

Character of God

Part 1

“The Function of Law”

By

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&

Friends

The Function of Law

1SM 21,22 says, “The Bible is written by inspired men, but it is not God’s mode of thought and expression. It is that of humanity....The Lord speaks to human beings in imperfect speech, in order that the degenerate senses, the dull, earthly perception of earthly beings may comprehend His words. This is shown God’s condescension. He meets fallen human beings where they are.”

We believe God took a risk in writing the Bible the way He did, knowing that it would be misinterpreted.

RH Jan.14, 1890 par.8: “We dishonor God when we think of Him only as a judge ready to pass sentence upon us, and forget that He is a loving Father...”

The Function of Law

“...The whole spiritual life is molded by our conceptions of God, and if we cherish erroneous views of His character, our souls will sustain injury.”

PP 78: “Satan is constantly at work, with intense energy and under a thousand disguises, to misrepresent the character and government of God.”

SC 36 says, “It is when we most fully comprehend the love of God that we best realize the sinfulness of sin.”

What we must recognize is that our spiritual life depends entirely upon our capacity to perceive the love of God, not merely in theory, but also as it applies to us personally. Our spiritual life is never better or worse than this perception. In fact, our life is this perception, a perception known as faith. Within this perception is life and righteousness.

The Function of Law

1 Jn. 4:16 says, "... God is love..." It was this love that Christ came to impart to the world.

COL 415: "It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy and truth ... **THE LAST MESSAGE OF MERCY TO BE GIVEN TO THE WORLD, IS A REVELATION OF HIS CHARACTER OF LOVE.**"

The Function of Law

The Sovereignty of God:

Jas. 4:12 says, “There is one Lawgiver, who is able to **SAVE AND TO DESTROY:....**”

Isa. 33:22 says, “For the Lord is our **JUDGE**, the Lord is our **LAWGIVER**, the Lord is our **KING**; He will save us.”

Rev.1:8 says, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”

Blessings and Cursings:

Isa. 45:7 says, “I form the light, and create darkness: I make **PEACE, AND CREATE EVIL**; I the Lord do all these things.”

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 1)

Blessings and Cursings: (cont)

Question: How does a loving God create evil?

Answer: **Ex. 20:5** says, (speaking of the second commandment), "...I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity [**A CURSE**] of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; **vs. 6**, And shewing mercy [**A BLESSING**] unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments."

Deut.11:27,28 says, "A **BLESSING**, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day:..."

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 1)

Blessings and Cursings: (cont)

...“And a **CURSE** if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.”

Refer to the “Function of Law” chart slide 61

The chart reveals that everyone will keep the law, the only choice you have is which aspect of the law you will keep.

Hos. 5:11 says, “Ephraim is oppressed and broken in judgment, because he willingly walked after the commandment.” (He was walking after the law of sin).

Rom. 7:10 says, “And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.”

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 2)

What Man Sows, He Reaps:

Prov. 5:22 says, “His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.”

5T 119 says, “Every action good or bad prepares the way for its repetition.”

Question: How is a sinner held by the cords of his sins?

Answer: By a function of law, the cords of sin that bind him become stronger and stronger to the point that he will never escape. (Pharaoh is a prime example of this).

Ex. 8:32 says, “And Pharaoh hardened his heart ...”

Ex. 9:12 says, “And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, ...”

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 2)

What Man Sows, He Reaps: (cont)

COL 84,85. “God destroys no man. Everyone who is destroyed will have destroyed himself. Everyone who stifles the admonitions of conscience is sowing the seeds of unbelief and these will produce a sure harvest. By rejecting the first warning from God, Pharaoh of old sowed the seeds of obstinacy, and he reaped obstinacy. God did not compel him to disbelieve, the seed of unbelief which he sowed produced a harvest of its kind. Thus his resistance continued, until he looked upon his devastated land,...

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 2)

What Man Sows, He Reaps: (cont)

... “upon the cold, dead form of his first-born, and the first-born of all in his house and of all the families of his kingdom, until the waters of the sea closed over his horses and his chariots and his men of war. His history is a fearful illustration of the truth of the words that ‘whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.’”

Gal. 6:7. Did men but realize this, they would be careful what seed they sow.

5T 120 says, “God destroys no one. The sinner destroys himself by his own impenitence.”

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 2)

What Man Sows, He Reaps: (cont)

There are laws at work that we are unaware of. Often God doesn't explain the mechanics as to how one becomes hardened or even destroyed – He simply says because of His sovereignty, “I did it,” which, by the way, is a correct statement. But on the surface, the Scriptures don't reveal to us what really took place.

Example (physical): If a person smokes for 30 years and gets cancer of the lung, the individual did it to him/herself **by violating the laws** of health thus reaping what they sowed. (Or it could be something as simple as environmental or hereditary tendencies?)

God simply says, “I did it.”

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 2)

What Man Sows, He Reaps: (cont)

Had the children of Israel stayed on the health plan that God prescribed, He said that He would have put none of these diseases upon them which He would have brought upon the Egyptians. **Ex. 15:26.**

Surely, if they had stayed on that health plan, they would have been a spectacle to the world. (in three or four generations)

This principle is clearly brought to view in the book, **MH 127** which says, “The only hope of better things is in the education of the people in right principles. Let physicians teach the people that restorative power is not in drugs, but in nature....

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 2)

...“Disease is an effort of nature to free the system from conditions that result from a violation of the laws of health. In case of sickness, the cause should be ascertained. Unhealthful conditions should be changed, wrong habits corrected. Then nature is to be assisted in her effort to expel impurities and to re-establish right conditions in the system.”

Note: Even restoration of health is a function of law.

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 3)

Wheels within wheels:

Eze. 1:15,16 (ASB) states, “Now as I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel upon the earth beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them. **vs.16**, ... and the four had the same likeness, their construction being as it were a wheel within a wheel.” Apart from there being deep spiritual truths contained within the symbol “wheels within wheels”, which we will not discuss in this lecture, the wheel does, however, reveal to us the most simple and basic principle of law.

Eccl. 1:7,9 says, “All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; ... **vs.9**, The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.”

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 3)

Wheels within wheels: (cont)

When one looks at a circle, they quickly notice that it is without beginning and without end. If one were to pick a point and travel it, they would end up in the same place. (The law being, “what goes around comes around”.)

Example:

Matt. 7:2 says, “For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.” This verse is telling us that whatever you do to others, it will come back to you. (The circle is also a symbol of God, with no beginning or end).

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 3)

Wheels within wheels: (cont)

Example: Brother kills brother.

Gen. 9:6: “Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed:...”

PP 728 says, “David had neglected the duty of punishing the crime of Amnon, and because of the unfaithfulness of the king and father and the impenitence of the son, the Lord permitted events to take their natural course, and did not restrain Absalom.

When parents or rulers neglect the duty of punishing iniquity, God Himself will take the case in hand. His restraining power will be in a measure removed from the agencies of evil, so that a train of circumstances will arise which will punish sin with sin.”

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 3)

Wheels within wheels: (cont)

The principle of the wheel is further demonstrated in the following texts:

Matt. 7:12 states, “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.”

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 4)

The Domino Effect:

First and Second Causes:

First Cause:

PP 509 states, “The man who commanded, ‘Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon in the valley of Ajalon,’ is the man who for hours lay prostrate upon the earth in prayer in the camp at Gilgal. The men of prayer are the men of power. This mighty miracle testifies that the creation is under the control of the Creator. Satan seeks to conceal from men the divine agency in the physical world – to keep out of sight the unwearied working of the **FIRST GREAT CAUSE [GOD].**”

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 4)

The Domino Effect: (cont)

First and Second Causes: (cont)

Second Cause – Ev 547: “God works by means of instruments, or **SECOND CAUSES.**” (Satan, or by a function of law).

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 4)

The Domino Effect: (cont)

Example:

First Cause: 2 Sam. 24:1 – God

Second Cause: 1 Chron. 21:1 – Satan

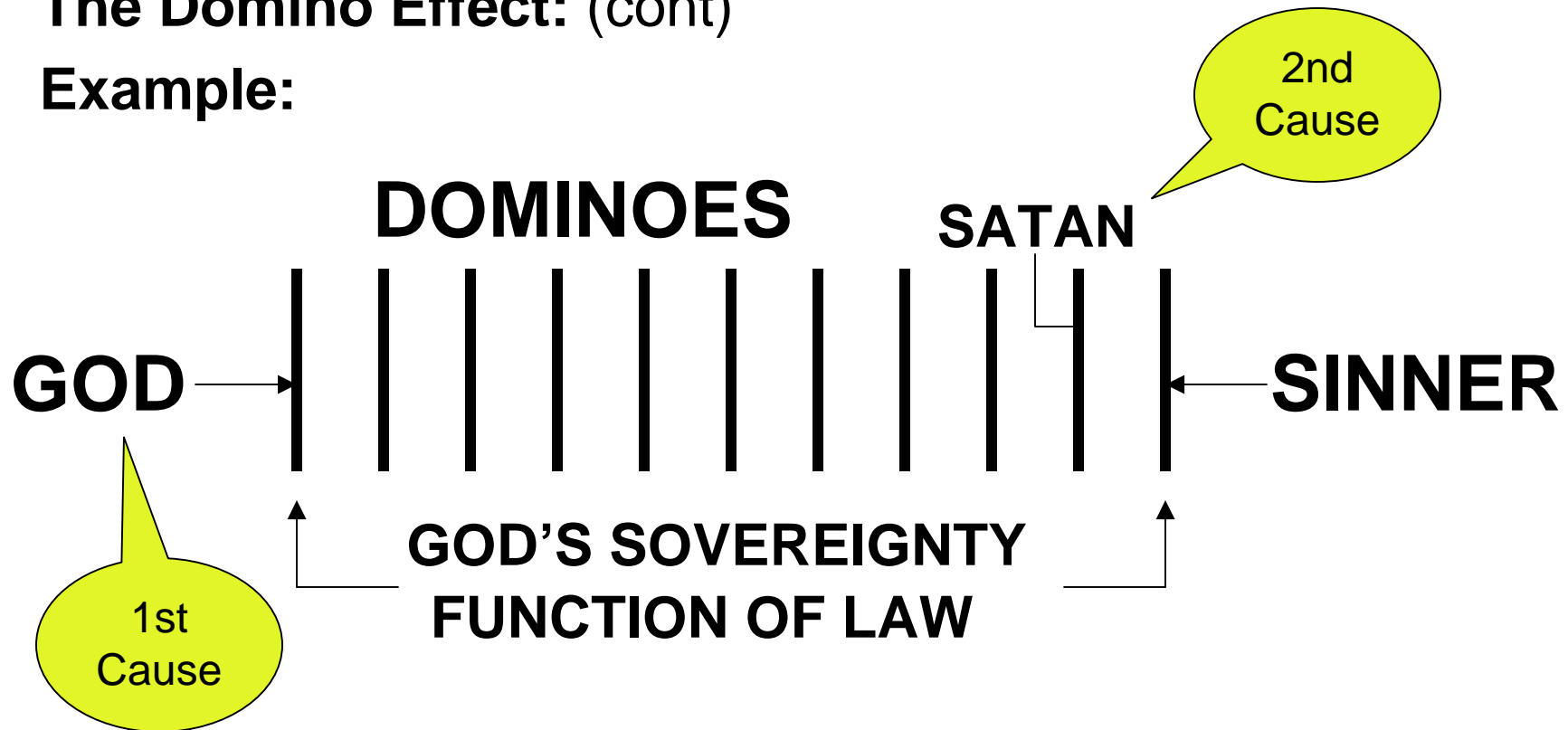
Jas. 1:13,14: “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.”

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 4)

The Domino Effect: (cont)

Example:



The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 4)

The Domino Effect: (cont)

Question: Can we say that the first domino knocked over the last one?

Answer: Yes and no. Nothing happens without God (the first domino). But, it was the second from the last domino (a violation of laws or Satan himself) that actually knocked over (or afflicted) the sinner (last domino).

It was by violating certain laws, either physical (health) or spiritual (moral) which leads to the sinner's punishment or destruction. They are said to have come from God because He is the Creator of these laws.

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 4)

The Domino Effect: (cont)

Example: If a person smokes for 30 years and develops cancer of the lung, we could say that God (the first domino) gave that person cancer by that person's violating laws of health. But in reality it was the smoking of cigarettes (the second from the last domino) that gave him/her cancer. This principle is also true with Satan being the second to the last domino. When a sinner persists in transgressing God's laws, God will eventually withdraw, either for a moment or for eternal ruin and Satan is no longer restrained from doing his work of destruction. **4 BC 1146 (MS 69, 1912): "But if they continue to manifest rebellion, God is compelled at last to remove His Spirit and light from them."**

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 4)

The Domino Effect: (cont)

Example: Hand of God

Jer. 21:5 says, “And I myself will fight against you with an outstretched **HAND** and with a strong arm, even in anger, and in fury, and in great wrath.”

Question: Who’s hand was it?

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 4)

The Domino Effect: (cont)

Ps. 17:13,14 (NKJV) says, "...With Your hand from men,..."

6T 456, "Human agencies are the hands of heavenly instrumentalities,..."

Jer. 46:26 says, "And I will deliver them into the **HAND** [second from the last domino] of those that seek their lives, and into the **HAND** of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and into the **HAND** of his servants: and afterward it shall be inhabited, as in days of old, saith the Lord."

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 5)

God gave them up:

Rom. 1:21-25 says, “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. **vs. 22**, Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, **vs. 23**, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. **vs.24**, Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 5)

God gave them up: (cont)

... **vs.25**, Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever.”

Question: Why?

Answer: Their cup of iniquity (sin) was full.

Isa. 59:2 says, “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God,...”

They grieved away the Holy Spirit.

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 5)

God gave them up: (cont)

...**2 Chron.12:1** says, "...He [King Rehoboam, son of Solomon] forsook the law of the Lord, and all Israel with him." **vs. 5**, "...Ye have forsaken Me [God], and therefore have I also left you in the **HAND** of Shishak [King of Egypt]."

Examples: This is further demonstrated throughout the book of **2 Chronicles** and the story of **Exodus 32**.

Example: Ex. 32 (Golden Calf), why did God lay the rejecters of His mercy to sleep?

Note: It is important to realize that the rejectors of God's mercy had closed their own probation.

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 6)

God gave them up: (cont)

Had they lived:

1. They would have caused the protection of God to be withdrawn from Israel because of their sinful lives....
2. **Rom. 2:5:** They would have been heaping up wrath for the day of wrath. (Their punishment would be more severe).
3. **PP 326:** “Had their life been spared, the same spirit that led them to rebel against God would have been manifested in hatred and strife among themselves, **AND THEY WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE DESTROYED ONE ANOTHER....**

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 6)

God gave them up: (cont)

... It was in love to the world, in love to Israel, and even to the transgressors, that crime was punished with swift and terrible severity.”

God will visit their sins:

Ex. 20:5, speaking in the second commandment, God says, “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: **for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; vs.6 ... AND SHEWING MERCY UNTO THOUSANDS OF THEM THAT LOVE ME, AND KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS.**”

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 6)

God will visit their sins: (cont)

Ps. 7:14-16 says, “Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood. **vs.15**, He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made. **vs.16**, His mischief shall return upon his own head...”

These texts reveal to us that the wicked are to **suffer at the hands of their own sins.**

Example:

Jer. 14:10 says, “Thus saith the Lord unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet [**THEIR LIFE NOT IN HARMONY WITH GOD**], therefore the Lord doth not accept them;...”

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 6)

God will visit their sins: (cont)

Example: (cont)

... “He will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins. **vs.12.** When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will **NOT** accept them: but I will consume them by the **sword**, and by the **famine**, and by the **pestilence. vs.16. ...FOR I WILL POUR THEIR WICKEDNESS UPON THEM.**”

This form of visitation is nothing more than one’s sins coming back upon him, coming back in the form of sword, famine and pestilence. The Sanctuary clearly teaches this.

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Disease:

Ex.15:26 says, "... I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee."

Deut. 7:15 says, "The Lord...will lay them [diseases] upon all them that hate thee."

Jn. 14:15 says, "If ye love Me, keep My Commandments." These people had no regard for the laws of health.

CH 112 says, "Against every transgression of the laws of life, nature will utter her protest. She bears abuse as long as she can; but finally the retribution comes, and it falls upon the mental as well as the physical powers...." ³³

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Disease: (cont)

... “Nor does it end with the transgressor; the effects of his indulgence are seen in his offspring, and thus the evil is passed down from generation to generation.” (Visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children...).

Note: It is important to realize that disease can come upon anyone whether we realize we’re violating laws or not. It could be something out of our control, something as simple as breathing bad air (smog), or simply being born as a third or fourth generation family member (according to the second commandment).

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Disease: (cont)

DA 471 says, “**Satan, the author of sin and all its results, had led men to look upon disease and death as proceeding from God,**—as punishment arbitrarily inflicted on account of sin....God had given a lesson designed to prevent this. The history of Job had shown that suffering is inflicted by Satan, and is overruled by God for purposes of mercy. But Israel did not understand the lesson.” (**Do we understand this lesson today?**)

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Disease: (cont)

Ex. 16 tells us that Israel ate manna for 40 years in the wilderness. But the Bible tells us they rebelled against God and craved the flesh pots of Egypt. So God brought them quail to eat.

Num.11:32,33 tells us, "...And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp. **vs.33.** And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the Lord was kindled against the people and the Lord smote the people with a very great plague."

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Disease: (cont)

Num.11:33 (NKJV) says, “but while the meat was still between their teeth, **before it was chewed ...**” Consider this, could it be implied that they choked to death? What do you think?

CD 148 says, “God granted their desire, giving them flesh, and leaving them to eat till their gluttony produced a plague, from which many of them died.”

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Disease: (cont)

4 SG 18 says, “Their depraved appetites controlled them, and God gave them flesh meats, as they desired, and he let them suffer the results of gratifying their lustful appetites. Burning fevers cut down very large numbers of the people. **THOSE WHO HAD BEEN MOST GUILTY IN THEIR MURMURINGS** were slain as soon as they tasted the meat for which they had lusted.”

Conclusion: This would indicate that their diseases, and death for many, came upon them by a violation of the physical laws of health.

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The Flood:

Gen. 6:1-7 states, “And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth,...**vs.2**, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. **vs.3**, And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. **vs.4**, There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. **vs. 5, AND GOD SAW THAT THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN WAS GREAT IN THE EARTH, AND THAT EVERY IMAGINATION OF THE THOUGHTS OF HIS HEART WAS ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY....**

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The Flood: (cont)

Gen. 6:1-7 (cont) ... **vs.6**, “ And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart. **vs.7**, And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created...”

Gen. 6:17 says, “And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh,...”

GC 543: “In mercy to the world, God blotted out its wicked inhabitants in Noah’s time....”

These texts indicate that they wanted God out of their lives completely so God left. That was not an easy thing to do, but it is **God’s strange act**. We believe that **God’s Strange act is defined** in Desire of Ages....

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The Flood: (cont)

DA 620 says, “Divine pity marked the countenance of the Son of God as **He cast one lingering look** upon the temple and then upon His hearers. In a voice choked by deep anguish of heart and bitter tears He exclaimed, ‘O Jerusalem, Jerusalem,’... This is the **separation struggle. In the lamentation of Christ the very heart of God is pouring itself forth.** It is the **mysterious farewell** of the long-suffering love of the Deity.”

Notice God’s hesitancy, His desire not to leave, even though their sins separated them from Him. **(Isa. 59:2). (GOD WILL NOT STAY WHERE HE IS NOT INVITED or WANTED).**

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The Flood: (cont)

The Bible tells us that God is sovereign.

Jas. 4:12 and **Isa. 33:22** speak to this.

God sustains all laws, He keeps the planet on it's proper axis.

Question: What happened when God removed Himself?

Answer: There was nothing to sustain natural laws. We are told in **PP 99** that Satan feared for his own life in that disaster.

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The Flood: (cont)

Isa.54:7-9 says, “For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. **vs.8, In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment;** but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer. **vs.9, For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: ...**”

Notice the text in **vs. 8** tells us, “In a little wrath God hid His face....”

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The Flood: (cont)

Prov. 5:21 tells us, “For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord,...”

Prov. 15:3 tells us, “The eyes of the Lord are in every place.”

These two verses indicate we are never out of God’s sight. With this in mind, let us look at **Ps. 11:4**: “...His eyelids try the children of men.”

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The Flood: (cont)

Question: How do the eyelids of God try men?

Answer: When He (God) blinks, we experience trials. But when man's cup (**OF INIQUITY**) is full, probation is closed; the result is that God turns away, thus we read in **Isa. 54:8** "In a little wrath I hid my face from thee.... **vs.9.** For this is as the waters of Noah unto me." **They destroyed themselves**, by refusing God's mercy, by not repenting and by not boarding the ark.

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The Angels:

RH May 10, 1906: “Angels are sent from the heavenly courts **not to destroy** but to watch over and guard imperiled souls, to save the lost, to bring the straying ones back to the fold.”

With that in mind, let us turn to **Exodus**, where the firstborn of Egypt are destroyed.

Ex.12:23 says, “For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you....”

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The Angels: (cont)

...NOTICE THIS VERSE INDICATES THAT “THE LORD WILL PASS THROUGH TO SMITE THE EGYPTIANS.” But as the text goes on to say, “the Lord will pass over the door (**OR BLOCK THE DOOR**) and will not suffer the **DESTROYER** to come in unto your house to smite you.”

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The Angels: (cont)

Question: Who is the “destroyer”?

Answer: Rev. 9:11, speaking during the 5th trumpet says, “And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit [**Rev 20:1, Satan**], “whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.”

Apollyon”=destroyer, Satan (Strong’s **Gr. 623**)

God says in **Isa.54:16**, “I have created the **WASTER** to destroy.”

“waster”=destroyer, spoiler (Strong’s **Hb. 7843**)

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The Angels: (cont)

We can see from these texts that the destroying angel is none other than Satan himself. We know this to be true because we see Satan destroying Job's family.

Job 1:12 says, "And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord."

Jer. 48:8 states, "And the spoiler shall come upon every city, and no city shall escape:..."

Speaking of Satan, **Isa.14:16,17** tells us, "...Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness **AND DESTROYED THE CITIES THEREOF;...**"

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The Angels: (cont)

Ps. 78:49 states, “He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath, and indignation, and trouble, by sending evil angels among them. vs.50. He made a way to His anger; He spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence;” **Notice_vs.51. “And smote all the firstborn in Egypt....”**

We can clearly see from this text that Satan was the destroying angel in Egypt.

PK 543 says, “God did not prevent Daniel’s enemies from casting him into the lions’ den; He permitted evil angels and wicked men thus far to accomplish their purpose;...”

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The Angels: (cont)

...“but it was that He might make the deliverance of His servant more marked...”

A Perplexing Statement:

GC 614 says, “A single angel destroyed all the first-born of the Egyptians and filled the land with mourning. When David offended against God by numbering the people, one angel caused that terrible destruction by which his sin was punished. The same destructive power exercised by holy angels when God **commands**, will be exercised by evil angels when God **permits**. There are forces now ready, and only waiting the divine permission, to spread desolation everywhere.”

Question: How do holy angels destroy?

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The Angels: (cont)

Answer: (several ways)

1. Angels of the Lord tore down the wall's of Jericho.

NOTE: The inhabitants' of Jericho's probation was closed.

2. The same way God does, by **withdrawing** His protective presence.

RH 9/17/1901 states, "Soon God will show that He is indeed the living God. He will say to the angels, "No longer combat Satan in his efforts to destroy. Let him work out his malignity upon the children of disobedience; for the cup of their iniquity is full. They have advanced from one degree of wickedness to another, adding daily to their lawlessness. I will no longer interfere to prevent the destroyer from doing his work. That time is right upon us. The Spirit of God is being **withdrawn** from the earth."

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The Angels: (cont)

Rev. 7:1-3 says, “And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. **Vs. 2**, And I saw another angel ascending from the east having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, **vs. 3**, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

The Angels: (cont)

John describes four angels holding back four winds.

Four winds are a symbol of strife. **Jer. 25:32-33.**

GC 440, says, “The four winds of heaven striving upon the great sea represent the terrible scenes of conquest and revolution...” (**Rev. 17:15** The “great sea” = people.) These terrible scenes of strife are brought about by **THE ANGER OF THE NATIONS** as instigated by Satan. In **Rev. 7:2**, John speaks as if four angels are going to harm and hurt the earth. **THEY WILL ACCOMPLISH THIS THROUGH GOD’S METHOD, BY WITHDRAWING FROM THE EARTH.**

See: “A Time of Trouble” RH 9/17/1901 (Appendix).

The Function of Law

FURTHER EXAMPLES

Closing:

Luke tells us that Christ was unable to find a place to sleep for the night. In **Lk.9:54-56** we read, “And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But He turned, and rebuked them, and said, ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. **vs.56. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them....**”

Phil. 2:15 God tells us to **be harmless.**

Rom. 12:21 tells us, to **overcome evil with good.**

Isa. 11:9 tells us, that God’s people “...shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

The Function of Law

Closing: (cont)

GC 35,36: “The Jews had forged their own fetters; they had filled for themselves the cup of vengeance. In the utter destruction that befell them as a nation, and in all the woes that followed them in their dispersion, **they were but reaping the harvest which their own hands had sown.** Says the prophet: ‘**O Israel, thou has destroyed thyself;**’ ‘**for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.**’ **Hos. 13:9; 14:1.** Their sufferings are often represented as a punishment visited upon them by the direct decree of God. It is thus that **THE GREAT DECEIVER [SATAN]** seeks to conceal his own work. By stubborn rejection of divine love and mercy, the Jews had caused the protection of God to be withdrawn from them, and Satan was permitted to rule them according to his will ...

The Function of Law

Closing: (cont)

... **“GOD DOES NOT STAND TOWARD THE SINNER AS AN EXECUTIONER** of the sentence against transgression; but He leaves the rejectors of His mercy to themselves, to reap that which they have sown. Every ray of light rejected, every warning despised or unheeded, every passion indulged, every transgression of the law of God, is a seed sown which yields its unfailing harvest....

The Function of Law

Closing: (cont)

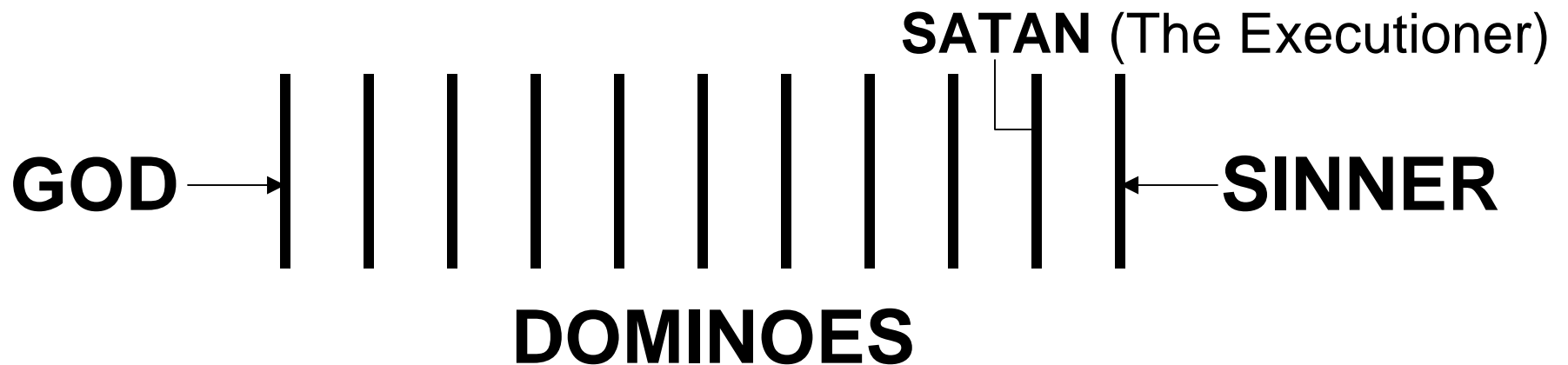
... “The Spirit of God, persistently resisted, is at last withdrawn from the sinner, and then there is left no power to control the evil passions of the soul, and no protection from the malice and enmity of Satan. The destruction of Jerusalem is a fearful and solemn warning to all who are trifling with the offers of divine grace and resisting the pleadings of divine mercy.”

Note: An executioner is one who swings the axe.

The Function of Law

THE FUNCTION OF LAW (PART 4)

**NOTE: ... “The great deceiver” ... (Satan) = the
Second from the last domino.**



**Hos. 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack
of knowledge:...”**

CHART: Function of Law

Two aspects of the

Law
GOOD

Ex. 20:6 "...showing mercy ... to them that LOVE me ..."

Neh. 9:13 ..."I gavest them...true laws..."

Jam. 4:12
"...one Lawgiver"

The Law

Isa. 33:22
"Lord is Lawgiver"

Eze. 20:25 "...I gave them statutes that were not good."

Ex. 20:5 "...visiting the iniquity...upon...them that hate Me;"

EVIL

"...I make peace, and I create evil:..." - Isa. 45:7

SPRITUAL

...whether of obedience unto righteousness **WINE**

1 Cor. 11:25

Blessings

Deut. 11:27 - "...if ye obey the commandments..." PHYSICAL

Rom 7:10 "The law ordained to life, ..."

WINE

Woman (Church)

Jn. 2:10

Gen 3:15 - "...I will put enmity between ..."

Job 11:6 "...secrets of wisdom...are double to that which is!..."

Satan

PHYSICAL

Rom 7:10 " ... I found to be unto death."

WINE

Phil. 2:8 - "[Christ] became obedient unto death." Lk. 5:39

Cursings

SPRITUAL

...whether of sin unto death

WINE

Rev. 18:3

Everyone keeps the law whether for good or for evil.