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Crucifixion was one of the central ways in which authorities in the ancient world set out quite deliberately to show subject peoples who was in charge and to break the spirit of any resistance... Those who crucified people did so because it was the sharpest and nastiest way of asserting their own absolute power and guaranteeing their victim's absolute degradation... Nobody who had witnessed such a horror would be likely to regard such a death as “noble.”

- **N. T. Wright**, *The Day the Revolution Began*

Palm Sunday

Luke 23:44 NIV

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon...

Genesis 3:1a NIV

Now the serpent was more crafty...

Genesis 3:4-6a NIV

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.
⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.

Genesis 4:6a-8 NIV

Then the LORD said to Cain, ⁷ “...If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.” ⁸ Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

Genesis 6:5 NIV

The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.

Genesis 12:3 NIV

“I will bless those who bless you,
And whoever curses you I will curse;
And all the peoples on earth
Will be blessed through you.”

Joshua 24:14b NIV

“Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.”

Psalm 2:1-2 NIV

Why do the nations conspire
And the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth rise up
And the rulers band together
Against the LORD and against his anointed...

Ezekiel 9:9a, 8:12a NIV

9:9 “The sin of the people of Israel and Judah is exceedingly great; the land is full of bloodshed and the city is full of injustice...”

8:12 “...have you seen what the elders of Israel are doing in the darkness, each at the shrine of his own idol?”

Ephesians 2:1-3 NIV

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,
² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of
this world and the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit
who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of
us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the
desires of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts.
Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

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⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it.

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Colossians 2:13a NIV

When you were dead in your sins and the
uncircumcision of your flesh...

Colossians 2:13-15 NIV

When you were dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

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[Colossians 2] is of course deliberately ironic. What seemed to be happening as Jesus of Nazareth hung in agony on the cross was that the “rulers and authorities” were celebrating their triumph over *him*, having stripped him of his clothes and held him up to public contempt. No, insists Paul, once you learn the meaning of the gospel you have to see everything inside out.

- **N. T. Wright**, *The Day the Revolution Began*

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When Jesus died, the “powers” lost their power. They can still rage and shout, but the power of Jesus is stronger. And it is the power of *forgiveness*. The past is blotted out. A new world has begun. A revolution has begun, in which power itself is redefined as the power of love... the gospel was - and is - the powerful announcement that the world has a new lord and the summons to give him believing allegiance.

- **N. T. Wright**, *The Day the Revolution Began*

Colossians 2:13-15 NIV

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