

2012

Week 8 - The Amazing Love Story

After a fairly lean period in the recent history of Christian theological development, a new dynamism is once again beginning to colour our understanding of revelation. The initial incarnation-centred insight of the early church Fathers, continued in the churches' thinking in people such as John Scotus Eriugena, Thomas Aquinas, the Mystics of the Middle Ages, and more recently in the works of theologians like Teilhard de Chardin and Karl Rahner and others, is gradually being recaptured. Revelation is again seen as the amazing love-story of God's desire to be intimately among us in human form. Full of intense compassion, God wished to create out of pure love and then, in time, to become that creation. That becoming happened in Jesus Christ. In him it was revealed that God's heart beats in all our hearts, that all our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, that every creature is a divine work of art.

Revelation is now seen to be about the beauty of being human since humanity is the 'raw material', so to speak, of God's presence in the world. Revelation is about the unbelievable possibilities of humanity, graced at its centre from the very beginning, but flawed, too, throughout the history of humanity. It is about God's desire to be known and loved in the humanity of Jesus Christ. It is about God's delight in being visible and tangible in human form. This is how it became possible for God to be close to us, to share completely in the experiences of creatures, the fruit of God's own womb. We can say, with saints and theologians from the time of Christ, that the incarnation happened, not just because creation went wrong at some early stage, but because in God's plan to share God's own divine joy with others, creation was first necessary so that incarnation could take place. To be true to this revelation entails our total commitment to co-redeeming, co-creating and co-operating with God, in Jesus, so as to make this divine vision a reality in our own lives and in our world.

(New Hearts for New Models: pp30,31)