

Creation and the Cross by Elizabeth Johnson Chapters 1-3

No, Clara, Jesus did not have to die for our salvation nor to atone for our sins.

Chapter 1

- a. 11th century Anselm: God became human to die and to save human beings.
- b. Cross necessary to satisfy God's honor and make payment for man's sins.
Divine Mercy tied to Atonement/Satisfaction theology.
- c. Extremely successful and widely accepted over centuries but also deeply flawed.
- d. Makes God morally repulsive. What father would sacrifice his son to satisfy his honor?
- e. Ignores ministry of Jesus to bring joy and preach the coming reign of God.
- f. Ignores the Resurrection by focusing solely on the death of Jesus.
- g. Sanctifies violence—saved by death. Is killing ok?
- h. Focus on submission—often used for subjugation and abuse of others.
- I. Ignores rest of creation. All creatures are recipients of God's love.

Chapter 2

The creating God who saves “I Am” liberates you from slavery and forms a new covenant.

- a. Divine identification with plight of the dispossessed, motivated by Divine Mercy.
 - 1) Egyptian Captivity—Divine Name “YHWH” I have come to deliver my people.
 - 2) Babylonian Captivity---2nd Isaiah: “Comfort O Comfort my people says your God. I am YHWH, your savior and redeemer.”
 - 3) Psalms---”Indeed the Holy One of Israel is your redeemer”.
- b. Same creating God to whom Jesus prayed speaks, abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Chapter 3

Good News (Gospels) about Jesus Christ

- a. Spiritual texts—not necessarily historically correct.
- b. Truth of faith based on experiences of Jesus after His death.
- c. Jesus lived and died a Jew living under Roman rule.
- d. Message of Jesus—focus on “Reign of God”, the redeeming, saving God of Israel.
- e. Focus on Resurrection. Life is not annihilated by death but transformed to new life by the Spirit.
- f. Focus on God's solidarity and association with all of creation, especially with those who suffer.
- g. Salvation=the presence of the Living God. God “companions” all of creation in journey through life, suffering, death and transformation.