

“Recapitulation and Satisfaction: A comparative study of Atonement Theories in St. Irenaeus and St. Anselm”

The present research seeks to contribute to the Christian conception of atonement by examining Irenaeus of Lyons’ recapitulation theory of atonement as presented in his *Adversus Haereses* and Anselm of Canterbury’s satisfaction theory as laid out in his *Cur Deus Homo*. These thinkers, while agreeing on the fundamental elements of the doctrine, diverge on several features relevant to discussions of salvation history—namely, their understandings of theological anthropology, the nature of the Incarnation, and the place of Satan in humanity’s bondage to sin. Accordingly, this paper attempts to assess the relative strengths and weakness of each theory, explain their differences in light of the authors’ intents and historical contexts, and ultimately, synthesize both theories into a comprehensive view of Christian atonement.