

The Righteous Resistance

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It is commonplace today for political opposition groups to use different strategies and forms of resistance to undermine the current leadership of a community, or country. However, similar actions are not commonly identified or associated with religious organizations that use various forms of subterfuge to undermine the original system of governance that was established by Almighty God. This resistance to God's system of governing began in the spirit realm a long time ago, and certain Scriptures indicate it began prior to the creation of Adam and Eve. The context of one of these scriptures involves a discussion between God and Job regarding the early stages of creation, and mankind is not included. Instead, it is only describing spirit beings who were living in happiness and harmony. This indicates that Satan had not rebelled against the government of Almighty God at this point in time.

*Where were you (Job) when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. ⁵Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the (measuring) line upon it? ⁶To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its **cornerstone** (Mt. 21:42), ⁷When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (Job 38:4-7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).*

By understanding that Almighty God uses figurative language and metaphors to describe spiritual realities, the word "cornerstone" in Job 38:6 identifies the time frame because this word is associated with Jesus Christ who agreed to become the means through which repentant sinners can be reconciled to Almighty God (Rom.

5:10; 2Cor. 5:18; Col. 1:21), and this decision was made at the very beginning of God's creation, prior to the creation of Adam and Eve (Rev. 13:8; 1Pet. 1:19-20).

(God's faithful servants) *having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone*** (Eph. 2:20; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

*And all who dwell on the earth will worship him (one of Satan's minions), whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of **the Lamb** (Christ) **slain from the foundation of the world*** (Rev. 13:8; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Going back to Job 38:5, the phrase "measuring line" is used to describe a system of governance that was established prior to the creation of Adam and Eve. This system was based on specific laws that were administered in order to maintain law and order in a fair and equitable manner. Hence, justice and equity for all the angels, and the "cornerstone" was given authority by Almighty God to act as the administrator of this system of justice.

*Behold, I lay in Zion (in heaven) a stone for a foundation, a tried (tested) stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily. ¹⁷Also **I will make justice the measuring line** (standard), and **righteousness the plummet**... (Isa. 28:16-17a; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

The phrase "righteousness the plummet" (Isa. 28:17) is used metaphorically to describe the standard by which Almighty God judges the conduct of all His citizens. This standard is based on every word of God, including His law and commandments.

*My (David's) tongue shall speak of Your word (Mt. 4:4), for **all Your commandments are righteousness** (Ps. 119:172; cf. Dt. 6:24-25; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

Contrary to one form of subterfuge used by those in the religious resistance, Almighty God's system of justice began in the spirit realm and will continue forever, whether mankind rejects it or not. In other words, it has always been based on the principles contained within His law and commandments, and always will.

*The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of **Your righteous judgments endure forever** (Ps. 119:160; cf. Dt. 8:3; emphasis added).*

***The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting...** (Ps. 119:144a; emphasis added).*

***Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth** (Ps. 119:142; emphasis added).*

Therefore anyone, who takes actions that are contrary to God's word, is in violation and will have to pay the applicable penalty for breaking God's word. These penalties are part of the legislation within God's word. One simple example follows, and is based on having a minimum of two witnesses to verify the crime.

Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed (Gen. 9:6a).

Whoever is worthy of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses, but he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness (Dt. 17:6)

In the case of accidental death, the person or persons involved are not to be put to death.

*Whoever **kills his neighbor unintentionally**, not having hated him in time past – ⁵as when a man goes to the woods with his neighbor to cut timber, and his hand swings a stroke with the ax to cut down the tree, and the head slips from the handle and strikes his neighbor so that he dies- **he shall flee to one of these cities** (of refuge; cf. Dt. 19:1-4) **and live** (Dt. 19:4b-5; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

As soon as anyone decides to break God's word, they are on a course that will lead to disharmony which is the opposite of peace. This is why peace is illusive on earth, and cannot be fully achieved until God's system of justice is administered worldwide.

***Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble** (Ps. 119:165; emphasis added).*

Whenever religious leaders or their organizations speak about "peace on earth", their followers should understand this cannot be accomplished when God's law and commandments are marginalized or rejected. This policy of claiming that God's law and commandments are no longer applicable today is a lie, and the effect can be seen clearly in today's world. Sadly, this lie is perpetrated by some who claim to represent God (2Cor. 11:13-15).

The way of peace they have not known, (because) there is no justice in their ways; **they have made themselves crooked paths; whoever takes that way shall not know peace** (Isa. 59:8; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Jesus Christ explained that the majority of mankind prefers to walk on the broad way of living, that leads to destruction, because it is easier than trusting and obeying God's word. The latter way of living is described figuratively as

“the narrow gate” because it is much harder to resist the value system of this “present evil age” (Gal. 1:4).

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴(How) narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life (everlasting), and there are few who find it (Mt. 7:13-14; Ed. notes in parentheses).

It is not a coincidence that Christ said what he did in Matthew 7:13-14 because it is preceded by his comments on false teachers who have lied to their followers by teaching that obeying God’s law and commandments is not necessary (Mt. 7:15-20). In other words, these false teachers have convinced their followers that having a close relationship with the head of God’s church, Jesus Christ, is based solely on them doing various “righteous” works. Interestingly, because of this false teaching, Christ stated that he has no relationship with them; despite all their religious activities.

*Not everyone who says to me (Christ), ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²²Many will say to me in that day (following Christ’s return), ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name, cast out demons in your name, and done many wonders in your name?’ ²³And then I will declare to them, ‘**I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness!**’ (Mt. 7:21-23; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

Lawlessness is defined as behavior that is contrary to God’s word, as summarized by His law and commandments (1Jn. 3:4; 2Tim. 2:19; Ps. 119:118). Therefore all our religious acts, or works, are of no value if we do not first and foremost seek to obey every word of God.

*But this is what I commanded them (ancient nation of Israel), saying, ‘**Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you** (Jer. 7:23; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

*Take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments. ²⁴(Instead) **let justice run down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream** (Ps. 119:172) (Am. 5:23-24; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

Going back those mentioned in Matthew 7:21-23, they believed they knew Christ, and what he expected of them. In reality, they were following the false teaching of human leaders within their respective religious organizations. These leaders were acting as mediators who taught God’s word according to their own carnal interpretation, which is hostile toward God’s law.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be (Rom. 8:7).

If everyone on this planet decided to prayerfully study God’s word for themselves, asking for His assistance, they would have a much better chance of understanding what He expects from them. Instead, human nature prefers to leave this to the religious authorities because it requires very little personal effort. This is what Eve did when she relied on the religious authority of her day, Satan, and she died as a result.

*.... but now much more in my (Paul’s) absence, **work out your own salvation with fear** (deep respect toward God) **and trembling** (because your life depends on it) (Php. 2:12b; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth** (2Tim. 2:15; emphasis added).*

These, and other scriptures, confirm that it is each person's responsibility to study God's word rather than relying on the interpretation of a "supposed" religious authority (cf. Ac. 17:10-11). Unfortunately, the majority of "religious people" put their trust in human masters instead of their real teacher, Jesus Christ. Christ said he doesn't know these people in Matthew 7:21-23 because they have not relied on him, or built a personal relationship with him. If they had, they would have realized the importance of obeying his Father's law and commandments.

Do not put your trust in princes (including religious leaders), nor in a human being, in whom there is no help (salvation) (Ps. 146:3; Ed. notes in parentheses).

In Christ's parable of the ten virgins, half of them realized that the oil they once had in their lamps was almost gone. Symbolically, this oil represented the action of God's Holy Spirit (1Sam. 16:13; Ps. 45:7; 89:20). Therefore, five of the virgins had neglected to exercise God's Holy Spirit in their daily lives. This negligence is compared to "quenching" the Holy Spirit that was once given to those who sought to obey Him.

Do not quench the Spirit (1Thes. 5:19).

By neglecting to live according to God's law and commandments, any individual that received God's Holy Spirit will eventually lose it.

*And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is **the Holy Spirit which God has given to those who obey Him** (Ac. 5:32; emphasis added).*

*And having been perfected he (Christ) became the author of eternal salvation **to all who obey Him** (Heb. 5:9; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

*Now **he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him**. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us (1Jn. 3:24; emphasis added).*

This truth also applies to spirit beings. Specifically, any spirit being that has God's Holy Spirit can lose it through neglect. Nonetheless, they can be restored in their relationship with God through repentance in the future; just as the man mentioned in 1Corinthians 5:1-5 was given an opportunity in a future resurrection to be restored. Apparently, he repented during his lifetime and was restored in his relationship with God and the brethren (2Cor. 2:3-11).

By their false teaching, many religious organizations are preventing their followers from receiving or retaining God's Holy Spirit, which is given to those who repent of their sins and seek to obey Him (Ac. 2:38). Instead of emphasizing the importance of obeying every word of God, these religious organizations deceive their followers into believing that only "good works", as defined by the leadership, are required today. According to this erroneous teaching, these "good works" do not include obeying God's law and commandments. This falsehood is at the center of the religious resistance and it has been perpetuated since the time of Satan's rebellion (Isa. 14:12-17; Eze. 28:12-19). In fact, Satan is the father of "religious resistance". In addressing the religious leaders of his day, Christ revealed that Satan was the source of their power and corruption.

Jesus said to them, "If God (Almighty) were your Father, you would love me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have

I come of myself, but He sent me. ⁴³*Why do you not understand my speech? Because you are not able to listen to my word.* ⁴⁴(due to the fact that) ***you are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it*** (Jn. 8:44; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

To one degree or another every religious organization on earth, no matter what "good works" they perform, is part of Satan's resistance; unless they teach the importance of obeying God word, as summarized by His law and commandments. Satan continues to build his religious resistance by acknowledging God's existence, while twisting what Almighty God teaches. Satan did this with Eve, he did it when Christ was on the earth, he does it today through thousands of religious organizations, and he will attempt it one more time following his release from restraint at the end of Christ's millennial rule on earth (Rev. 20:1-6). Satan's cunning strategy with Eve has not changed. He doesn't mind acknowledging God's existence, but he will not admit that God is right. Instead, Satan works to discredit God's word, which includes portraying it as unfair and/or untrustworthy. Note some of the key phrases he uses.

"Has God indeed said" from Genesis 3:1, which creates doubt in the validity of whatever God says.

Having created doubt in what God says, it is easier to contradict it.

"You will not surely die" from Genesis 3:4, which is a lie from "the father of lies".

To reinforce in Eve's mind that she would be doing the right thing if she broke God's word, Satan portrayed God as being unfair because his command would deny Eve of something very important. Therefore, the justification for committing sin was provided by Satan.

"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" from Genesis 3:5, which is a false accusation that God is purposely denying something that Eve is rightfully entitled to.

So before Eve was spiritually mature enough to understand that God's commands were created for everyone's well-being, Satan portrayed God's commands as being untrustworthy, unfair, unjust, and inconvenient. All these deceptions about God and His word are at play in today's world. When it comes to religious organizations, Satan doesn't mind how many there are. "The more the merrier" because it means there is nothing but division and confusion when it comes to accurately understanding God's word. Logically, there can only be one plan of salvation based on one set of conditions. However, the truth on this important subject is extremely difficult to find because there are so many contradictory teachings. Again, the main religious resistance is focused on denying the importance of obeying God's law and commandments. If the entirety of God's word was taught correctly, and penalties for transgressing it enforced, this world would be at peace today. Instead, the religious resistance is part of the problem because it ignores, marginalizes, or outright rejects God's law and commandments which were created to ensure peace on earth, and in the spirit realm.

Because Satan has a powerful and negative influence upon mankind, and because he is determined to prove his value system is better than Almighty God's, he promotes any form of religious resistance that is antinomian (see study:

Origin of Antinomian Virus and Its Cure). In the following scripture, the leaders under Satan's control compare God's law and commandments to "bonds and cords" that restrict their ability to do whatever they want.

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord (Almighty) and against His Anointed (Christ, Commissioned One; Heb. Messiah), saying, ³"Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us" (Ps. 2:2-3; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

It is a great deception to believe that many in the spirit realm are not antinomian, when in fact they are.

These are the rebellious angels who believed Satan's lies just as Eve did, and are now waiting to be judged for their sinful actions (Jude 6). In like manner, those today who continue living in a manner that is contrary to God's word, will have to give account for their actions (Rom. 14:11). Many of these people are part of the "religious resistance" which causes harm to themselves and others. Sadly, many of the "religious resistance" are leaders of organizations that claim to represent Jesus Christ, and yet they say God's law and commandments are no longer valid. In reality, this is not the message that Christ came to announce as the following scripture confirms.

*But if you want to enter into life (everlasting), **keep the commandments** (Mt. 19:17b; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

*Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸For assuredly, I say to you, **till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled** (Mt. 5:17-18; emphasis added).*

So when riots and violence sweep through any country, whoever claims to represent Jesus Christ needs to examine themselves and hopefully change the course they are on, especially if they espouse an antinomian agenda which makes them complicit with those who practice lawlessness. Instead of being part of the "religious resistance" launched by Satan millennia ago, those of the "religious resistance" need to repent of their sins and begin living a new life of obedience to every word of God (Ac. 2:28; Rom. 6:4). God predicted that our religious leaders would contribute to many of our citizens adopting lawless behavior.

*For **the leaders** (both civil and religious) **of this people cause them to err**, and those who are led by them are destroyed (Isa. 9:16; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

Sadly, this process of leading people to sin is already well established and will not change unless the leaders of the religious resistance repent and teach the people, by their example, that rebellion against God's law and commandments will lead to our destruction sooner or later.

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