

THE VICTORY OF THE LAMB

Understanding the Death of Jesus Through the Eyes of Jesus (Handout 1)

"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*.

A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act. — Mahatma Gandhi

Genesis 1.26—Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." (NRSV)

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.

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

Genesis 3.1-6— Now the serpent was more crafty [cunning - REB; subtle - ASV] than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Luke 4.5-6(NASB)— And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain [dominion - REB] and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. [see Genesis 1.26]

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

John 16.11— . . . the ruler of this world . . . [magistrate]

John 14.30—I will not say much more to you, for the prince [ruler - NRSV] of this world is coming. He has no hold [power / claim] over me.

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

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.

John 8.44—He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth,

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."— John 14.9

*All texts quoted from the TNIV unless otherwise noted.

2 Corinthians 5.19—God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them.

Matthew 20:22, 23—“You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” “We can,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup [we too are to drink this cup—Luke 9.23-27], but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

Luke 9.22-24—And he said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

Revelation 14.4— . . . follow the Lamb wherever he goes.

for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (cf. Genesis 3:1-6)

John 10.30—“I and the Father are one.”

John 14:9—Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father.”

John 14.10 (NIV)—“Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? The words I say to you are not just My own. Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, who is doing His work.”

John 12.27,28—“Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

John 17.1-5—After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you . . . I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

John 14.30—I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming . . .

Luke 4.13—When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Genesis 3.15— . . . he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.

Luke 13.32—He replied, “Go tell that fox [Herod], ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’” [finish my work - NRSV; complete my mission - WEB]

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 26.42—He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

John 18.11—Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?”

Luke 22.53—Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.

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Understanding the Death of Jesus Through the Eyes of Jesus (Handout 2)

Acts 26.17-18—To [the Gentiles] I am sending you, to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.

2Corinthians 4.6—For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (See John 17.1-5 again.)

John 1.5—The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

“Here Jesus quotes Psalm 22:1, which may have been part of the Scripture recitation at this time of day. His opponents do not pause to consider that the psalm ends with the sufferer’s vindication and triumph (Ps 22:25-31).”—IVP New Testament Background Commentary

Psalm 22, while it begins with a cry of utter desolation, is really an expression of faith and thanksgiving; the help from God, so long awaited and even despaired of, comes at last in verse 24.

“Small wonder, then, that this psalm was on Jesus’ mind as he hung on the cross. The so-called fourth word from the cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” and the sixth word, “It is finished,” come from the first and last verses of this psalm. Not only is the first verse quoted in two Gospels, but Psalm 22:7–8 is clearly alluded to in Matthew 27:39, 43; Psalm 22:18 is quoted directly in John 19:24 and in part in Matthew 27:35, Mark 15:24 and Luke 23:34; and Psalm 22:22 is quoted directly in Hebrews 2:12. The final verse, Psalm 22:31, is cited, in part, in John 19:30. No wonder this psalm has been called “the Fifth Gospel.”—Hard Sayings of the Bible

- Betrayal of Judas
- Jesus’ Arrest
- Peter’s Denial
- Mock Trial and Abuse of Jesus
- Friendship of Pilate and Herod & The Miscarriage of Roman Justice

Crucifixion (Traditionally included flogging of which John’s and Luke’s versions differ slightly from Matthew and Mark)

Mocking Homage of The Roman Soldiers to the “King of the Jews” (Matthew, Mark and John only)

Simon the Cyrene (Matthew, Mark and Luke only)

Matthew: Wine/Gaul | Garments | Sign | Rebels | Insults

Matthew 27.39-54—Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!” In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.” And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

Mark: (basically same telling as in Matthew)

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”—John 14.9

*All texts quoted from the TNIV unless otherwise noted.

Hebrews 2.11-12—For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.” (See Psalms 22.22)

John 14.30—I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me.

John 8.44—You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Luke: Prophecy of the Destruction of Jerusalem | Two Rebels

Luke 23.34—Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” (see again 2 Corinthians 5.19)

Garments | Mocked by Soldiers | Mocked by Rebel 1 | Defended by Rebel 2 and Dialogue

Luke 23.44-47— It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.”

John: Two Rebels | Sign | Protest of Chief Priests | Garments | Handing Mary over to John |

John 19.28-31— Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down.

Revelation 12.10—Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.”

John 18.37—“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

Colossians 2:15—There He disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Luke 11.21,22 (The Message)—When a strong man, armed to the teeth, stands guard in his front yard, his property is safe and sound. But what if a stronger man comes along with superior weapons? Then he’s beaten at his own game, the arsenal that gave him such confidence hauled off, and his precious possessions plundered.

John 12.31—NOW is the TIME OF JUDGEMENT on THIS WORLD; now the prince of this world will be driven out.



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Understanding the Death of Jesus Through the Eyes of Jesus (Handout 3)

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 3.21-25—But now apart from the law the justice of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This justice is revealed through the faith of Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God [have the wrong picture of God, see Exodus 33.18-20] and all are **acquitted** freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a *sacrifice of atonement* [see Leviticus 16; Hilasterion], through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had **left the sins committed beforehand unpunished**— he did it [the cross] to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who **acquits** those who have faith in Jesus.

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 . . .

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 . . .

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 by the cross. (See Zechariah 3)

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

Romans 5.18 REB—It follows, then, that as the result of one misdeed was condemnation for all people, so the result of one righteous act is **ACQUIT-TAL** and life for all.

Colossians 1.13—For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. (see Philippians 2.8-11; 1 Peter 3.22; Ephesians 2.6-7)

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.

• God | Ourselves | Others

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”— John 14.9

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Acts 2.22-23—“People of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man surrendered to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and **YOU**, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But **GOD** raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

Isaiah 53.3-8—**WE** despised him and rejected him; he endured the suffering and pain [we inflicted]. No one would even look at him—**WE** ignored him as if he were nothing. But he endured **OUR** suffering [that we inflicted], **OUR** pain [that we inflicted] he bore. **ALL THE WHILE WE THOUGHT THAT HIS SUFFERING WAS PUNISHMENT SENT BY GOD.** But he was **PIERCED** because of **OUR** Wrong Doing, beaten because of the evil **WE DID.** He was punished [by us] so we would have peace [see Caiaphas’ words in John 11.49-50], and beaten with **STRIPES** [from us] so we would be healed . . . **MEN** made it very hard for Him and caused Him to suffer, yet He did not open His mouth. He was taken like a lamb to be put to death. A sheep does not make a sound while its wool is cut and He did not open His mouth. He was taken away as a prisoner and then judged. Who among the people of that day cared that His life was taken away from the earth? He was hurt because of the sin of the people. (NLV and Personal Translation)

Psalms 22

MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel. In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.

But I am a worm, not a human being; **I AM SCORNE**D BY EVERYONE, **DESPISED BY THE PEOPLE. ALL WHO SEE ME MOCK ME; THEY HURL INSULTS, SHAKING THEIR HEADS. “HE TRUSTS IN THE LORD,” THEY SAY, “LET THE LORD RESCUE HIM. LET HIM DELIVER HIM, SINCE HE DELIGHTS IN HIM.”**

Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me feel secure on my mother’s breast. From birth I was cast on you; from my mother’s womb you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

Many **BULLS** surround me; **STRONG BULLS OF BASHAN ENCIRCLE ME. ROARING LIONS** that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. **DOGS** surround me, a **PACK** of villains encircles me; **THEY PIERCE MY HANDS AND MY FEET.** All my bones are on display; **PEOPLE STARE AND GLOAT OVER ME.** They **DIVIDE MY CLOTHES AMONG THEM AND CAST LOTS FOR MY GARMENT.**

But you, **LORD**, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me. **DELIVER ME FROM THE SWORD,** my precious life from **THE POWER OF THE DOGS.** Rescue me from **THE MOUTH OF THE LIONS;** save me from **THE HORNS OF THE WILD OXEN.**

I WILL DECLARE YOUR NAME TO MY PEOPLE; in the assembly I will praise you. You who fear the **LORD,** praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! For he has **NOT** despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has **NOT HIDDEN HIS FACE FROM HIM** but has listened to his cry for help.

From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows. The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the **LORD** will praise him—may your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the **LORD,** and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for **DOMINION** belongs to the **LORD** and **HE RULES OVER THE NATIONS.** All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—those who cannot keep themselves alive. Posterity will serve him; **FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL BE TOLD ABOUT THE LORD.** They will proclaim his righteousness, **DECLARING TO A PEOPLE YET UNBORN: IT IS FINISHED!**