

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS ON JESUS, ST III Q 46-52

CHRISTOLOGY

The Passion of Christ (Q 46)

- Suffering is necessary neither on God's part or on Christ's own part; it is necessary for the desired end
- God could have willed another way of salvation absolutely, but not to achieve the desired end
 - This also preserves justice
- Through his Passion humanity is delivered in many ways
 - The love of God is shown
 - Example of obedience
 - Merited glory
 - Shown to refrain from sin
 - Greater dignity for man in overcoming the devil
- The cross is fitting
 - Worst death
 - Atonement for the tree
 - Air purified
 - Ascent to heaven is foreshadowed
 - Universal salvation indicated
 - Virtues are shown
 - Figures are fulfilled
- Christ endured all sufferings in a summary way
 - Gentiles and Jews
 - Kinds of suffering
 - All his body
- His pain was greater
 - Interior pain
 - Loss of his bodily life
 - More perfect suffering
 - More perfect sadness
- He suffered in his whole soul
 - His higher reason did not suffer on the part of its object
 - All the powers of the soul suffered
- Christ enjoyed the beatific vision during the passion
 - He truly suffered yet also enjoyed fruition
- The time was suitable
- The place was suitable
- Between thieves was suitable
- It was a passion of his person, not his Godhead per se

The Efficient Cause of Christ's Passion (Q 47)

- He was slain by others but permitted it
- He died out of obedience

- Consonant with justification
- Suitable for reconciliation
- Suitable in victory
- The Father delivered him to his passion
 - Preordained
 - Charity gives him the will to suffer
 - He was not protected
- Suffering at the hands of the Gentiles was fitting
- His persecutors knew who he was, or did not know by affected ignorance
- Those who crucified him committed the most grievous sin

The Efficacy of Christ's Passion (Q 48)

- Salvation was brought about by merit
- It was accomplished by atonement
- It was a sacrifice acceptable to God
- It was by way of redemption
 - Freeing from the captivity to sin
 - Freeing from the debt of punishment
- It is fitting that Christ be the redeemer
 - Act of paying
 - Price paid
- It was an efficient action: principally from his divinity and instrumentally from his humanity

The Effects of Christ's Passion (Q 49)

- Delivered from sin
 - Excites our charity
 - Redeems
 - Effects
 - Needs to be applied
- Delivered from the devil's power
 - On man's part
 - On God's part
 - On the devil's part
- Freed from the punishment of sin
 - Superabundant satisfaction
 - Effects by becoming like him
- Reconciled to God
 - Takes away sin
 - Perfect sacrifice
- Opens the gate of heaven
 - Original sin and personal sin
- Christ merited to be exalted
 - Humbled by his passion
 - Humbled by his descent
 - Humbled by the mockery

- Fourfold exaltation
 - Resurrection
 - Ascension
 - Sitting at the right hand of the Father
 - Judgment

The Death of Christ (Q 50)

- It was fitting that Christ should die
- The Godhead remained untied to the flesh
- The Godhead remained united to the soul
- He was not a man when he was in the tomb
- Christ's body was the same body, living and dead
- Death was the cause of our salvation by way of causality

Christ's Burial (Q 51)

- The burial of Christ is fitting
- The manner is becoming
- His body was not subject to decay
- He was in the tomb one day and two nights

Christ's Descent into Hell (Q 52)

- It was fitting that he descended
- He was in the hell of the just in essence and in the hell of the lost by effect
- The person of Christ was in hell
- He was in hell while he was in the tomb
- He delivered those who had faith in him
- He did not deliver the lost
- He did not deliver children who died in original sin
- He did not deliver souls from purgatory