

Theme: If Christ is not Risen

1 Cor. 15:14

**And if Christ be not risen, then
is our preaching vain, and your
faith is also vain.**

Theme: If Christ is not Risen

Judaism was the only ancient religion that believed in a resurrection event [reuniting of the body and spirit]. Many believed in a reincarnation event where the personhood of a spirit would be lost in the process of being born as a new person. Other religions believed in a spiritual existence or even a spiritual transcendence [unification with the spiritual force of the universe] following death.

For other religions the Jewish belief in resurrection of the physical body was somewhat creepy as they viewed it as the reanimation of a corpse rather than a transformation of the person's very being. The Christian view of salvation comes from the Jewish belief in resurrection. We believe that Jesus Christ was the first to experience this physical resurrection God promised to humanity. But unlike the Jewish faith we believe that the resurrection is accomplished in a through Jesus Christ.

Theme: If Christ is not Risen



The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is central to our Christian faith. Primarily it verifies his claim to divinity. But in addition, it provides...

- ...an anchor in the midst of doubts
- ...hope in the most hopeless of situations
- ...recognition of God's power within us
- ...a full understanding of the meaning of salvation
- ...an understanding of who Jesus really is
- ...the purpose of Christ's suffering
- ... the goal God has for all creation.

“Awakening In Victory”

Isaiah 51:9-11 & 1 Corinthians 15:31-34

Chaos and death drive most of our human fears. That is true of the human condition throughout our existence. One euphemism we use for death is “sleeping”. This euphemism is even used in the Bible in John 11 where Jesus used the euphemism in describing Lazarus’ death

Christ in the House of Martha and Mary, Jan Vermeer 1655



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“Awakening In Victory”

Isaiah 51:9-11 & 1 Corinthians 15:31-34

The writer of Hebrews [2:14-15] tells us that we have been enslaved by the Devil due to our fear of death, but Because Jesus experience death and overcame it, we no longer are enslaved by the Devil. Jesus would put it Marth [Lazarus’ sister] this way, “I am the Resurrection and the Life...”

Christ in the House of Martha and Mary, Jan Vermeer 1655



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Isaiah 51:9-11 [ESV]

7 "Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings. 8 For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool; but my righteousness will be forever, and my salvation to all generations."

9 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in days of old, the generations of long ago. Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces, who pierced the dragon? 10 Was it not you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, who made the depths of the sea a way for the redeemed to pass over? 11 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

“Awakening In Victory”

Isaiah 51:9-11 & 1 Corinthians 15:31-34



Sarcosuchus an ancient crocodile discovered in many parts of the world. It was an enormous animal over 30 feet in length. The salt water crocodile of Australia is the largest living crocodile, it can reach over 20 feet in length. Some species of ancient crocodiles exceeded 50 feet in length.

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“Awakening In Victory”

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A fascinating set of images in scripture are the Rahab [*not the Jericho woman*] and Leviathan. These 2 creatures are briefly mentioned many times in the Old Testament. Both are identified as sea monsters, but in some cases, they symbolically stand for Egypt [*Rahab*] and Babylon [*Leviathan*]. Leviathan is described in detail in Job 41 and may be the dragon that is “pierced”. Yet despite this we have little knowledge of these creatures. Generally, they are viewed as lethargic but violent when aroused. They are powerful and selfish creatures.

“Awakening In Victory”

Isaiah 51:9-11 & 1 Corinthians 15:31-34

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Leviathan is identified often with a dragon like serpent creature, while Rahab is mostly identified with the Nile river. She is almost a crocodile type creature. Both are viewed as agents chaos and death. It is believed that Rahab may correspond to “Tiamat” in ancient Mesopotamian myths. Leviathan is believed to have developed from the Mesopotamian “Lotan” a sea monster which served at the pleasure of the malicious sea god. The name Rehab means “wide place”. It can be used for chaos, abyss or depths of the sea.

“Awakening In Victory”

Isaiah 51:9-11 & 1 Corinthians 15:31-34

Sarcosuchus an ancient crocodile discovered in many parts of the world. It was an enormous animal over 30 feet in length.



These are also designations for Tiamat the goddess of chaos. In scripture it is also used as a designation for the land of Egypt. In one passage the creature is connected directly with Pharaoh.

Psalm 89:10 [ESV]

10 You crushed Rahab like a carcass; you scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.

Job 26:10-14 *12-13 [ESV]

12 By his power he stilled the sea; by his understanding he shattered Rahab.

13 By his wind the heavens were made fair; his hand pierced the fleeing serpent.

Job 9:13 [ESV]

13 "God will not turn back his anger; beneath him bowed the helpers of Rahab.

Isaiah 30:7 [ESV]

7 Egypt's help is worthless and empty; therefore I have called her "Rahab who sits still."

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Isaiah 51:9-11 & 1 Corinthians 15:31-34

Salt Water Crocodile in Australia jumping out of the water to grab a chicken dangled over the water. The Nile Crocodile is 2nd largest Crocodile in the world.

It is believed that the goddess Rahab’s imagery was connected to the crocodile and then applied as a metaphor to represent Egypt.

Sobek was the Egyptian male crocodile god. He was the god of violence, fertility and the Nile River.



Ezekiel 29:2-6 [ESV]

2 "Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and prophesy against him and against all Egypt; 3 speak, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against you, **Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lies in the midst of his streams, that says, 'My Nile is my own; I made it for myself.'**

4 I will put hooks in your jaws, and make the fish of your streams stick to your scales; and I will draw you up out of the midst of your streams, with all the fish of your streams that stick to your scales.

5 And I will cast you out into the wilderness, you and all the fish of your streams; you shall fall on the open field, and not be brought together or gathered. To the beasts of the earth and to the birds of the heavens I give you as food.

6 Then all the inhabitants of Egypt shall know that I am the LORD. "Because you have been a staff of reed to the house of Israel,

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The more frightening crocodile deity was Ammit [Ammut]. She had the head of a crocodile, the forebody of a leopard and the back portion of a hippopotamus. She stood ready as the souls of the dead were being weighed against the feather of justice to devour any who were unjust.



Ammit or Ammut the crocodile goddess which devoured the unworthy souls of the dead – papyrus 400 BC

“Awakening In Victory”

Isaiah 51:9-11 & 1 Corinthians 15:31-34

The crocodile represented a creature of malevolent chaos, destruction and death. Rahab was probably the Canaanite deity associated with Tiamat and Ammit.



Ammit or Ammut the crocodile goddess which devoured the unworthy souls of the dead – papyrus 400 BC

Isaiah 27:1 [ESV]

1 In that day the LORD with his hard and great and strong sword will punish **Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea.**

Psalm 74:12-14 [ESV]

12 Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth. 13 You divided the sea by your might; **you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters.** 14 **You crushed the heads of Leviathan;** you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.

Psalm 87:4 [ESV]

4 Among those who know me I mention **Rahab** and Babylon; behold, Philistia and Tyre, with Cush — "This one was born there," they say.

“Awakening In Victory”

Isaiah 51:9-11 &

1 Corinthians 15:31-34

It is interesting that

such chaotic creatures are represented in almost all ancient mythology. One of the most interesting is the Midgard Sea Serpent of Norse mythology “Jormungand”.



The destruction of Leviathan by Gustave Dore' [1832-83] from Isaiah 27:1

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Job 41:1-10 [ESV]

1 "Can you draw out **Leviathan** with a fishhook or press down his tongue with a cord? 2 Can you put a rope in his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook? 3 Will he make many pleas to you? Will he speak to you soft words? 4 Will he make a covenant with you to take him for your servant forever? 5 Will you play with him as with a bird, or will you put him on a leash for your girls?

“Awakening In Victory”

Isaiah 51:9-11 &

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In Norse mythology

Thor catches the Midgard Serpent while fishing and a mighty battle is engaged. Surprisingly, this myth is found in almost all ancient religions. The serpent represents humanity's fear of death, chaos and destruction

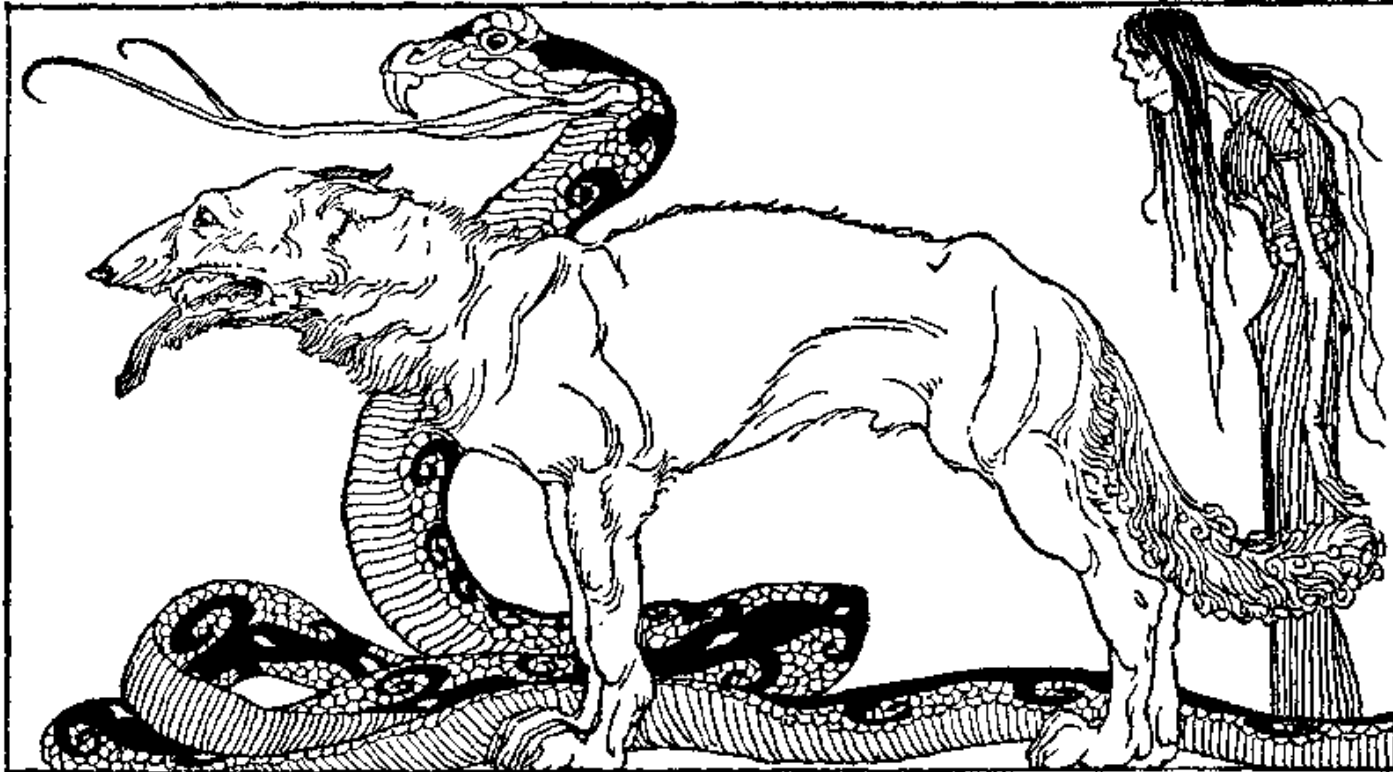
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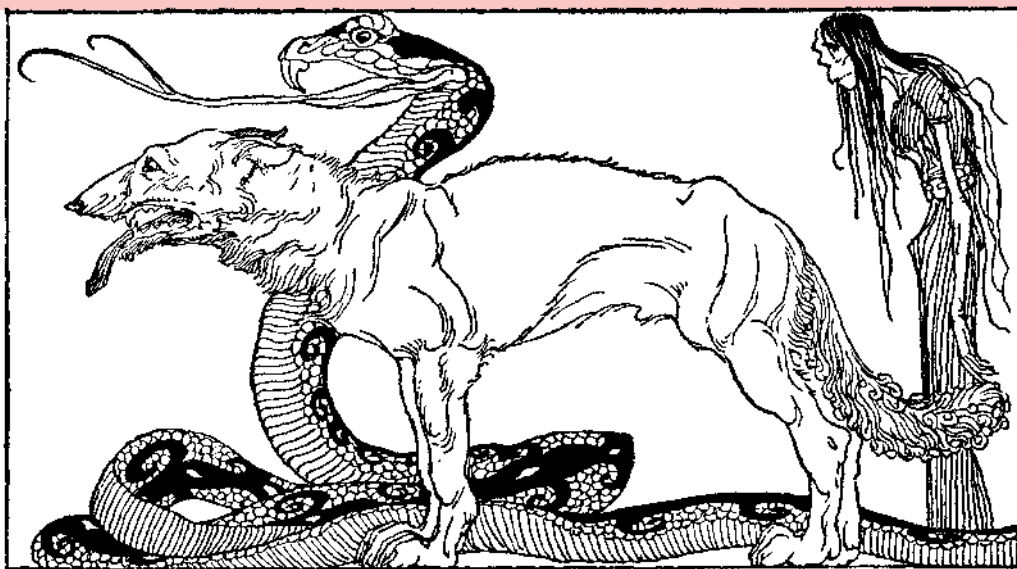
The destruction of Leviathan by Gustave Dore' [1832-83] from Isaiah 27:1

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“Awakening In Victory” Isaiah 51:9-11 & 1 Corinthians 15:31-34



Children of Loki by Willy Pogany [1882-1955]. Jormungand [Midgard Serpent], Fenris [Starving Wolf] and Hel [Queen of the Underworld]. According to Norse mythology these 3 monsters would bring about the end of the world [Ragnarök]. Loki the trickster god was their father.



Children of Loki by Willy
Pogany [1882-1955].

“Awakening In Victory”
Isaiah 51:9-11 &
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Norse mythology, opposed to most other mythology, has the battle between the sky/thunder god ending in the destruction of all creation. As the children of Loki battle bring complete destruction and chaos. Norse mythology is pretty bleak. In the Bible God triumphs over chaos, death and destruction. The Devil uses our fears of these to dominate us.

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Revelation 12:7-11 *9 [ESV]

7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back,
8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven.

9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world — he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

“Awakening In Victory”

Isaiah 51:9-11 &

1 Corinthians 15:31-34

In Revelation Satan

represented as a
Leviathan like serpent is
cast down and defeated
because of the witness to
the death and
resurrection of Jesus
Christ by those of us who
follow him.



The destruction of Leviathan by Gustave Dore' [1832-83] from Isaiah 27:1

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1 Corinthians 15:31-34 [ESV]

31 I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! 32 What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." 33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." 34 Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.

“Awakening In Victory”

Isaiah 51:9-11 &

1 Corinthians 15:31-34

In Isaiah 51, the “Arm of the LORD” awakens. The Arm of the LORD is a title used for the Messiah in Isaiah. Awakening is often used in the Old Testament to represent the concept of the resurrection.



A double bell alarm clock.

“Awakening In Victory”

Isaiah 51:9-11 &

1 Corinthians 15:31-34

Paul in 1 Corinthians 15 tells us a Christians to awaken to the power of the Resurrection within us to deal with the chaos and destruction of sin in our lives.



A double bell alarm clock.

Isaiah 52:1-3 [ESV]

1 Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for there shall no more come into you the uncircumcised and the unclean.

2 Shake yourself from the dust and arise; be seated, O Jerusalem; loose the bonds from your neck, O captive daughter of Zion.

3 For thus says the LORD: "You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money."

“Awakening In Victory”

Isaiah 51:9-11 &

1 Corinthians 15:31-34

Isaiah speaks of

Jerusalem awakening in the LORD’s victory from the despair of the coming captivity, Queen Esther exemplified this future confidence in her courage.



Queen Esther by Hermann
Anschutz [1802-80]

“Awakening In Victory”

Isaiah 51:9-11 &

1 Corinthians 15:31-34

We are called to put on the garment of victory that have been provided in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We are victorious because he has conquered death, destruction and chaos.



Queen Esther by Hermann Anschutz [1802-80]

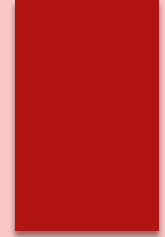
Ephesians 5:13-17 [ESV]

13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

“Awakening In Victory”

Isaiah 51:9-11 &
1 Corinthians 15:31-34



It is time
to awake to
the victory
in Christ’s
resurrection
for us.