

God's dealing with evil in the New Testament.

a. Evil and the Crucified God.

- i. In the Old Testament God dealt with evil through the Temple, and through various people (Judges, Kings, Prophets, The Servant, the Son of Man).
- ii. Now God will deal with evil through the cross
 1. The cross is not just the way sinners get to heaven.
 2. It is not just motivation for living a better life.
- iii. Re-reading the Gospels as telling the story of God dealing with evil in the world not just sin in the individual sinner.
 1. Political powers represented by Caesar, Herod, and Caiaphas reach their full arrogant power. They stand over against the coming Kingdom of God
 2. Corruption exists within Israel itself
 - a. The Pharisees view of holiness and righteousness
 - b. The priests seeking to preserve the Temple and their position at all costs
 - c. The revolutionaries who want to use violence to fight violence which only gives a victory to violence
 - d. Israel wants to be like the nations as they did in 1 Samuel.
 3. The deeper forces at work (the demonic)
 4. Jesus' followers themselves are corrupted
 5. There is a downward spiral of evil which reaches its peak when Jesus is arrested, tried, and crucified.