

ORIGINAL SIN, GRACE, AND THE APOCALYPSE

Theological Remarks on R. Girard's *Battling to the End*

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In *Battling to the End* René Girard argues his case that we are in an apocalyptic age. Based on Clausewitz's *Vom Kriege* and on the Biblical apocalyptic writings he gives a kind of prophetic warning for our time.

For the theologian, Girard's book contains some interesting aspects. First of all, there is a theology of original sin and grace interwoven in the fabric of his prophetic book. I want to try to elicit that in more detail and take a closer look at it. What assumptions on original sin and grace does Girard make and how do they compare to important theological teachings? Second, Girard also gives his understanding of Biblical apocalyptic writings. Although these have generally been gravely neglected in many theological discussions, theology has nevertheless worked on some hermeneutical rules for reading these texts. Again I would like to confront these with Girard's reading and initiate a discussion.