

Jesus' Death in New Testament Thought

VOLUME 1: BACKGROUND

DAVID A. BRONDOS



Comunidad Teológica de México
Ciudad de México

Theological Community of Mexico
Mexico City

2018

CONTENTS BY CHAPTER

Acknowledgments.....	ix
Presentación de la Obra.....	xi
Introduction.....	1
Chapter 1. Jesus' Death in Traditional Christian Thought.....	15
The Three Types of Traditional Interpretations of Christ's Death.....	20
Penal Substitution Interpretations of Christ's Work in New Testament Scholarship.....	24
<i>Theological Problems and Presuppositions.....</i>	<i>32</i>
Premise 1: God's justice must be satisfied before God can remit sins.....	33
Premise 2: Christ's death was absolutely necessary for human salvation, since nothing else could have made it possible for God to remit the sins of human beings without compromising God's justice.....	36
Premise 3: What Christ suffered in his passion and death was sufficient to satisfy God's justice.....	37
Premise 4: In order for Christ to satisfy divine justice, he had to be perfectly sinless.....	41
Premise 5: In order for Christ to die as the substitute for sinful humanity, he had to be fully divine and fully human.....	43
Premise 6: Both the incarnation and the earthly life of God's Son had as their sole objective his substitutionary death for others.....	44
Premise 7: Human beings are saved and delivered from God's wrath solely by Jesus' substitutionary death on their behalf, yet they must still come to faith in order to receive that salvation.....	45
Physical Interpretations of Christ's Work in New Testament Scholarship.....	49
<i>Theological Problems and Presuppositions.....</i>	<i>65</i>
Premise 1: Powers such as sin and death are ontological in nature and as such can be dealt with in much the same way that ontological realities or substances are dealt with in the physical world.....	65
Premise 2: It was not possible for human beings, human nature, or the nature of the created order to be transformed ontologically or delivered from the powers to which they were subject without Christ's incarnation, life, death, and resurrection.....	68
Premise 3: Before the ontological transformation of humanity or the world could be brought about in its eschatological fullness, it was necessary to bring it about in part in the present time.....	70
Premise 4: Although all human beings have been ontologically transformed or united to Christ, each individual must come to faith in order to be saved.....	72
Premise 5: Although the notion of an ontological participation was clear to people in Paul's day, it is no longer clear to people in ours.....	74

Revelational Interpretations of Christ's Work in New Testament Scholarship.....	76
<i>Theological Problems and Presuppositions</i>	79
Premise 1: Christ's death was necessary because what it revealed to human beings could not have been revealed by God in any other way.....	79
Premise 2: Christ's death was necessary because there was no other way in which God could have brought about in human beings the ethical transformation necessary for them to be saved.....	80
Chapter 2. Second-Temple Jewish Soteriology	81
The Election of Israel.....	84
Israel and the Law.....	87
<i>The Law and Human Well-Being</i>	88
<i>Divine Justice and Mercy</i>	90
Reward and Punishment.....	93
<i>The Purposes of Divine Punishment</i>	95
<i>Judgment, Justice, and Righteousness</i>	99
<i>God's Judgment and God's Love</i>	102
<i>Grace and Merit</i>	111
Second-Temple Jewish Eschatology.....	112
<i>Conditional and Unconditional Salvation</i>	114
<i>Eschatological Hopes and Beliefs</i>	115
<i>Jewish Apocalyptic</i>	119
<i>The Afterlife in Second-Temple Jewish Thought</i>	120
Chapter 3. Sacrifice and Atonement in Second-Temple Jewish Thought	125
Sacrificial Interpretation in New Testament Scholarship:	
Views and Presuppositions.....	128
Assumption 1: Sacrifices made atonement for sins.....	128
Assumption 2: Sacrifices were thought to "work" in some way to produce certain salvific "effects," such as expiation and purification.....	130
Assumption 3: Sacrifice involved propitiation.....	136
Assumption 4: There could be no remission of sins without sacrifice.....	137
Assumption 5: Sacrifice was understood as substitution.....	138
Assumption 6: Sacrifice was understood in terms of representation and participation.....	139
Assumption 7: Sacrifice reveals the mechanism of sacred violence.....	140
Basic Tenets of Ancient Jewish Sacrificial Thought.....	141
1. Sacrifices were essentially <i>offerings</i> and <i>gifts</i> presented to God.....	142
2. Sacrifice was inseparable from prayers and petitions.....	145
3. What made sacrifices and prayers acceptable to God was the inner disposition and commitment to God's will of those offering them or those on whose behalf they were offered.....	150
<i>The Logic of Ancient Jewish Sacrificial Practice</i>	155
<i>The Purpose of Sacrifice in Ancient Jewish Thought</i>	160
<i>Sacrifice and the Jewish View of God</i>	162

Reconsidering the Traditional Assumptions Regarding Sacrifice.....	170
Assumption 1: Did sacrifices make atonement for sins?.....	170
Assumption 2: Were sacrifices thought to “work” in some way to produce certain salvific “effects,” such as expiation and purification?.....	172
Assumption 3: Did sacrifice involve propitiation?.....	185
Assumption 4: Was the remission of sins possible without sacrifice?.....	189
Assumption 5: Was sacrifice understood as substitution?.....	192
Assumption 6: Was sacrifice understood in terms of representation and participation?.....	197
Assumption 7: Was sacrifice thought to reveal the mechanism of sacred violence?.....	199
Chapter 4. Vicarious Suffering and Death in Ancient Jewish Thought.....	203
Isaiah 53.....	203
<i>The Difficulties of Interpreting Isaiah 53.....</i>	208
<i>A Penal Substitution Reading of Isaiah 53.....</i>	212
<i>An Alternative Reading of Isaiah 53.....</i>	215
Vicarious Death and Atonement Elsewhere in the Hebrew Scriptures.....	223
Vicarious Death and Atonement in Ancient Greco-Roman Literature.....	226
Vicarious Death and Atonement in Second-Temple Jewish Literature and Rabbinic Thought.....	231
<i>Vicarious Suffering and Death in 2 Maccabees.....</i>	231
<i>Suffering for the Law in 4 Maccabees.....</i>	241
<i>Vicarious Death in 4 Maccabees.....</i>	244
<i>The Story of Taxo.....</i>	256
<i>Atonement through Suffering and Death in Rabbinic Thought.....</i>	258
Merits, Prayer, and Atonement in Ancient Hebrew and Jewish Thought.....	264
<i>Atonement by Prayer.....</i>	267
<i>The Merits of the Fathers.....</i>	271
Chapter 5. Jesus’ Death in the Context of His Ministry.....	279
The Aims of Jesus’ Ministry.....	280
<i>Jesus’ Proclamation of God’s Reign.....</i>	281
<i>Jesus’ Teaching.....</i>	288
<i>Jesus’ Healings and Exorcisms.....</i>	294
<i>Jesus’ Preparation of Disciples.....</i>	300
The Conflicts Generated by Jesus’ Ministry.....	305
<i>Jesus’ Authority.....</i>	306
<i>Jesus’ Fellowship with Sinners.....</i>	310
<i>Jesus’ Focus on Justice and the Conflicts over the Mosaic Law.....</i>	318
Jesus’ Final Days in Jerusalem.....	325
<i>Jesus’ Ministry in Jerusalem.....</i>	326
<i>Jesus’ Entry into Jerusalem.....</i>	328
<i>Jesus’ Action in the Temple.....</i>	332
<i>Jesus’ Death and His Conflicts with the Jewish Authorities.....</i>	338
<i>The Last Supper.....</i>	344
<i>Jesus’ Words over the Bread and Wine.....</i>	350
<i>The Arrest, Condemnation, and Execution of Jesus.....</i>	356
<i>The Redemptive Significance Jesus Ascribed to his Death.....</i>	358

Chapter 6. The Crucified Jesus as Lord and Mediator	369
Jesus as Lord and Christ.....	371
<i>Jesus' Lordship for Others</i>	375
<i>Justice, Jesus' Lordship, and the Reign of God</i>	383
<i>Jesus' Death in Light of His Lordship</i>	388
Jesus as Mediator.....	390
<i>Jesus' Authority as Mediator</i>	391
<i>Jesus' Death and His Role as Mediator</i>	396
<i>The Need for Jesus' Mediation</i>	401
Chapter 7. Jesus, God's Will, and the Law	407
Faith in Jesus and the Redefinition of God's Will.....	407
<i>The Will of God and Jesus in the Book of Acts</i>	411
<i>The Will of God and Jesus in Paul's Letters</i>	414
<i>The Will of God and Jesus in the Disputed Pauline Letters</i>	419
<i>The Will of God and Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels</i>	420
<i>The Will of God and Jesus in the Gospel and Epistles of John</i>	424
<i>The Will of God and Jesus in the Other New Testament Writings</i>	427
Justification, Faith in Jesus, and the Law.....	428
The Role of the Law Among Jesus' First Followers.....	432
<i>The Relations between Jews and Non-Jews in the Communities of</i> <i>Jesus' First Followers</i>	438
<i>Reinterpreting Obedience to the Law</i>	444
<i>The Arguments of Jesus' Followers regarding the Purpose of the Law</i>	454
<i>Plight and Solution</i>	465
Chapter 8. Jesus' Death and the New Covenant Community	471
A New Covenant.....	471
<i>The Covenant and Eschatological Hopes</i>	473
<i>Old Covenant and New</i>	476
Jesus' Followers as a Distinct Community.....	480
<i>The Incorporation of Gentiles and the Redefinition of Israel</i>	485
<i>Defining the Identity of Jesus' Followers</i>	493
<i>New Covenant, New Temple</i>	500
<i>A Holy People</i>	503
<i>The Forgiveness of Sins under the New Covenant</i>	511
Jesus' Death and the New Covenant.....	517
<i>Jesus' Death and the New Temple</i>	521
Chapter 9. The Fulfillment of the Scriptures and the Divine Plan	529
The Fulfillment of the Scriptures in Jesus' Death and Resurrection.....	530
<i>The Development of Beliefs regarding the Fulfillment of Scripture in Jesus</i>	534
<i>The Typological Interpretation of Scripture</i>	541
The Divine Plan.....	547
<i>The Divine Plan in the Pauline Epistles and Other New Testament Writings</i>	548
<i>Jesus' Death as Part of the Divine Plan</i>	558
<i>Election and the Divine Plan</i>	564

The Divine Plan and the Development of Christology.....	569
<i>Christology and the Eternal Divine Plan</i>	572
<i>Jesus' Relation to God</i>	576
<i>God's Love and Jesus' Death</i>	579
<i>Non-Jewish Influences on the Christology of the New Testament</i>	582
Chapter 10. Jesus' Death for Others: The Story and the Formulas	585
Jesus' Death in the Context of the Story Told by His First Followers.....	585
<i>Jesus' Death and Resurrection as the Consequence of his Ministry</i>	588
The Development of Beliefs Regarding the Salvific Significance of Jesus' Death.....	591
<i>Jesus' Death as the Death of a Prophet</i>	594
<i>Did Jesus' First Followers Believe He Had Undergone the Messianic Tribulation?</i>	598
<i>Jesus' Death and Isaiah 53</i>	601
<i>The Influence of 2 and 4 Maccabees on the Early Interpretations of Jesus' Death</i>	608
<i>Jesus' Death and the Akedah, the Bronze Serpent, and the Passover Lamb</i>	613
<i>The Use of Sacrificial Language to Speak of Jesus' Death</i>	617
<i>Jesus' Death and the Christus Victor Idea</i>	625
<i>Jesus' Death and Greco-Roman Beliefs regarding Vicarious Death</i>	626
The Common, Shared Formulas Used to Refer to Jesus' Death.....	627
<i>Jesus' Death "For Us"</i>	629
<i>Jesus' Death or Blood as the Means of Salvation</i>	636
<i>Redemption and Acquisition through Jesus' Death</i>	638
<i>"For Our Sins"</i>	645
<i>Suffering and Dying with or for Christ</i>	650
<i>Christ's Death "For Us": Some Analogies</i>	652
Introduction to Volume 2	661
Chapter 11. Justification, Salvation, and the Work of Christ in Paul's Thought	665
Justification and the Juristic Interpretation of Jesus' Death.....	665
<i>The Traditional Forensic Reading of Paul's Teaching on Justification</i>	666
<i>Problems with the Traditional Forensic Interpretation of Paul's Doctrine of Justification</i>	668
Paul and Participation in Christ.....	674
<i>The Language of Participation</i>	674
<i>Paul's "with Christ" Language</i>	684
<i>Dying and Being Buried with Christ</i>	688
<i>"All Have Died" (2 Cor. 5:14-15)</i>	699
<i>Christ, Adam, and "All" in Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15</i>	702
<i>Union with Christ and his Body</i>	707
<i>Paul's "in Christ" Language</i>	710
<i>Participation in Christ, Justification, and Inaugurated Eschatology</i>	713
<i>The Origins and Development of Paul's "with Christ" and "in Christ" Language</i>	720

Rethinking Paul's Understanding of Justification and Salvation.....	724
<i>Faith, Works, and Justification</i>	730
<i>Justification, Righteousness, and Love</i>	733
Jesus' Death and Justification in Paul's Thought.....	734
<i>The Sufferings and Death of Jesus and Paul</i>	737
Chapter 12. The Allusions to Jesus' Death in Paul's Epistles	745
Jesus' Death in 1 Thessalonians.....	746
Jesus' Death in 1 Corinthians.....	749
<i>1 Corinthians 1-4</i>	749
<i>1 Corinthians 5-8</i>	757
<i>1 Corinthians 10-11</i>	760
<i>1 Corinthians 15</i>	765
Jesus' Death in 2 Corinthians.....	769
Jesus' Death in Galatians.....	777
<i>Galatians 1:4</i>	777
<i>Galatians 2:19-3:1</i>	780
<i>Galatians 3:13</i>	787
<i>Galatians 5-6</i>	796
Jesus' Death in Philippians.....	802
Jesus' Death in Romans.....	804
<i>Romans 3:21-26</i>	806
<i>Romans 4:24-25</i>	814
<i>Romans 5:6-11</i>	817
<i>Romans 5:15-21</i>	823
<i>Romans 6</i>	825
<i>Romans 7:4-6</i>	827
<i>Romans 8</i>	828
<i>Romans 14:1-15:12</i>	833
Chapter 13. Jesus' Death in the Disputed Pauline Letters and 1 Peter	841
The Allusions to Jesus' Death in Colossians.....	841
<i>Colossians 1</i>	843
<i>Colossians 2:11-16</i>	853
The Allusions to Jesus' Death in Ephesians.....	863
<i>Ephesians 1:7-8</i>	864
<i>Ephesians 2</i>	865
<i>Ephesians 5</i>	870
Allusions to Jesus' Death in the Pastoral Epistles.....	873
<i>1 Timothy 2:1-8</i>	873
<i>2 Timothy 2:10-13</i>	876
<i>Titus 2:11-14</i>	877
Allusions to Jesus' Death in 1 Peter.....	879
<i>1 Peter 1</i>	880
<i>1 Peter 2</i>	886
<i>1 Peter 3-4</i>	894

Chapter 14. Jesus' Death in the Synoptic Gospels and Acts	903
The Significance of Jesus' Sufferings and Death in Mark.....	904
<i>Jesus' Sufferings and Death "for Others" in Mark's Gospel</i>	905
<i>The Ironies in Mark's Passion Story</i>	912
<i>Jesus' Death, the Divine Plan, and the Fulfillment of the Scriptures</i>	914
<i>The Love of God and Jesus for Others</i>	916
<i>Mark 10:45 and 14:23-25</i>	919
The Significance of Jesus' Death in Matthew's Gospel.....	927
<i>Matthew 1-2</i>	929
<i>Jesus' Ministry, Passion, and Death in the Thought of Matthew</i>	933
<i>Matt. 20:25-28 and 26:26-29</i>	945
The Significance of Jesus' Sufferings and Death in Luke and Acts.....	951
<i>Jesus' Death in the Thought of Luke</i>	952
<i>Acts 20:28</i>	963
Chapter 15. Jesus' Death in the Epistle to the Hebrews	965
Hebrews 1.....	967
Hebrews 2.....	978
Hebrews 3-5.....	995
Hebrews 6-8.....	1001
Hebrews 9.....	1007
Hebrews 10.....	1025
Hebrews 11-13.....	1035
Chapter 16. Jesus' Death in the Gospel of John, 1 John, and Revelation	1043
Jesus' Death in the Gospel of John.....	1043
<i>Salvation and Belief in Jesus in the Fourth Gospel</i>	1045
<i>Jesus' Death in the Fourth Gospel</i>	1052
<i>Jesus' Death "for Others"</i>	1057
<i>Jesus' Body as a New Temple</i>	1075
<i>Jesus' Death "for Others" in John's Passion Narrative</i>	1076
<i>Jesus as the Lamb of God</i>	1079
Jesus' Death in 1 John.....	1089
Jesus' Death in the Book of Revelation.....	1100
Chapter 17. Jesus' Death in the Thought of the Apostolic Fathers and Justin Martyr	1109
Jesus' Death and Blood in <i>1 Clement</i>	1109
<i>1 Clement 1-21</i>	1110
<i>1 Clement 22-55</i>	1114
Jesus' Death in the Epistles of Ignatius of Antioch.....	1117
<i>Ignatius and the Docetists</i>	1117
<i>Flesh and Spirit</i>	1121
<i>Jesus' Flesh and Blood</i>	1124
<i>Jesus' Passion and Death</i>	1128
<i>The Constitution of a New People through Christ's Life, Sufferings, and Death</i>	1132
<i>Ignatius as Antipsuchon for Others</i>	1137

Jesus' Death in the <i>Epistle of Polycarp to the Philipppians</i>	1141
Jesus' Death in the <i>Martyrdom of Polycarp</i>	1143
Jesus' Death in the <i>Epistle of Barnabas</i>	1145
<i>Barnabas</i> 1-4.....	1146
<i>Barnabas</i> 5.....	1147
<i>Barnabas</i> 6-10.....	1152
<i>Barnabas</i> 11-19.....	1155
Jesus' Death in the <i>Epistle to Diognetus</i>	1159
<i>Diognetus</i> 9.....	1159
The Death of Jesus in the Thought of Justin Martyr.....	1167
<i>Jesus' Death in Justin's Apologies</i>	1168
<i>The Typological Interpretation of Jesus' Death in Justin's Dialogue with Trypho</i>	1171
<i>Sacrificial Typology in the Dialogue</i>	1175
<i>Jesus' Death for Others in the Dialogue</i>	1179
<i>Christ as Accursed in the Dialogue</i>	1184
Chapter 18. The Work of Christ in the Thought of Melito of Sardis and Irenaeus of Lyons	1191
The Work of Christ in the <i>Peri Pascha</i> of Melito of Sardis.....	1192
<i>Christ's Sufferings and Death in Melito's Peri Pascha</i>	1195
<i>The Salvation of "Man" in the Peri Pascha</i>	1202
<i>Christ's Saving Work in the Fragments of the Peri Pascha</i>	1214
The Work of Christ in the Thought of Irenaeus.....	1222
<i>The Son of God's Assumption of "Man"</i>	1224
<i>The Salvation of "Man"</i>	1228
<i>The Defeat of the Devil</i>	1230
<i>Irenaeus's Use of Tradition</i>	1232
<i>The Argument for Necessity</i>	1236
<i>Salvation as an Objective Reality</i>	1239
Conclusion	1243
<i>Justification by Works or by Faith?</i>	1249
<i>Rethinking God and the Cross of Christ</i>	1255
Abbreviations	1263
Bibliography	1267
Index of Ancient Sources	1329
Index of Authors	1349
Index of Subjects	1359