

**Michael Lloyd**  
Principal, Wycliffe Hall  
University of Oxford

**“Lifting Our Eyes:  
Christian Living in the Light of the World to  
Come”**

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# LIFTING OUR EYES

The four basic world view questions:

- I. Who are we?
- II. What is wrong?
- III. What is the solution?
- IV. Where are we going?

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# LIFTING OUR EYES

The four basic world view questions:

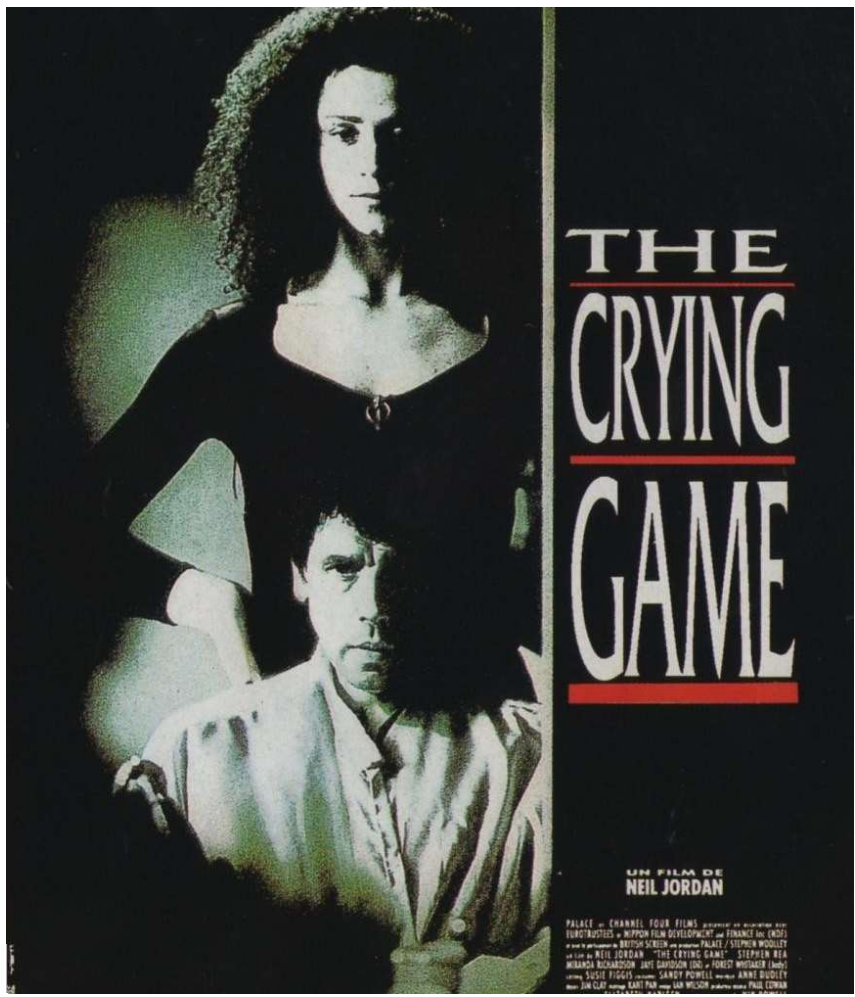
- I. Who are we?
- II. What is wrong?
- III. What is the solution?
- IV. **Where are we going?**

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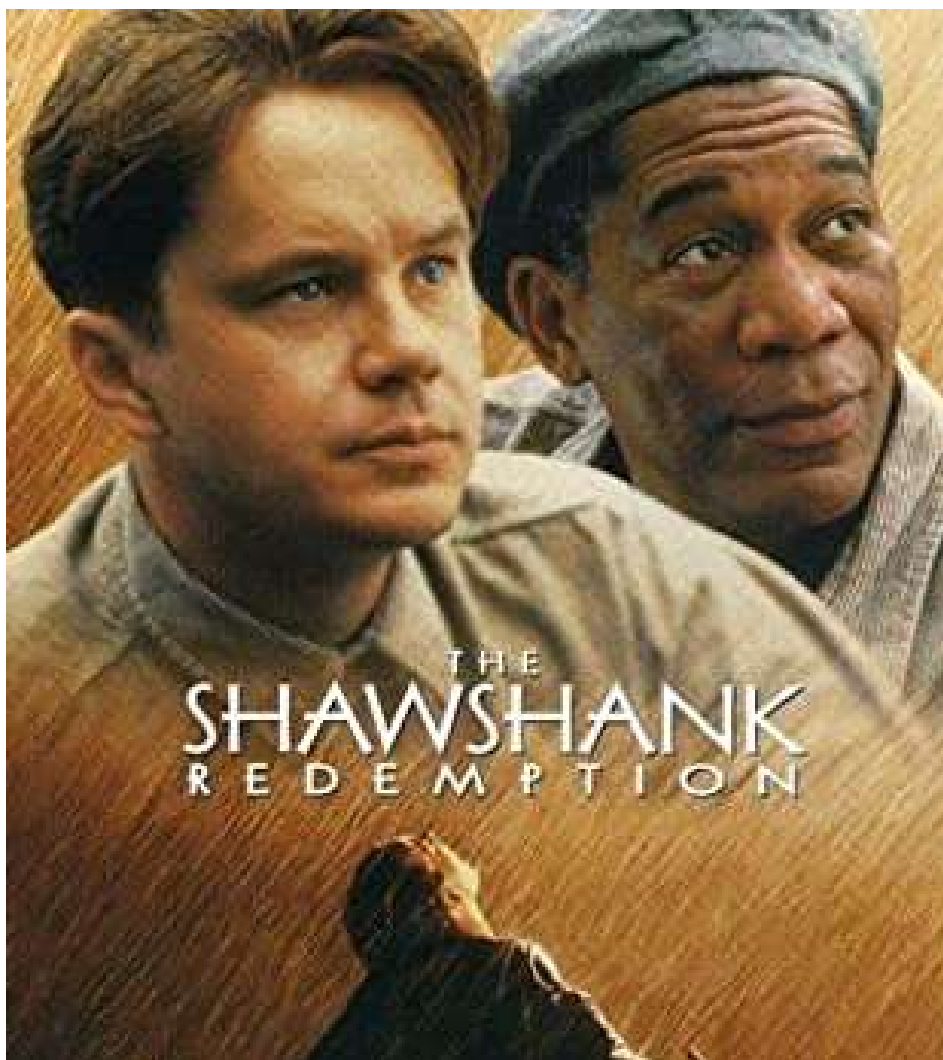


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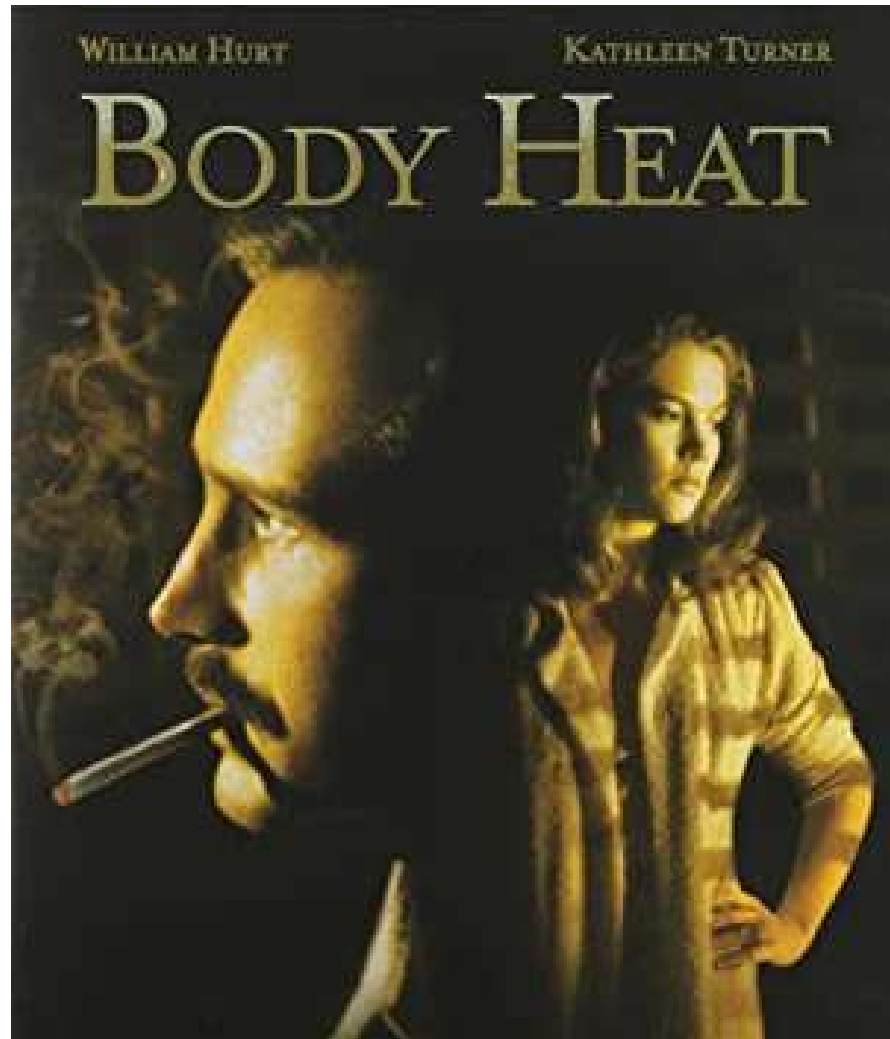


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# King Lear



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# 1 Materialism



Bertram Russell

I believe that  
when I die, I rot.



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Jesus refused to impose His agenda on others by force - in fact, He allowed others to force their agenda on *Him* by force rather than take up the sword Himself



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What can we learn  
from materialism?

i) It is the  
privilege of the  
Christian to *live*  
*in more*  
*dimensions.*



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What can we learn from materialism?

ii) It is the privilege of the Christian to live in Christian community, and thereby to find the meaning that comes from belonging.

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WE DO NOT NEED TO GET SOMEONE IN TO HELP US WITH MARKETING OUR CHURCH AS WE ARE PERFECTLY ABLE TO DO IT OURSELVES

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What can we learn from materialism?

iii) We are called to live with deep respect for the freedom of others

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For to be **FREE** is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.



NELSON MANDELA



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What can we learn  
from materialism?

iv) It is the  
privilege of the  
Christian to live  
sacramentally



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## 2 Platonism



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God made the  
physical world  
and esteemed it  
'very good'.



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# God took flesh in the Incarnation



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and lived  
a physical  
life



and died a  
physical  
death.



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God raised  
Jesus to life  
*physically*,  
leaving an  
empty  
tomb.



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the risen Jesus  
could be  
touched and  
could eat fish.





He ascended  
physically, so God  
is now internally  
and eternally  
committed to the  
physical world.

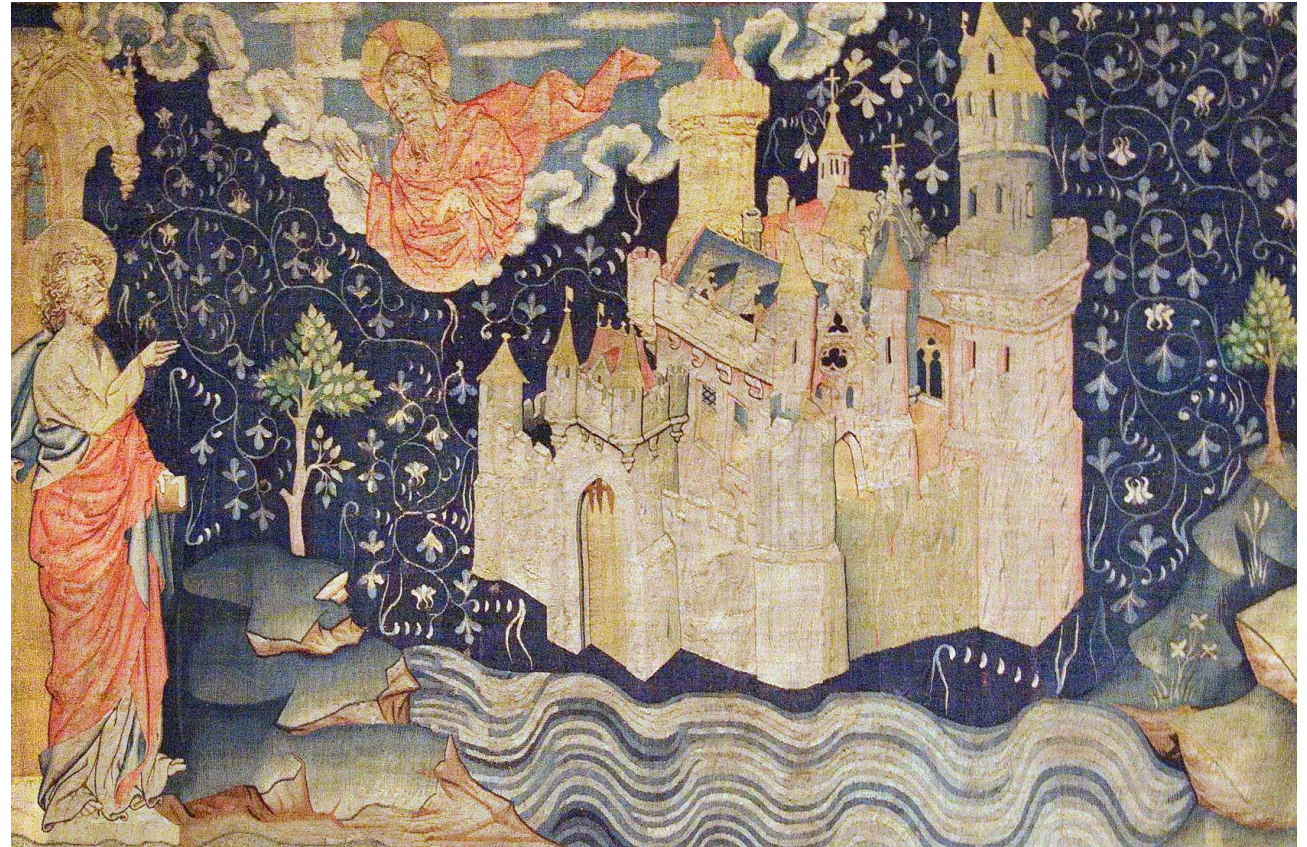


God gave us physical things like bread and wine to be the particular vehicles of His presence and His grace.





A biblical eschatology therefore offers us not a disembodied heaven but a new heavens and a new earth.



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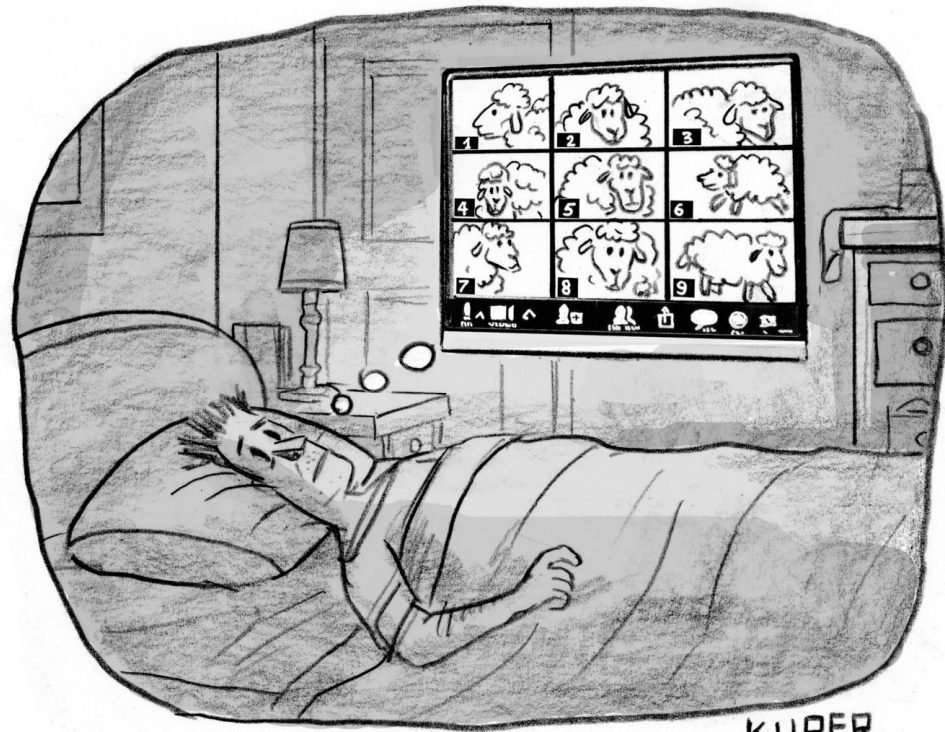


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What can we learn from Platonism?

i) That we are essentially physical beings



KUPER

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What can we learn  
from Platonism?

ii) That we are  
called to enjoy  
the physical  
world.



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What can we learn  
from Platonism?

iii) That we are  
called to look  
after the  
physical world.



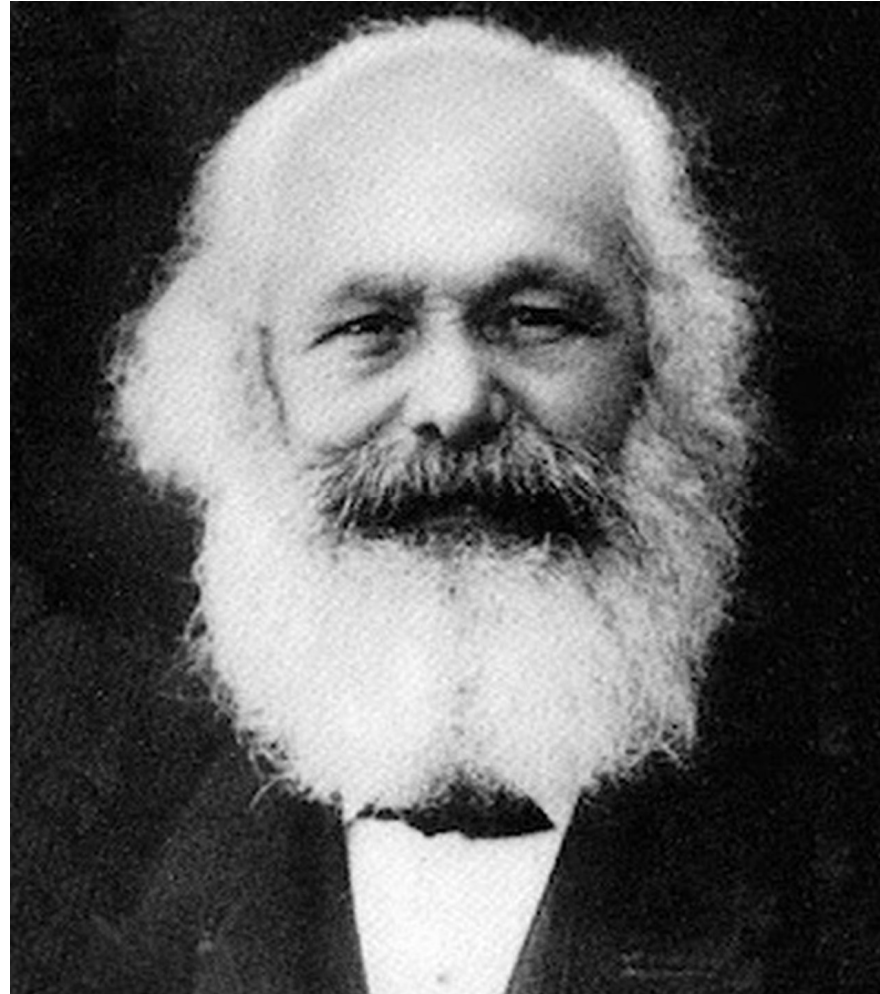


What can we learn from Platonism?

iv) That we are called to a sacramental celebration of the physical



# 3 Marxism



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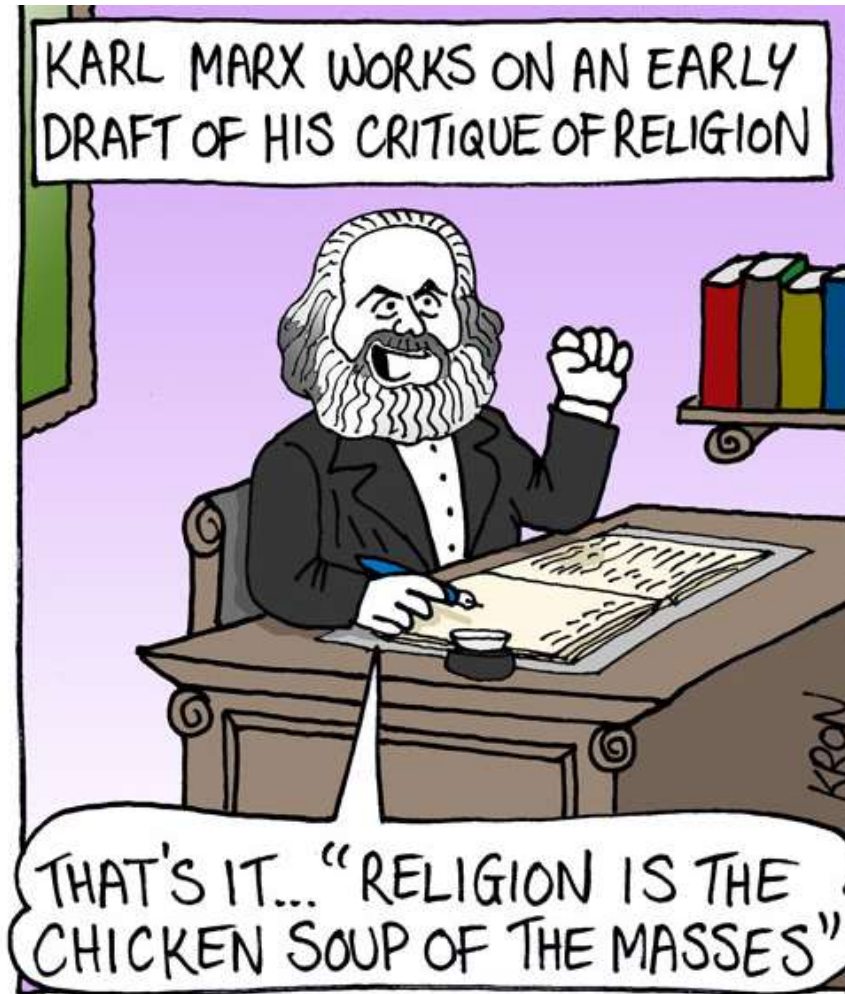


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‘For Marx religion is a cosmic aspirin, an analgesic deliberately administered by the rich and powerful to dull the pain of the workers’ lot and thereby prevent the otherwise inevitable eventual reaction to sustained injustice, exploitation and deprivation.’

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... religious hope stands Marx's on its head and insists that the imaginative capacity of such hope to reach beyond the limits and lacks of the present, far from paralysing protest, actually furnishes the fuel which drives political will and is the ultimate source of all genuine protest against the given.



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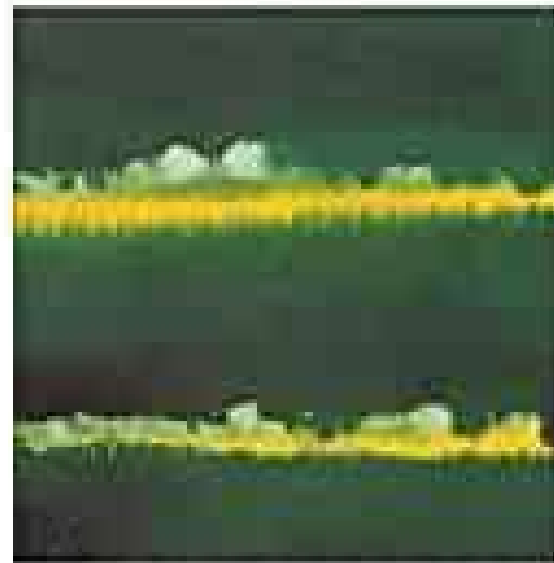
Only ... insofar as we are able to envisage how things might be different from the way they are in this world, how they might change in the future, how they are intended by God ultimately to be, do we have any final grounds for refusing to accept the way the world presently is.

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# HOPE AGAINST HOPE

Christian Eschatology in  
Contemporary Context



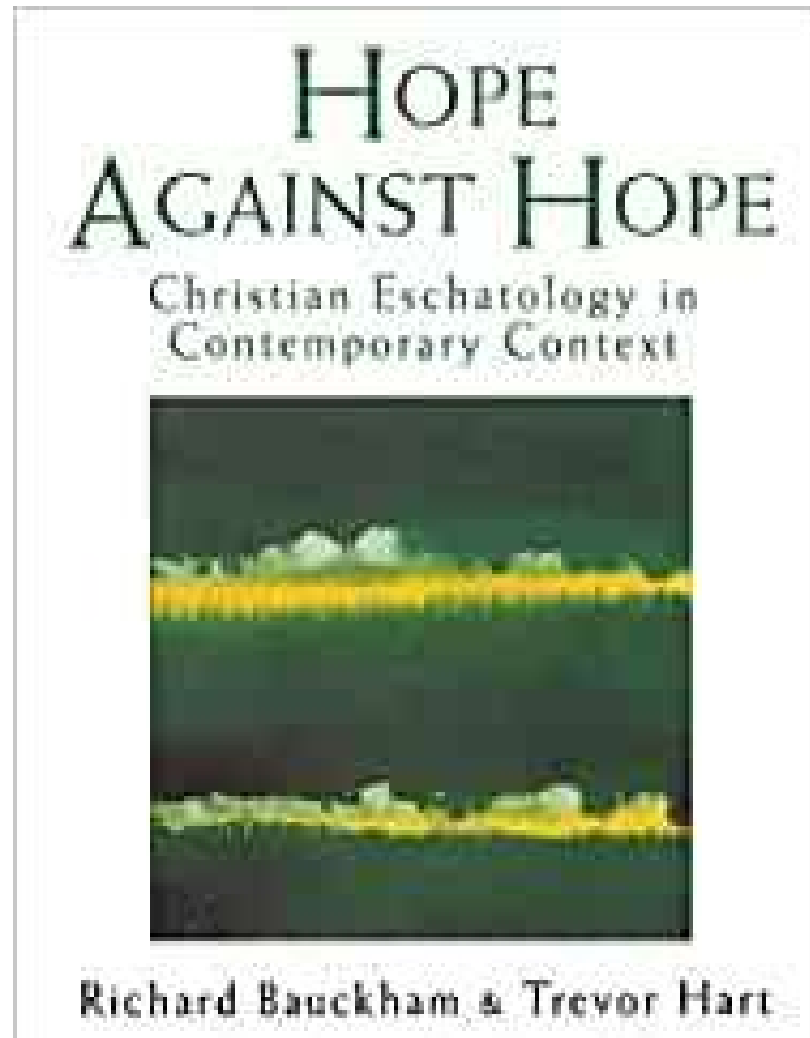
Richard Bauckham & Trevor Hart

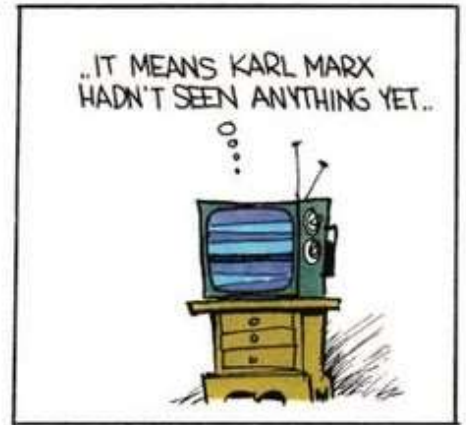


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In other words, the 'utopia' proper to Christian eschatology offers no less than its Marxist alternative in this respect.'





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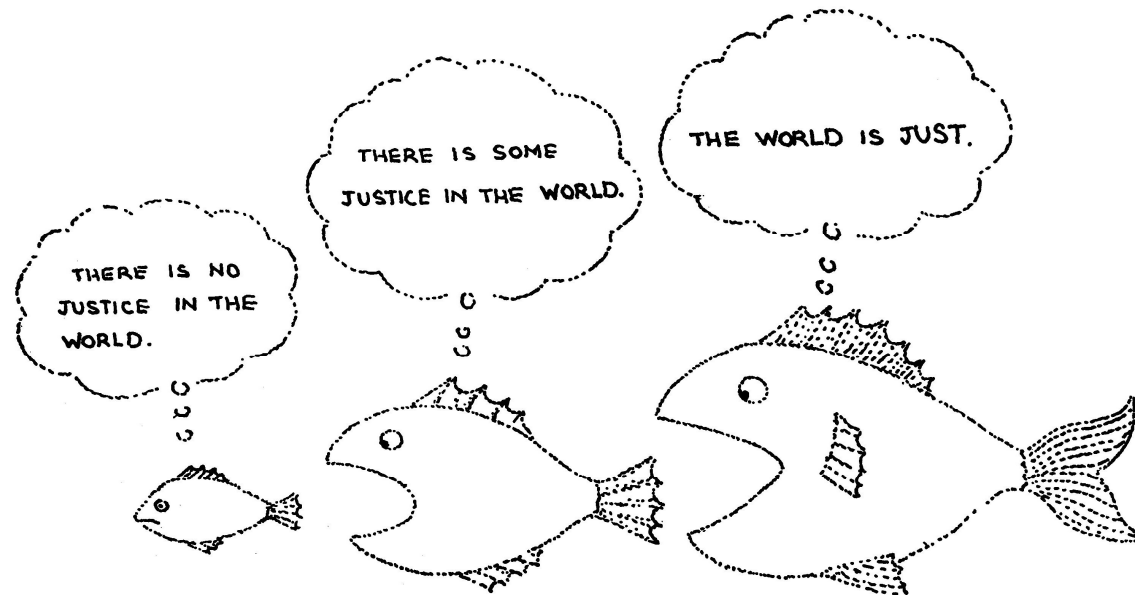
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What can we learn from Marxism?

i) That our eschatology does not permit us to acquiesce in the way things are – but to be committed to the pursuit of justice.



MANKOFF

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What can we learn from Marxism?

ii) That we are called to protest against the ugliness of violence by celebration of the beauty of harmony.

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# 4 Paganism



Dr Leslie Winkle



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‘Because  
love  
trumps  
hate.’



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Jerry Seinfeld

'Babies may look  
cute, but do not  
be deceived.  
Remember why  
they are here:

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Jerry Seinfeld

- they are  
here to  
replace us!



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# Walter Wink

‘The implications are clear: humanity is created from the blood of a murdered god. Our very origin is violence. Killing is in our blood.’



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# The Terminator



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# Power Rangers



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# Ragnarok



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# The Trinity



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What can we learn from paganism?

i) Knowing that violence is a (terrible but) temporary denial of the peaceful purposes of God, we need to recommit ourselves to being peacemakers



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What can we learn from paganism?

ii) Knowing that love is the ultimate fact and the substance of our vocation, we need to ensure that our diaries reflect that priority.



*“No, Thursday’s out. How about never—is never good for you?”*

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