

## DESTROYING THE POWER OF DEATH

By Eddy Gilpin

During a family cookout, five-year old Rayshun McDowell of Kingstown, North Carolina, was bitten by a rabid fox in his front yard. Instead of running to tell his parents, he grabbed the fox by the neck and pinned it to the ground in order to protect his younger brother. He held it there for more than a minute until his step-father came and killed the animal. It later tested positive for rabies, and Rayshun began treatment for the disease which, if left untreated, is fatal.

This was indeed a brave and heroic act, especially for one so young. He took hold of something deadly in order to protect someone he loved.

It is illustrative of what our Lord did for each of us. He took hold of death in order that he might protect those He loved. Genesis 3:15 states: "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

In this passage is pictured the fact that Jesus would suffer at the hands of Satan (the "bruising of His heel" representing His death on the cross). However, He would deliver the fatal blow to Satan (the "bruise to his head") by His resurrection from the dead. These truths are revealed in such passages as Hebrews 2:14, 15: *"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."*

He came in order to destroy the works of the devil (I John. 3:8). He came to take hold of spiritual death on behalf of each of us and to prevent it's becoming a reality to us. His love was demonstrated through this sacrificial act. Will you respond in love to Him (John 14:15)?