

## 190 The story of King Jesus – Mk II

(This is my second attempt <sup>[187]</sup> at telling the story of King Jesus, after feedback from friends.)

God made the world as a place – a temple<sup>1</sup> – in which God's glory could dwell. And it was good. God then said, 'Let us make humans in our own image'; and God lived with humans, in love. And it was good. Adam and Eve were God's 'eikons', God's image-bearers, God's agents; they were tasked with looking after the world on God's behalf.<sup>2</sup> And it was very good.

Sadly, we (in Adam and Eve) doubted God, we didn't want to run things God's way, and it all went horribly wrong. Distrust led to fear and alienation, the relationship was ruined. By choosing to run things our way, death and suffering entered; we spoilt our intimate loving contact with God, and we couldn't stay within the original paradisaal existence – but God pursued us.

Death had entered, but soon we even intentionally caused death. Cain killed Abel, but even so, God pledged to protect Cain – God pursues us.

God saw that Noah could be an eikon, because he trusted God. So when a massive flood was on the way, God said, 'Trust me, Noah, you need to build a boat in your backyard!' He did.

But then our refusal to do things God's way increased *again*.

God saw that Abraham trusted him and could be his eikon, his agent for the next stage of the plan: 'I want you to go on a massive journey.' God wanted to bring blessing to the whole world through Abraham and his descendants, Israel. They were to be God's eikons, God's agents to show people how to live well with each other, with the world, and with God.

Over the centuries, it didn't go well because we didn't trust God, and wanted to run things our own way. But God kept sending eikons, such as Moses and the prophets, who were (not perfect but) willing to trust God and, as eikons, they tried to enact God's love and God's intentions for the good of the Israelites – and, through them, for the rest of the world.

It didn't go well over the centuries, so for four hundred years God went silent – a pregnant pause.

Then came the masterstroke of the Plan! Out of his great love, God sent **the** Eikon; God came in tangible human form, so people could see and feel and hear and know what God is **really** like.

Some people trusted him and saw wonderful things happening. But some, who didn't really trust God and who thought they knew better, killed Jesus.

The plan continued because, through his Jesus' death on the cross, God defeated sin and evil and brought an end to our ultimate enemy, death.

And guess what happened three days later! Christ is indeed King, so death could not hold him!

---

<sup>1</sup> *The Lost World of Genesis One*, Ancient Cosmology and the Origins Debate, John Walton

<sup>2</sup> *The Story of King Jesus* (the gospel of 4–8-year-olds), Ben Irwin (page 1, but unnumbered)

As in Adam all die, so in Jesus' death and resurrection, all shall be made alive. This is God's way: through suffering and death can come life; Jesus established for us the pattern of dying and rising, death and new life, being born anew.

Where does that leave us? First, we have an Eikon who showed us how to live and to love – not just an easy love but a love-your-enemies-and-pray-for-those-who-persecute-you love!

Second, and crucially, we all need to turn away from thinking we know best – repent and really trust God. When we do, the most amazing thing will happen... God, the Holy Spirit, comes to live within us, and 'You will be my witnesses (eikons) in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

For now, the world is still broken, but Christ is still King, and one day the Eikon will return. God will be with us. We will help God to care for the world, and Christ will be all in all.

Forever.<sup>3</sup>

Paul Bev. 21.11.21

---

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* (final page, but unnumbered)