

CHRISTUS VICTOR

And the Cosmic Defeat of the Powers

Various Theories

Christus Victor
Satisfaction
Moral Influence
Narrative Christus Victor

Apocalyptic World View

A Revealing
Heavenly Secrets the could make sense of Earthly Realities
Daniel
Jewish Apocrypha
Dead Sea Scrolls

“I freely admit that real Christianity . . . goes much nearer to Dualism than people think . . . The difference is that Christianity thinks this Dark Power was created by God, and was good when he was created, and went wrong. Christianity agrees with Dualism that this universe is at war. But it does not think this is a war between independent powers. It thinks it is a civil war, a rebellion, and that we are living in a part of the universe occupied by the rebel.”— C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*.

Positives:

- 1) Seriousness of Evil
Power that is Bigger than Any
Of Us
- 2) Provides Hope
A God that will eventually Make
Things Right

Negatives:

- 1) Moral Complacency
Ex. Second Coming

The Apocalyptic World View,
The Naturalistic World View,
& The Jesus Story

Four Tenants:

Dualism

Cosmic Good and Evil with Earthly Participants
Cosmic Forces - Enemies of God
Sin, Death, Devil and Demons
Historical Participants -
Babylon - Oppressors of the Weak
Persians - Oppressors of the Weak
Greece - Oppressors of the Weak
Rome - Oppressors of the Weak
Cosmic Enemies are Presently In Control
Good Will Suffer / Evil Will Prosper

Pessimistic Impotence

Eventual overthrow but nothing we can do in the
meantime (Variation of the Pharisees)
Two Ages
Worse and Worse Climaxing in Vindication

Judgment and Vindication

Cataclysmic Breakthrough & Utopia
Inauguration of God's Kingdom on Earth
Bodily Resurrection
Everyone will either face Punishment or Reward

Imminence of the End

“That the world may be healed.” — John 3.17
All Texts Quoted from the NIV Unless Otherwise Noted

- *1) Payment of Penalty too New
- 2) Divine Need for Retribution or Divine Desire for Liberation and Restoration
- 3) How the Penal View Came to Be

Colossians 2:14-15—He has **CANCELED** the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. There he disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them through him.

2 Corinthians 5.19—God was in Christ . . . **NOT** counting their trespasses against them.

Acquit—free someone from a criminal charge by a verdict of not guilty. (A Verdict of Innocence)

Justify—To declare “not guilty”.

“With regard to ‘**Satisfaction**’, we will not allow the use of this word in our schools or on the lips of our preachers, but would rather send it back to the judges, advocates, and hangmen, from whom the Pope stole it.”- Martin Luther; Luther’s Works, 34, p. 301

Romans 8.31-39 (REB)—With all this in mind, what are we to say? If God is on our side, who is against us? He did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all; how can he fail to lavish every other gift upon us? Who will bring a charge against those whom God has chosen? Not God, who **acquits!** Who will pronounce judgement? Not Christ, who died, or rather rose again; not Christ, who is at God’s right hand and pleads our cause!* Then what can separate us from the love of Christ? . . . I am convinced that there is nothing in death or life, **IN THE REALM OF SPIRITS OR SUPERHUMAN POWERS**, in the world as it is or the world as it shall be, **IN THE FORCES OF THE UNIVERSE**, in heights or depths—nothing in all creation that **CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD** in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Luke 11.21-22—“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.

Luke 4.5-6—The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.”

1 John 5.19—We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

Hebrews 2.14—Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. [i.e. through the Resurrection]

John 16.11— . . . the ruler of this world . . .

John 14.30 (NRSV)—I will not say much more to you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim over me.

John 12.31—Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out.

Acts 10.38—How GOD anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil . . .

1 John 3.8—The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s works.

Mark 10.45—For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as **A RANSOM** for many. (See also 1 Timothy 2.6 & Hebrews 9.15)*

Matthew 28.18-19—And Jesus came and said to them, “**ALL AUTHORITY** in heaven and on earth has been **GIVEN TO ME**. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations . . .

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