

# Who Can Escape Death's Clutches?

*John 10:14-18*



Harry Houdini performed numerous escape acts. He could escape from handcuffs, shackles, jails, locked tanks filled with water, etc. Audiences were captivated because failure to escape might result in the magician's death, often by drowning. Time after time he defied death as he succeeded in escaping from seemingly impossible situations. If Harry were to be taken by death, he promised his wife that he would, if possible, contact her from beyond the grave. Before Houdini died, he and his wife agreed that if Houdini found a way to communicate after death, he would mention a secret code known only to his wife. His wife, Bess, held yearly séances on Halloween for ten years after Houdini's death, but no successful communication ever came. He could not escape death's finality.

In contrast, how astounding to think about what Jesus Christ promised He would do after He died. He claimed that He would raise His body back to life: "I lay down My life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again" (*John 10:17-18*).

Houdini had no power to escape death's clutches, but the Son of God had power even over the grave. On the third day after His death, **Jesus raised Himself up**. God the Father (*Gal. 1:1*) and God the Holy Spirit (*Rom. 8:11*) were also involved in this great death-defying miracle. "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that He should be holden of it [held by it]" (*Acts 2:24*).

The hymnwriter rightly said, "Death cannot keep his prey! —Jesus my Savior! He tore the bars away—Jesus my Lord!" Christ totally conquered death, and we who are united to Him by faith share in His conquest: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?....But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (*1 Cor. 15:55,57*).

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

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