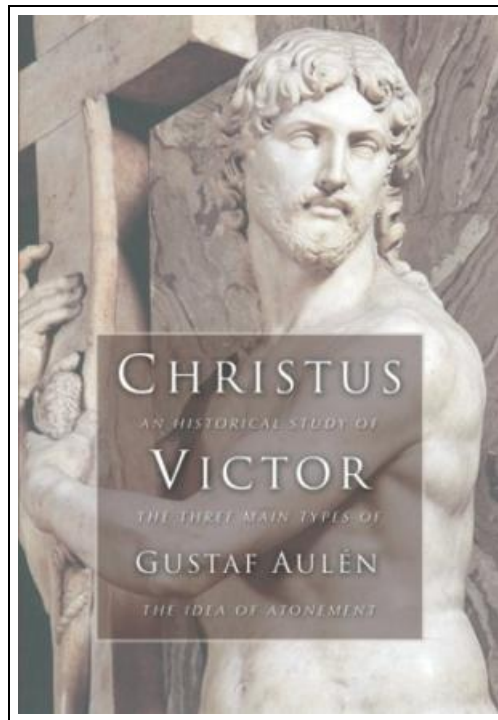


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## CHRISTUS VICTOR: AN HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE THREE MAIN TYPES OF THE IDEA OF ATONEMENT



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Wipf & Stock Publishers September 2003, 2003. Paper Back. Condition: New. "Today hath Hades sighed, crying, It were better for me that I had not received the Begotten of Mary; for when he approached me, he loosed my power and crushed my gates of brass, arousing the souls which I had possessed, he being God." "Today hath Hades sighed, crying, My power hath vanished, because I received a dead Man as one of the dead, but could not hold him completely. Rather, I lost with him those who were under my reign. From the beginning of time I have held control over the dead. But this One raised all." "Today hath Hades sighed, crying, My power hath been swallowed up; for the Shepherd, crucified, hath raised Adam; and those whom I had possessed I lost. Those whom I had swallowed by my might, I have given up completely; for the Crucified hath emptied the graves, and the might of death hath vanished." (Orthodox Vespers for Holy Saturday) The anonymous Byzantine hymnographer who penned these lines might have been approaching poetically what Gustaf Aulen was trying to capture theologically in his history of the atonement, Christus Victor. For it is Aulen's conviction that the "classic" (read patristic) idea of the atonement was less a "theory" than the jubilant experience of the Church that "God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself," that the heroic Savior had descended to "the uttermost parts of the earth" and victoriously "loosed the bonds of those who were there," having trampled down death and the devil. Aulen fills out the classic view citing texts from Irenaeus and the fourth-century Greek Fathers. A slow transformation begins in the Middle Ages, culminating in Anselm's classic "satisfaction" theory, which was articulated in clear legal termsv the infinite debt...



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