

EASTER AND SUPERNATURAL RELIGION

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By D.B. Knox

The Protestant Faith

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The Easter season underlines the truth that the Christian religion is a supernatural religion, through and through, - supernatural in the sense that God takes the initiative so that the events on which our salvation rests do not flow out of the natural causes, but from the Will of God, that is, from His initiating will over and above His Will which sustains the natural order. There is always a temptation in the human heart to disbelieve in a supernatural God; in a God, that is, who created the Heaven and the earth and everything in it and who rules it and will judge it. Heathen religions worship idols, animals or human figures, and so reduce God to the natural level; someone alongside us, perhaps even below us. There is nothing supernatural in an idol. This sort of natural God is not available to us moderns but we have our own natural God which we worship. The theory of evolution has eliminated the supernatural concept of creation, and substituted the idea that everything that is, has arrived in its present state by accident. It is an incredible theory when you come to think about it and is against all the evidence, for example, the evidence of the fossils which show that living organisms are in their final state when they first appear in the fossils. Evolution is also against common sense, for it asks us to believe that the intricate aeronautics of a bird's wing results from accidental changes one after another which finally result in the aeronautical marvel of the wing, which of course cannot operate as a wing unless all its features are present. The theory of evolution asks us to believe that the rudimentary wing goes on evolving while it is still useless as a wing. The theory of evolution substitutes for the concept of a supernatural God who created the heaven and earth and everything we see around us, the theory that everything has been formed by accident. There is no evidence for evolution. However, it is widely believed in, just as idolatry was in the ancient world. It shows how man believes any foolishness to avoid acknowledging a supernatural

God. We Christians must renew ourselves in our belief in God as the almighty creator.

We believe, too, in a supernatural revelation - Easter reminds us of God's supernatural power. God has taken the initiative in making Himself known, speaking first to Abraham, then to Moses, then to the prophets and finally in the Lord Jesus Christ and the apostolic witness to Him. We are not left to our own ideas about what God is like. He has spoken to us. And this supernatural revelation made during the progress of history is brought to us through a supernatural Book, the inerrant, infallible and completely reliable Word of God in the written scriptures of the Bible. If God had not inspired the Holy Scriptures in this way His revelation would have perished as a revelation on which we could put our implicit faith and hope, as soon as the historical events faded from memory.

Christianity also teaches about a supernatural salvation. God Himself has saved us. Taking the initiative, He sent His Son Who died on the cross for our sins, and has been raised by the power of God as the vindication of our acceptance with God. There is no other salvation but in the name of Jesus, the Saviour of the World. Only through Christ are we restored to a relationship of forgiveness and fellowship with God the Creator Who has revealed Himself as our heavenly Father and who has prepared for us an eternal kingdom.

Christianity also teaches a supernatural redemption, that is to say, it is the power of God which changes people from self-centredness and Godlessness into believing children and followers of Christ, we have no strength of ourselves to help ourselves. God makes alive those who are dead in their trespasses and sins. This is a supernatural miracle, brought about by the power of the Gospel.

We believe, too, in a supernatural destiny. Jesus taught that all nations will gather before Him as judge and He will separate them as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. His brethren will be received into eternal life while those on his left hand will go to everlasting punishment. This is our Lord's clear teaching in Matthew 25. It is a supernatural destiny, an eternal destiny which makes this life of vital significance as to whether we are walking the narrow way which leads to life or the broad way, which Jesus says the majority take, but which leads to destruction.

Christianity has a supernatural ministry, in the sense that God's Word, when it is faithfully spoken, whether privately by each of us as we have the opportunity of speaking to those who ask us about our life, or publicly, is powerful to convince, to make alive and to bring to salvation those who hear it. God's Word is not spoken in vain. And along with the power of the Word of God is the power of prayer, a supernatural power. We should all stir ourselves up to pray, knowing that we are praying to a supernatural God, Creator of heaven and earth and Who has brought to us a supernatural salvation in Jesus the Son of God who died and rose again and who will return to judge the world. We invites us to pray, urges us to pray and promises to answer.

Easter is a demonstration of the supernatural character of our Christian religion. The power of God raised Christ from the dead. We need to live in the strength of that power in fellowship with our heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ the Lord.

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