, something happens. The chrysalis becomes transparent, revealing the true beauty inside of it. After a great struggle, the butterfly emerges from the broken chrysalis and begins inflating its wings with fluid contained in its abdomen. After the wings are inflated, the butterfly waits until the wings have hardened before taking its first flight.

The beauty found in the Monarch’s life’s is the typology with the life of Jesus. Like the butterfly, Jesus had a shortened adult life but lived to the fullest of His capability. Jesus also sought out the lives of others to impart His life into. We know from Matthew 17 that Jesus revealed His true, beautiful identity to Peter, James, and John. Jesus also endured His own chrysalis, the tomb. But, after a short amount of time, He too broke free. After breaking free from the tomb, Jesus had to wait for forty days before His first flight into Heaven.

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and life, he that believes in me, though he was dead, yet shall he live.” How amazing is it that Jesus promised us a resurrected life. His statement in John 11:25 speaks of a death that was past tense and a life that is present/future. Because Jesus conquered the death and the grave we have been given the power to overcome these through Him now and tomorrow. Paul said in Romans 6:2&5, “Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into

Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? For if we have been united with Him in death...we will also be united with Him in a resurrection like His.” (NIV) When Jesus stepped out the tomb and took His first deep breath, death lost all power to keeps us prisoner. Not only did death lose its future power, it lost its present power; the power to instill fear in the heart of man. “In this life we have hope in Christ...” (1 Cor 15:19) No longer shall we fear anything that Christ has conquered but instead we have hope. What is this hope? Hope that we too shall be resurrected at the trumpet call with Jesus Christ. For “when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory.” (Col 3:4) That is the exact moment we can fully say with all authority, “Death where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

Something to Ponder

1. Which stage of the butterfly’s life do you most relate to? The caterpillar – you are eating and absorbing all that you can in order to grow, the Chrysalis – you are in a place of God’s protection where He is molding you for something beautiful, the butterfly – you are who God created you to be and are living life to the fullest capability.
2. Becoming the butterfly is a tough journey and we only give to live like that for a short period of time. If you feel you are in that stage of life, what are some of the things that have helped to mold you? If you are not in that stage YET, what are some areas that need to be molded in your life?
3. Like the butterfly, Jesus broke His chrysalis (the tomb) and defeated the power of death. How has Jesus’ victory over death enabled you to live more freely?
4. What can you do to help others live in this freedom?