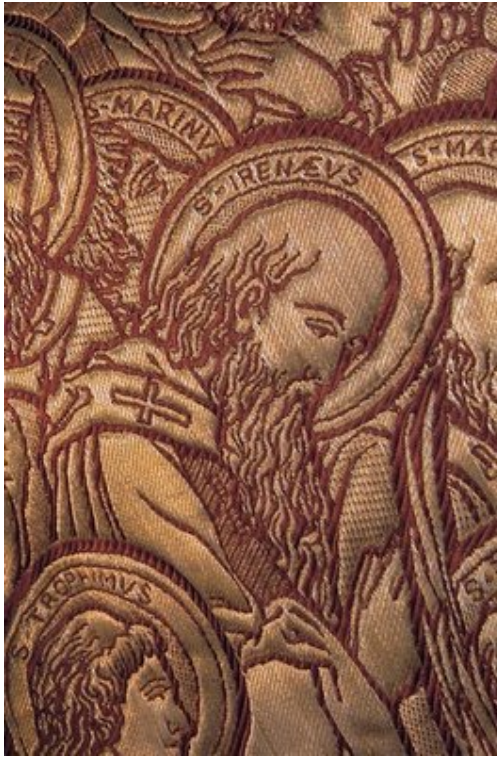


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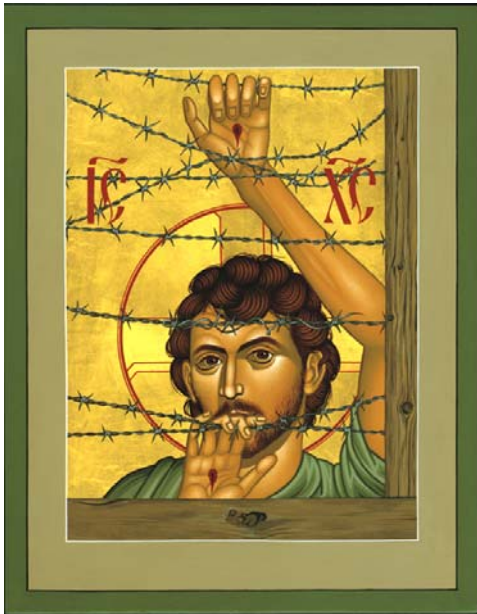
Irenaeus

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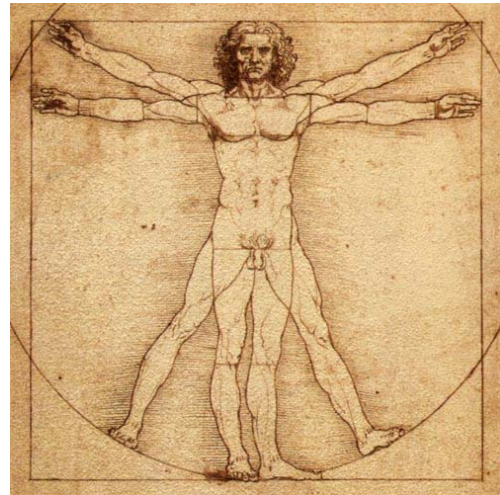
Augustine

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Liberation Theology

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Process Theology

Irenaeus

The world is a “vale of soul making” (Keats)

- People are born unformed, and in order to really participate in the world, Good and Evil need to exist so that that informed, meaningful human development can take place

Angel Points

- Puts a very high value on human freedom

Devil Points

- Does it give dignity to evil?
- What about evils like Auschwitz and Hiroshima which destroy everything which they come into contact with?
- Does it lead to passive acquiescence in evil?

Augustine

Evil has invaded a good world

- Creation is fundamentally good, but spoiled – contaminated by Sin, due to the fall. Evil does not exist in itself – it is the privation of the good.

Angel Points

- The idea that creation is fundamentally good seems to do justice to the Biblical witness – also our intuitions?

Devil Points

- How did the fall take place if evil does not exist? Augustine says: Satan tempted. But how did Satan fall? No ready answer
- Does this require a literal, historical, fall? Is that a problem for us?

Liberation Theology

God is at work in the world liberating the poor.

- The Biblical tradition is a call to courageous human participation in God’s struggle against suffering, rather than a pious acquiescence in suffering. God grants power to the powerless to fight here and now for the freedom they know to be theirs in Jesus’ cross and resurrection”

Angel Points

- Justice needs to be struggled for

Devil Points

- No account of evil as such
- What about forgiveness?
- What about “natural” evil?

Process Theology

God’s power is essentially limited, persuasive rather than coercive.

- God does not create *ex nihilo*, but persuades recalcitrant matter as best as God can. The universe is full of things with some power and freedom of their own. God has persuaded the world to bring forth forms of life which have potential for good and evil.

Angel Points

- Seems consonant with evolution & rarity (at the least) of miracles

Devil Points

- Doesn’t match Biblical witness of creation *ex nihilo*
- How can we be assured good will ultimately triumph?

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The Protest Theology

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Karl Barth

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Divine Inscrutability

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Divine Wrath

Protest Theology

For God by being against God

- Assuming that God is, in fact, sovereign, the sheer amount of suffering in the world casts doubt on God's goodness. We must be honest to our experience and question if God really is love. Like Jacob wrestling with an angel or Job questioning God. Inspired by Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel

Angel Points

- Honest – if shocking

Devil Points

- Do we really want to say that God is not in fact good after all?
- Seems more Jewish than Christian

Karl Barth

Does “omnipotence” mean “omnicausality”?

- Questions the assumption that God is “omnipotent” in the sense of the God of the philosopher. His Christological approach is to see it as God's grace triumphing over unbelief, evil, and suffering. Confidence in the ultimate triumph of grace gives believers confidence in final victory in a world seemingly dominated by evil.
- Evil is *das Nichtige* – nothingness – which is what God did not will in creation. It wills nothingness

Angel Points

- Christological, refuses to accept *a priori* assumptions about God

Devil Points

- Is evil an alien sphere of influence that only God can overcome? If so, what is our role in it?

Divine Inscrutability

Who are you to question God?

- We don't know what God knows, we aren't God, and are hardly in a position to question God.

Angel Points

- God cannot be wrong and us right-consider
- God's answer to Job.

Devil Points

- Job was in the right with God, even when he questioned. We have permission to question God. It was the comforters who did not question who God held to be in the wrong.

Divine Vengeance

“The scriptures teach us that pestilence, war, and other calamities of this kind are chastisements of God, which he inflicts on our sins” - Calvin

- God governs the world so that the good and wicked get what they deserve, if not in this life, then the life to come

Angel Points

- We want to see virtue rewarded and vice punished
- Human deeds do have consequences: reckless and sinful behaviour often brings bad results

Devil Points

- Jesus teaches against it (Luke 13:4, John 9:1-3)
- Does God really smite innocent children with horrible diseases?
- The relationship between sin and suffering is not as simple as this view wants to say