

SAVED BY DIVINE WARFARE

The Church Prefigured in the OT

Theological Background of Divine Warfare

- ▣ **Patrick Miller:** “One of the central Old Testament images for the nature and activity of God is that of divine warrior” (Exodus 15:3 Isaiah 42:13).

Theological Background of Divine Warfare

- ▣ **Exodus 15:3** The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.
- ▣ **Isaiah 42:13** The LORD will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse His zeal like a man of war. He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies.

Theological Background of Divine Warfare

- ▣ God create man in his image to represent him on the earth. Man was given a kingly-priestly role subduing the earth by standing guard over it and serving. In other words, man was called to be a warrior like his creator protecting God's kingdom, his domain, his sanctuary, from all intruders, upholding and advancing God's rule in all the earth.

Theological Background of Divine Warfare

- ▣ Man failed to perform his kingly-priestly role. The narrative of Genesis 3 is a narrative of man being under attack. Adam and Eve should have waged war against the serpent who was questioning God's word, God's rule and authority, and God's character.

Theological Background of Divine Warfare

- ▣ Instead, man rebelled against God and heeded the serpent's word. Adam's sin and defeat was cataclysmic because it not only affected himself, but all his descendants, which is to say, every human being (Rom 5:12).
 - The devil has usurped and seized man's authority over the created realm. Jesus referred to Satan as the ruler of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11).
 - Man has become a slave of Satan and sin.
 - Man has now become God's enemy.

Theological Background of Divine Warfare

CS Lewis: “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. Enemy-occupied territory—that is what this world is.”

Israel's Salvation through Divine Warfare

□ *Introduction*

- **Question:** How can God reclaim his creation, what is rightfully his, without completely destroying it? How can he again dwell and rule among men without annihilating them?
- For God to reclaim people to himself, he must deal with two problems, two enemies:
 - He must deal with Satan. God must break Satan's power and authority over mankind.
 - He must deal with man's sin and rebellion.

Israel's Salvation through Divine Warfare

□ *Introduction*

- The book of Exodus gives us a preview of how God is going to do this. The people of Israel, Abraham's descendants, are in Egypt. They have multiplied greatly. Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, has enslaved the people. In order for God to deliver the people, he must wage war on two fronts:
 - He must wage war against Pharaoh who holds the people captive.
 - He must wage war against the Israelites themselves because of their sin.

Israel's Salvation through Divine Warfare

- ***God wages war against Pharaoh (Ex. 7-12)***
 - If Egypt is a type of the world, and Moses is a type of Christ (as we find elsewhere in Scripture) then perhaps it isn't going too far to understand Pharaoh as being a type of Satan who has enslaved mankind.



Israel's Salvation through Divine Warfare

- ***God wages war against Pharaoh (Ex. 7-12)***
 - God wages war against Pharaoh and his people. He sends a series of 10 plagues decimating the land, and wealth, and power of Egypt. The battle culminates on the night of the 10th plague where God, the warrior, wins a decisive victory.
 - After the night of the 10th plague, God has so crippled Pharaoh's power and authority over the Israelites that Israel can just get up, take whatever they want, and walk out of Egypt.

Israel's Salvation through Divine Warfare

- ***God wages war against Israel (Ex. 12)***
 - On the night of the 10th plague, the climactic plague, the killing of the firstborns, God teaches the Israelites that they too are objects of divine warfare.
 - God tells the Israelites to take a lamb, to kill it, and take the blood and apply it on the doorposts of their homes. Why? God is coming to strike down all the firstborns in the land of Egypt. God promises that if he sees the blood on the doorposts, he would pass over that family.

Israel's Salvation through Divine Warfare

- ***God wages war against Israel (Ex. 12)***
 - ▣ God chooses to wage divine warfare against the Israelites by means of a substitute. In other words, a lamb bore the brunt of God's wrath in the place of the Israelites.
 - ▣ By the end of the night, every home in Egypt was bloody. For some it resulted in destruction, for others it resulted in salvation. The only difference is that the Israelites were objects of divine warfare by means of a substitute and so they lived.

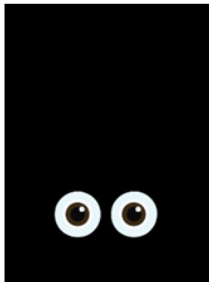
The Church's Salvation through Divine Warfare

- ***God brings salvation by waging war against Satan.***
 - ▣ **Vern Poythress:** “Whereas Old Testament holy war was waged primarily against human opponents, on the level of symbol, New Testament holy war is waged against the ultimate opponent, Satan and his demonic assistants.”
 - ▣ The incarnation was a massive invasion of Satan’s kingdom. Jesus’ purpose was to defeat the devil (I John 3:8; Mark 1:24; Heb 2:14).

The Church's Salvation through Divine Warfare

- ***God brings salvation by waging war against Satan.***
 - ▣ **Good news of the kingdom:** God has come in the person of Jesus to exercise his power and authority among men. Kingdom language is war language.
 - **On the physical plane**, all that could be seen was the results of Christ's victory over the devil. (Matt. 12:22-29)
 - **On the spiritual plane**, there was a huge battle (Rev. 12).
 - **Luke 11:14-23** What the Jews were expecting on a physical plane was actually taking place on a spiritual plane. His miracles validated His claim that God's kingdom had come!

10
PLAGUES



BLOOD

FROGS

GNATS

FLIES

LIVESTOCK

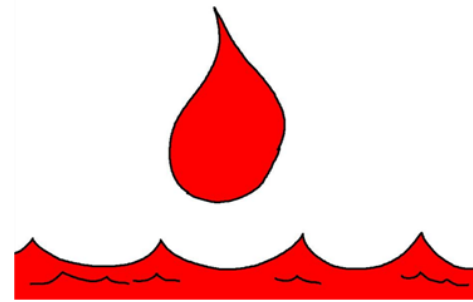
BOILS

HAIL

LOCUST

DARKNESS

FIRSTBORN



The Church's Salvation through Divine Warfare

- ***God brings salvation by waging war against Satan.***
 - ▣ Although Jesus' entire ministry was a victorious invasion of Satan's kingdom, a military campaign, the Bible tells us that the decisive victory against Satan was won at the cross (John 12:31-32; Col. 2:15).

The Church's Salvation through Divine Warfare

- ▣ **John 12:31-32** "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."
- ▣ **Colossians 2:15** And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

The Church's Salvation through Divine Warfare

- ***God brings salvation by waging war against Satan.***
 - ▣ **Result:** Satan's power is broken. Men can now get up and walk away from their slavery to Satan.

The Church's Salvation through Divine Warfare

- ***God brings salvation by waging war against people by means of a substitute.***
 - ▣ Satan is not the only problem. We are also part of the problem. God must deal with our sin. God must wage war against us, be he does so, mercifully, by providing a substitute.
 - ▣ On the cross, Jesus bore the wrath of God. Jesus experienced divine warfare because of our sin. He was the Lamb of God who became our substitute.

The Church's Salvation through Divine Warfare

- ***God brings salvation by waging war against people by means of a substitute.***
 - ▣ **Romans 6:6** The NT goes a step further. Not only is Jesus our substitute but he is the one through whom we experience death and resurrection. It's not just that Jesus died in our place, the NT teaches us that we died with Jesus. Thus in Christ, we can say that we are in some sense victims of divine warfare. We have experienced death.

The Church's Salvation through Divine Warfare

- **Romans 6:6** knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;
- **John Stott:** “God’s end purpose...is our freedom from sin’s tyranny...But before our rescue is possible, the body of sin must be done away with. This conquest must precede our deliverance.”

The Church's Salvation through Divine Warfare

- **Romans 6:6** knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with (katargeo), so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;
- **Hebrews 2:14** Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless (katargeo) him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

The Church's Salvation through Divine Warfare

- ***God brings salvation by waging war against people by means of a substitute.***
 - **Rom. 6:6 & Heb. 2:14** The cross not only renders powerless the devil but it renders powerless our sinful nature. By the cross, Jesus, the warrior king not only wins the decisive victory against the devil, he wins the decisive victory against us, against our sin.
 - Why is this good news? Because Jesus rose again! When Jesus rose again, we also rose from the dead into a new kind of life. A life that is no longer under sin's dominion.

The Church's Salvation through Divine Warfare

- ***God brings salvation by waging war against people by means of a substitute.***
 - ▣ **What is Paul's application in Romans? Believe it and act on it! Reckon yourselves to be dead to sin and alive to God. Don't let sin be your master because it isn't. Don't obey sin's lusts.**