

151 History of the world – explained!

My ‘History of the world in 500 words’^[145] was based on a diagram that I drew/wrote (see below), and from that overview, here I’ve come to some conclusions.

I started the diagram to illustrate the progression in our idea of what God is like: from one of the violent gods, needing to be propitiated, to a loving Father, racing down the road to greet us – yet still Someone who Rules in Glory and Splendour.

The other thing I’ve been grappling with is why did it all go so horribly wrong? How is it even *thinkable* that so much evil could have been done in the name of Jesus?!

I’ve come to the conclusion that the whole aim of God’s ‘first half’ culminated in the defeat of evil through **Christ on the cross**, to establish **Christ’s kingdom on earth**.

The ‘second half’ started well, because the **Good news of the kingdom** spread like wildfire, with people focusing on the defeat of evil, using the kingdom’s non-violent love-based ‘war’ (Eph 6).

So what went wrong? Just like the Pharisees, we started to argue about what was *right* and what was *wrong*, who was *right* and who was *wrong*, who was out and who was in. And this even started in the first century – just read the New Testament.

Maybe this constant emphasis on *right* and *wrong* (as opposed to good defeating evil) is why I haven’t seen the incredible love of Christ has spreading like wildfire (or have I, of late)?

In my church experience, we have mainly focused on personal salvation – we say our church is ‘cross-focused’, but mainly in the sense of ‘getting saved’. Then for those who are now ‘in’, we emphasise discipleship – Bible study, prayer, worship and service to the community.

Sorry, but I no longer feel able to dedicate my whole life to that model of “being a Christian”.

My current journey started when I ‘discovered’ the Trinity – but there again you see, it was focused on a wonderful sense of **my** own personal relationship with God. I’m not knocking it – it’s such a joy – but it’s still too much about **me**! Doh!

OK, I’m managing to analyse some of the problems, but what’s the solution?

Maybe it’s as simple and as profound as this: Where I am today, I will work with all my heart and soul and strength to build the community of Christ, praying for God’s power to overcome evil, and to draw others into that community.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be *Thy* name; ***Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth*** as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For ***thine is the Kingdom***, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Paul Bev. 23.07.21

EVIL

Smiting Domination
Exclusion In/Out
us/Them

2000
BC

Bible writers'
view of God:
"Angry, Needs
sacrifice"
"Smites people"

1000
BC

Moses:
"God smites Egyptians"

David
"God smites enemies"
"God is pleased when
we smite our enemies"

BC/AD "God will smite
the Romans"

All going rather

AD
1000

DOMINATION
crusades
Pogroms
Inquisition
Church domination
Indulgences
(Reformation)
colonialism
Mass slavery
Gay persecution
Commercial domination
Commercial slavery
Earth exploitation

AD
2000

GOOD

Blessing Inclusion
Protection Understanding
Release Reduce suffering

Abraham "Bless the
whole World"

God allows exile

God rescues Jews
God protects Jews
God allows Egyptians
to perish

God provides a land by
protecting Jews

God smites Satan
God allows evil to
kill Jesus (Aikido
principle)

CHRIST'S
KINGDOM

Love prevails
Explosion of love
Community (Celtic
Inclusion Xnty)
Earth care
Mutual support

DEFEAT OF EVIL

Bible for the
people

Individualism
Mechanism
"Systematic
theology"

Science
(Neutral?)

Chinese
science

Egyptian
science

Islamic
science

Rationalism
(led by Xns)

Modern
science
"we don't need
God"

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