'BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK': THE LIVING DEAD AND APOCALYPTIC DYSTOPIA

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ABSTRACT

The zombie genre in contemporary literature and film presents another form of the monstrous as a response to political situations. The undead exhibit apocalyptic fears and anxiety about the future. In the New Testament narratives of the undead, especially the stories of Lazarus and the risen Christ, the undead appear sanctified, holy. But lurking beneath the transformed flesh are apocalyptic possibilities, and zombies make good reading partners of the biblical apocalypse.

KEYWORDS

Revelation; zombies

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After all, a knock on the door by itself tells me nothing about who is standing on the other side, preventing me from making an informed decision. Apparently, making an informed decision was important to Jesus as well. In chapter three in the book of Revelation, we read that Jesus is standing at a door, knocking. I stand at the door and knock. If any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:20 NIV). Some may not open the door for fear Jesus intends to condemn us for all that is wrong with our lives; however, Scripture makes it clear this is not the case. The verse goes on to explain that Jesus knocks on the door of our heart so that, “…he [will dine] with me.” The NLT says it this way, “we will share a meal together as friends.” Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Footnotes: Revelation 3:1 Or messenger. Revelation 3:2 NU, M My God. Revelation 3:4 NU, M Nevertheless you.