

the main points again...

Two sides to every story

The story of salvation- justice and mercy

There can be no redemption unless the truth about the world is told and justice is done. To treat sin as if it were not there, when in fact it is there, amounts to living as if the world was redeemed when in fact it is not.

Miroslav Volf, *Exclusion and Embrace*
Cf. John 3.17-18; John 12.33; Isaiah 63.4

Two images of the story of salvation

An invitation to a meal

'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'

A call to the battle to save creation

Dealing with the catastrophe

How the white rider fights...

- **Through faithfulness to the Truth**
- **Through the power of the Word**
- **Through Sacrificial service**

A battle that we are joined in...

Salvation then is not simply something that God does; it is something that God is doing, and not only for us but with us, enlisting us in the saving action

Eugene Peterson, *Reverses Thunder*
Cf. Ephesians 6.10-20; 2 Corinthians 10.3-5; Colossians 2.15

The limits of evil

The end is in God's hands- not ours, and not Satan's

A battle that is done in a word- in spite of the armies

Saved by faith, judged by works?

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2.14-17

Judgement and mercy?

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 10.28

Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?

Ezekiel 18.23

Choose for yourselves this day...

Christ who loves for ever, and those with him, and Satan, who dies for ever, and those with him; between whom men are choosing daily- while they may

- Michael Wilcock

So what?

Re-read these scenes of battle together...
Can you imagine what is happening?

Are judgement and mercy two sides of the story of salvation?
Do you think that in order for God to deal with sin there needs
to be some tangible dealing with evil?

*There can be no redemption unless the truth about the world is told and
justice is done. To treat sin as if it were not there, when in fact it is
there, amounts to living as if the world was redeemed when in fact it is
not.*

What do you make of the statement above?
How might it apply to a situation in the world today, in your
life? Pray about this?

The picture of salvation as a battle is an interesting one
In what ways do you think we might be called to fight for
salvation?

Does this include fighting for justice in the world?
You might like to pray or even act about something in response?
Does it make it any easier to grasp this if we think about
salvation as for the world rather than merely for us as
individuals?

How does the rider fight?
Consider the comments overleaf...

Just as Christ created by his Word, so too he judges by his Word
If God creates one thing, does he of necessity judge others?
Does opening one door close another?

Read 20.11-15. BY what criteria does Jesus judge?
Is it possible to be judged by works and faith? Cf. James 2

Read 21.1-8
What does it mean in the context of these passages that Jesus is
the beginning and the end?
Allow your reflections on this picture of the future to turn to
prayer

Sunday July 20th 2008

it's curtains

Peeping into Revelation



The Fight to Save Creation
Revelation 19.11-21.8

Devoted to Christ, people, mission