



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Christ Rose, Launching New Creation

Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12, 20-27a

[Watch LIVESTREAM here at 10am](#)

[Join our post-sermon discussion on Zoom at 11am](#)

[Join our citKids Connect discussion at 11am](#)

Resurrection—Jesus' Resurrection & Ours

- A. Corinthians believed Jesus' rose, yet denied their own future resurrection (1 Cor. 15:4b, 12)
 1. "Some in Corinth...denied the possibility of resurrection in general, [yet,] even those readers would at least accept the truth... of Christ's resurrection...They...did not doubt the resurrection of Jesus, but believed for themselves that they would be saved as immortal souls." –Fred Horton
- B. Christ the "First-fruits"—linking the believers' resurrection with Christ's (1 Cor. 15:20, 23)
 1. "What the Creator God did for Jesus is both the model & the means of what he will do for all Jesus' people." –N. T. Wright C. "Resurrection of dead (persons)"—the whole person raised

The Cosmic Drama: Two 'Actors'—God & Humanity?

- A. What's the Problem?—more than sins; it's 'enslavement,' which started with Adam (1 Cor. 15:3; Gal. 3:22)
 1. "The human predicament...requires more than forgiveness...The root trouble lies deeper...[All] humanity is... enslaved...Paul's gospel is that...God has invaded the world held captive by Sin & Death...to set creation & humanity free."—Susan Eastman

The Cosmic Drama: Three 'Actors'—God, Humanity & Cosmic Powers

- A. How Many 'Actors' in the Cosmic Drama?

1. "The orthodox drama has two actors—[God & humanity]. But...the Gospel's [cosmic] drama...[has] three actors: (1.) [God], (2.) [humanity], and (3.) anti-God powers [Satan, Sin, Death, etc]."—J. Louis Martyn
- B. What's the Problem? The '3rd Actor'—Evil Cosmic Powers—Satan, Sin, & Death, etc. (Rom. 5:12-14, 17)
 1. "Cosmic Powers"—Supernatural, Metaphorical, Mythological, or Institutional?
 2. Taking the "Cosmic Powers" seriously (Rom. 8:3; Mk. 3:27)
 1. "'The Satan,' the accuser,'...[is] the anti-God, anti-creation, anti-human force at large in the world..."—N. T. Wright
 2. "Death is an intruder, a violator of God's good world. The Creator's answer to death can't be....compromise. Death must be, & in the Messiah has been, defeated."—N. T. Wright
 3. Humanity's Enslavement is due to Cosmic Evil's Invasion of God's good creation (Rom. 7:23)
 1. "The problem is that actual powers...Sin & Death, hold humanity in their grasp. God has intervened in the death & resurrection of Jesus to break their power."—Beverly Gaventa
- C. What's the solution? God's Liberating Invasion via Christ, the '2nd Adam'—His death & Resurrection (1 Cor. 15:21-22)

Christ Defeats the Cosmic Powers & Launches New Creation (Col. 2:15; 1 Cor. 15:24-27; Rev. 1:18)

"The entrance of Sin...through [Adam]...introduced a power, a cosmic anti-god figure...Jesus...was God's... answer to the...Sin introduced by Adam...History [centers on] 2 paradigmatic figures, Adam & Jesus... Jesus defeated the powers of Sin ('principalities & powers,' 'rulers,'... etc.) & inaugurated the...new creation." —John Toews

- A. Christ's Victory in the Cosmic Battle secures a "Beachhead" for Believers in the "New Creation"
 1. In general "the [cosmic] powers continue active & insubordinate to God...[However,] (with the exception of Death) they no longer have any dominion over the Christian [who is 'in Christ']."—Neil Elliot
- B. Yet, the Cosmic Powers (including Death) remain active until 'the End' (1 Cor. 15:24-26)
 1. "The resurrection...set in motion a ...process of history whose goal is the annihilation of death in the victory of the life of resurrection...& which ends [when] God receives...his due."—Jurgen Moltmann

We Participate in Christ's Resurrection & New Creation (Rom. 6:1-11)

- A. "Paul declares that the cross...freed him from the enslavement of the cosmos [& produced] 'a new creation'...[That] new creation is embodied in Christ, in the church, & thus in [the people of God]"—Christopher Morse