

Romans 19 – Duality of Order: God or Sin

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Romans 4:13-25

Prologue: Nimrod – Rebellion

- Noah prophesized Canaan, son of Ham, would be slaves to Japheth and Shem
- Nimrod rebelled against this forcing Japheth's and Shem's descendants to bow to him as ruler-god
- Babel was his palace complex to control cities



Prologue: Abram – Compliant

- Abraham obeyed God's commandment to go forth to eventually possess Canaan; fulfill Noah's prophecy
- Nimrod produced only earthly descendants; but Abraham produced earthly and heavenly descendants
- God of Shem blesses Abraham's heavenly seed; i.e., believing Jews and Gentiles (Japheth and Ham)

*As Abraham is the Father of all who are saved in Christ
Canaan represents all who reject that salvation exhibiting total depravity
In the end Abraham's Seed lives in the New Earth; Canaan's seeds live in Lake of Fire*

Prologue: Logic Contradictions

- Logic Contradictions negated Judaizers justification of self-made righteousness by works of Law
 - Abraham righteous because he kept the laws
 - Abraham justified because he was circumcised
 - Abraham faithful because he was a Jew
- Abraham was none of those, predated them by 430 years, when God declared Him righteous by faith alone

Στοιχείον

- Στοιχείον is the imposition of the world's order rather than following God's order - Duality throughout Bible
 - Creation: Christ brought God's order out of chaos; and it was good (because it was God's order) (Ge 1)
 - Flesh maintained God's order only when totally reliant on God's guidance; once man's flesh tested, man sought to impose his own order; i.e., chaos compared to God's order (Ge 3:1-19)

The root stichos or stoichos means row, rank, line, especially battle line; i.e., to bring order
Context tells us that Law relies on the principles of the World to bring and maintain order

Worldly Orderliness {Law}

- Στοιχείον (stoicheion) has frequently been linked to Satan, his demons, his powers and their methods by scholarly commentaries; I must disagree (Co 4:9)
 - Satan, his demons and all sinners in the flesh use these principles because they agree with sin and seek to bring order to sin's chaos; an *illusion* of control
 - Law is a principle of στοιχείον, enforcing order to control sin's chaos Man's Way, after sin is in place (Co 4:6-7)

Two Orders Mutually Exclusive

- God's System of Order is diametrically opposed to Sin's System of Chaos: One will follow either God's or Sin's order depending on salvation (Ro 8:5-8)
 - These two orders are contrasted throughout the Bible
 - The lost are not conflicted as they follow one order
 - Christian can be conflicted as the mind, new nature, follows God's order but the flesh follows sin's order (Ro 7:12-24)

Ungodly Mind Rejects God

- As Paul began his discussion to the Romans, he defined how this order dominates sinful minds (Ro 1:18-21)
 - Ungodly mind (sin nature) (ἀσέβεια) rejects all truth of God and continues to do so unless saved (Ps 51:5; Ro 8:6-8)
 - Mind/flesh of man without God's truth can only produce unrighteousness (ἀδικία)
 - Man produces his own order (truth), worldview, which is illogical, incoherent and *always* opposed to God

And God Gave Them Up

- God stopped imposing His order on all mankind; He would develop His order in selected individuals beginning with Abram showing His love (Ge 12:1-5; Ro 5:8; Ep 1:3-10)
 - God slowly imposed His order on Abram's fleshly ordered mind until Abram believed God (Ge 15:5-6)
 - Flesh is of no use to God because it seeks the order of this cosmos that opposes God (1Co 15:44-55; 1a 4:1-6)

Bible Survey – Abrahamic Covenant

- Foundational covenant God made with Himself alone establishing salvation through the woman over sin (Ge 3:15)
 - Duality of Tension - Faith {Grace} or Law {Works}
- Paul destroyed Judaizers self-justification logic; now he addresses the illogic of their dependence on Law
 - Law, in some form, is the basis for religions and piety as it conforms to the principles of the fleshly world (Ro 4:1-7)

Weakness of the Flesh

- Law fails because flesh is weak as exemplified by Cain (Ge 4:1-24)
 - Raised as Messiah, Cain {Given} could not control flesh
 - Uncontrolled flesh drove Cain to kill Abel
 - Cain wandered to land of wanderers {Nod}, built cities
 - Cain sought to bring out and maintain order
 - Cities require rules {laws} to control the uncontrollable flesh; thus, laws fail due to weakness of the flesh (Ro 8:3)

God's Order – Man's Order

- Cain's society suppressed or absorbed godly society threatening to become the only society: godless (Ge 6:1-7)
 - Noah {Rest} found grace in God, built the ark and rested on the waters while God separated the lands (Ge 6:8)
 - Once landed, Noah and sons were to multiply and fill the earth; i.e., bring order to a chaotic world (Ge 9:1)
 - Nimrod rejected God's order and enforced his order on a unified society; but God enforced His own order (Ge 11:1-9)

Judges: Man's Order Fails

- Period of the Judges showed that when the Jews followed, however imperfectly, God's order they remained free from worldly suppression; but when they followed the world, did what was right in their own eyes, God gave them up *for a time*; presaged Diaspora (Jd 17:6)
- When the Jews tired of this condition, they demanded a king *like the Gentiles* [World]; they rejected God' order for the world's order, learning nothing (Jsa 6:4-12)

Judaizers' Law as Orderliness

- Judaizers use of civil and ceremonial law to impose order upon chaos of sin: To be as gods (Ga 3:3)
 - Moral Law given to teach mankind sinfulness of sin to recognize need for Messiah and salvation (Ro 7:7-12; Ga 4:1-8)
 - Law could not control the flesh, meant imposing total obedience, as failure in any part was death (Ga 3:10-12)
 - Their *orderliness* opposed God's order in Christ, their works will testify against them (Ga 3:13-14; 2Pe 3:35; Re 20:11-15)

Law or Faith: Not Both

- Abraham's Promise is either Law [Works] or Faith
 - Abram and Sarai tried works via Hagar, slave (Ishmael)
 - Abraham eventually trusted God to produce a *seed* from their *dead* bodies and Isaac was born (Ro 4:19)
- The two Jerusalems mutually incompatible (Ga 4:23-31)
 - Jerusalem Below: Law/Works/Slavery opposes God
 - Jerusalem Above: Faith/Grace/Trust solely of Christ

Abraham Father of Faithful

- God promised Abram he would be the father of many nations, this included Gentiles
 - All saved by faith are children of Abraham as are Jews who believe in faith: Commonality is Faith, not law
 - Law is based on flesh; mired in sin opposing God
 - Faith is based on Christ alone just as the Abrahamic Covenant was made by God while Abraham slept

Christ Alone

- Christ, who knew no sin, became sin for us so that those who believe, in faith, will be saved (Ro. 5:21)
 - Christ was delivered as the sin offering for our sins
 - Christ resurrected, showing that His sacrifice for sin was acceptable, justifies us rather than our works which condemns all who live by them
 - Works are any effort of the flesh to prove its rightness for salvation as payment for sin

Epilogue: Στοιχεῖον

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Worldview

- Worldview imposes your order on the world based on sin, culture and perception of self
 - This imposed order has little correlation with Satan's actual order at work in the world for his goals
 - Wars are fought to impose one worldview over another
- God slowly reveals errors of our worldview so His truth may prevail in our lives: Knowing Good from Evil (1Pe 5:14)
Basis of Discernment: Man, Flesh, distrusted God's order and sought to find a new order
Man discovered that they were the old order of sin; now they must learn God's order of life; if saved