

HOW GOD RULES

A WORLD IN
CHAOS

Kingdom Concepts
by John E. Schrock



GET READY TO BE RATTLED!!!

CONTENTS



John Schrock challenges me, inspires me, and rattles my theological presuppositions. It is without question that God has placed His hand on John's life to raise an awareness and understanding of the Kingdom of God. He is not a theologian writing to theologians. He is a down to earth practical leader who lives out the things he teaches. I encourage you to read his Kingdom Concepts with an open heart. If you find yourself debating with John in your mind as you read, that's great! His writing is doing its job - challenging your thinking. I predict that his insights will help bring balance to your thinking, even if you don't agree one hundred percent with all that he says. John's ability to share powerful truth simply and pragmatically has made him a dynamic force for transformation. I am proud to be his friend and pastor.

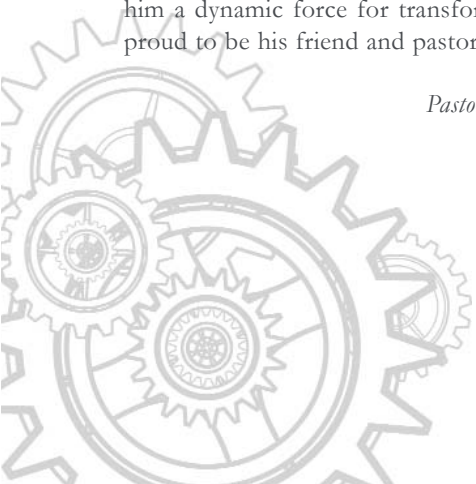
Pastor Timothy Troyer

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ÌNOTHING PERSONAL...Î

*A man walking does not notice the cliff
in front of him until gravity already has him
firmly in its grip. He falls 20 feet to the ground
below, shattering his arm and leg. "Why, God,
why?" he cries in agony. To his astonishment,
God appears and says, "Nothing personal. You
just have to learn to live with the system I built,
of which gravity is only a part."*

HOW GOD RULES

A WORLD IN CHAOS



In our high-tech world, where everything is moving at record breaking speeds, we have a tendency to get preoccupied with all the gadgets and distractions that life has to offer. We forget that God is still in control of the destiny He has proposed.

If we believe God is in control, then we might ask ourselves the question: How does He rule the world and how can He bring it to the destiny He has planned? Some people say "just trust God," which is true, but then again, God gave mankind dominion over the things He has created. Is He going to retract His word? Will He take away the gift of man's free will? Is God going to be sorry He made man and that He gave him power and dominion? I doubt it. Then how does God bring His will on earth into existence without changing or setting up a new system?

Some people believe that God will take away man's dominion. Others believe that we'll all fly away and God will clean up this mess, while others, including myself, believe that the current system will work. I can see God's reasoning in giving man free will and dominion as a part of the long-term strategy in bringing man to his full potential in his quest to understand God and life. In the following pages we will try to comprehend how and why God gave such awesome power and dominion to man and in what

environment and system He placed him. We will review the players and how each of them function under a set of laws designed by God in order to fulfill His plan and destiny.

MAN: CREATED TO RISK

Have you ever wondered how God could plan a world and predict the outcome in the planning stage? In fact, He created mankind and gave them free will, with the power to rebel and deviate from the plan and destiny that He had pre-ordained. So, God must have known something or He would not have taken the risk of the failure of His plan.

God created man and woman and planted them in a wonderful garden with all of the fruit and things they would

She took and ate because she wanted to be like God.

need. Doesn't it seem strange that mankind would walk away from such a paradise? But we

must remember that they were created in God's own image and likeness, which caused them to want to create and explore.

Eve did not eat of the fruit because she wanted to sin or disobey God; she took and ate because she wanted to be like God; to understand good and evil. She had a desire to reach out and be creative, and was reaching out by the gift God gave her. It is natural for anyone or anything to want to bear the image of its creator. This takes risk. God made us with a mind to create and explore, to have vision and dreams for the future. We are created in His image and likeness, which ultimately turned out to be the cause of Adam and Eve's problem. I'm sure God was not surprised at what they had done. He created and understands the nature of mankind. He made them like unto himself. He understood their potential and took that risk because of what He wanted in the end. So immediately after the sin, God gave them

hope for the future in a promised redeemer to help them overcome their mess. This was already in God's plan before He created Adam.

EXPERIENCE IS A TEACHER

We must understand that Adam was only a part of the creation; he was a "player" in the game or system of life. All things of the future, including restoration, depended on him, not God. He was given authority to rule and have dominion over everything. If he had not taken risks, nothing would have happened. The outcome of the world was given to him and his offspring, of which all future generations are a part.

The question is, how could God have such confidence in mankind's ability to rescue themselves from such a dark and gloomy situation? The answer is two-fold. Since man created his situation, he understood the cause by having tasted its effect. This experience was a teacher, and through research and discovery, he will find the solution for recovery by studying the cause and effect of his behavior. This will lead him and his descendants to the discovery of the laws of the kingdom of God, or we could say the laws of the Governing Activity.

THE SELF-CLEANSING SYSTEM

Before the creation of Adam, God had a plan. In this plan was a system of self-cleansing, which means you discover truth best when there is a problem or when things are not working. This causes us to reexamine ourselves. The truth will make us free only when we discover and obey it. By obeying truth, we forsake the cause of the problem. This should constantly make us seek the truth or the laws of the Kingdom of God so that we can be free.

We are always trying to overcome the "curse" and its effects, but we must seek to understand what causes it. Many ministers will curse the effects, or symptoms, and never understand the cause. Jesus said we must lay the axe to the root. If we can destroy the root, we will have eliminated the cause of the problem and thus master the effect.

Many people are healed or receive a miracle only to have the problem return. That is because they never discovered how to practice certain principles or laws that will deal with the root. They must change their operating system. Romans 8:2 says, "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death." If we have a miracle and then keep living under the laws of sin and death, our situation will come back, because most of our situations are caused. This is a law. The whole world functions under the laws that were pre-established by God at creation. You cannot change them. They are not meant to change. You are expected to discover them and choose which ones you will accept as your guide. A miracle will not change your behavior; you must change your behavior by practicing the truth. Miracles are temporary; principles are eternal. Principles are the word of God in practice. For the sake of terms, we will call these laws or this system the "Governing Activity." We could also say "the forces that govern us and our world." These forces or laws have and will lead us to the destiny designed by the Creator of this Governing Activity.

THE GOVERNING ACTIVITY

We must understand that the Governing Activity is a system of restoration set up by God before the creation of Adam. Adam was not created for the system; the system was created for Adam. This self-cleansing system would discipline Adam and his descendants as they are led by the

cause and effects of the preset Governing Activity. It was created by God as a safety net or safe guard against the failure of man in His plan. The laws in the Governing Activity are disciplines that must be discovered or they will bring destruction.

When Adam sinned, or broke the law of God, he activated the curse upon himself. The curse was for his own good. It was to let him know he had done wrong; that there are consequences to violation of the system even if his intent was good. The Governing Activity is administered by the Holy Spirit who admonishes and administrated the truth about God and His ways. If we do not know God and His law, we will try our own ideas. If they are in violation of God's Law, they will bring destruction upon us. If we do not know the Governing Activity, we go through trial and error until we discover it. Societies will rise and fall. Every time they collapse they will know another way that doesn't work, and eventually we will find the truth that will make us free from the laws of the curse.

Jesus came to save us from the curse, but He expects us to follow truth and his commandments, or He will not claim us as his own. He said, "why do you call me Lord and don not obey my commandments?" We cannot fool God; the system works. God designed the system, and the sooner we learn the rules of the game of life the better off we'll be.

We are not doing God a favor by obeying His laws; we do ourselves a favor. God created the system so that in the end He would discipline mankind and that man would find his way to life by discovering the truth. God said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Mankind was given dominion over the earth and still has it. Therefore, the condition of

***You cannot change God's Laws.
You are expected to discover them.***

the world is what we have allowed it to become. What we do will directly affect us. We are in the center of it all. God made us in His image. Man has experienced good and evil, but he must seek the truth about God and the system that God built in order to be restored to life and freedom. Man is the player in the game. If he wants life, he must seek the truth and obey it.

SATAN, A PLAYER IN THE GAME

Satan also plays a part in the system. He administrates the effect of the curse when we violate the law of God. He has access to us when we are in violation, whether it is in ignorance or in willful disobedience. He is like a policeman; he can arrest you if you break the law. He is the tempter, tempting and testing us so we can see who and where we are in life. Without temptation we would not discover ourselves, nor could we value good without the presence of evil. Satan is like a scavenger, eating at the corruption in us. When we lie, cheat, steal, or willfully sin we give him the right to attack us. This is God's plan.

We must remember that Satan works on behalf of the Governing Activity as an agent under the authority of God. He was even allowed to tempt Jesus. However, he is limited to work on us according to our perceptions or understanding. He is like God in that he is a spirit and works in our minds recommending lies and deception, while God works in truth and transparency. The purpose of all this is to develop us through discovery of the truth (the system).

The players in the game of life are God, the Creator and Designer of the self-cleansing system; Jesus, the Son, Savior and Redeemer who offers us forgiveness while we are in the process of learning; The Holy Spirit, a Minister of Truth; and Satan, an Administrator of the Curse. These agents function and make up the Governing Activity. Since God is

not a destroyer, He allows Satan to work on the destruction of the flesh or the evil within us for the purpose of developing us in the Spirit. However, we must remember that Satan is limited and under authority as is the entire angelic host.

A DEFENSE AGAINST EVIL

Take for example Job. He was walking perfectly before the Lord and was abundantly blessed in everything he did. This created a hedge of protection around him. But then he began to doubt God regarding his security. So he began to pray, asking God not to punish him because of the parties and behavior of his sons and daughters. This was not pleasing to God. God does not want us to pray for a covering when we know that something is wrong. He expects us to deal with it.

So one day when Satan came around, God challenged him concerning Job. Satan said yes, I know, but I cannot touch him because of the hedge you put around him. However, God was not happy with Job's prayer and wanted to help him change his mind-set and overcome his fears, so God allowed Satan to go after Job. God did it to help Job. God knew the law "that which we fear will come to pass," so God let Satan take everything away from Job so that he could not fear them anymore and so that he would understand the responsibility of leadership. Once God had straightened Job out, He restored him and blessed him with twice as much as he originally had.

The point is that God used Satan to destroy Job's possessions in order to help Job overcome his fear. Satan played a part in the Governing Activity, but he was limited under God. This raises a question about Job: Was the

Without temptation we would not discover ourselves.

hedge around Job put there by God, or was it there because Job was doing right? My belief is that the hedge is there as a result of an upright walk before the Lord, and that God's system provides for that, not necessarily that God placed it there personally. Righteousness is a defense against evil and a shield against Satan. Job was doing right but was asking a favor of God even when he knew that his family was doing wrong. The Governing Activity works. It is nothing personal. The system was designed to discipline us and it did to Job what it was designed to do.

RESTORATION

So how does God rule the world? How will He have man obey His will or word, and how will He bring fulfillment to His goal of bringing peace, prosperity and righteousness to a corrupt world? The answer is the Governing Activity at work to discipline the human mind and behavior.

We will live under the laws of the curse and its consequences until we seek for a better way. In our discovery we will find the laws of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, which will make us free from the laws of sin and death. We must exchange or give up our corruption and self-righteousness for God's righteousness. God cannot help us if we don't help ourselves by searching for truth because the hedge of protection follows righteousness. He has created a system that will deliver us from sin and corruption, and Jesus came to show us this way, tell us this truth, and to demonstrate the power of life over sin. God cannot and will not change His mind, because He lives by the laws He made. So the world is held together by the ordained order of His word, which is His law. It will remain that way while we are in the discovery of the truth.

The purpose of the system is to discipline man and his behavior. The Governing Activity is an active set of laws

that in the end will bring about the full redemption of man. When? That is in our hands. God's plan will be fulfilled when mankind accepts the discipline of God's law as the standard for life. It can happen to us now as individuals, which means the Kingdom of God has come to us and we can have great personal benefit from it. It is meant to benefit a people, community and nation. The key is in understanding the power of the laws of the Governing Activity. This will give us insight into God's plan, Jesus' purpose, the Holy Spirit's mission, and Satan's limitation. It will give us a hunger and thirst to understand and a desire to learn and pursue the truth about life.

***Kingdom laws offer you hope,
peace, and a better life.***

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE

The laws of the Governing Activity are more than the laws of the Kingdom of God. The laws of the Kingdom of God are the laws that are given for a righteous nation under God. The laws of the Governing Activity are all the Laws combined. It is the laws of Life, the Curse, Sin, Creation, Gravity, etc. It is the entire system. It can punish you or bless you. The system is designed to push you to do right. If you don't it can kill or destroy you. Jesus said it this way; there is a narrow way and a broad way. The narrow way leads to life and the broad way to destruction. The laws of the Kingdom, or the narrow way, are summed up as, love God and your neighbor as yourself, and do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Kingdom laws offer you hope, peace, and a better life. They lead you to a positive and good future.

The Governing Activity also includes laws for those who don't buy into it. These laws will hunt you, kick you

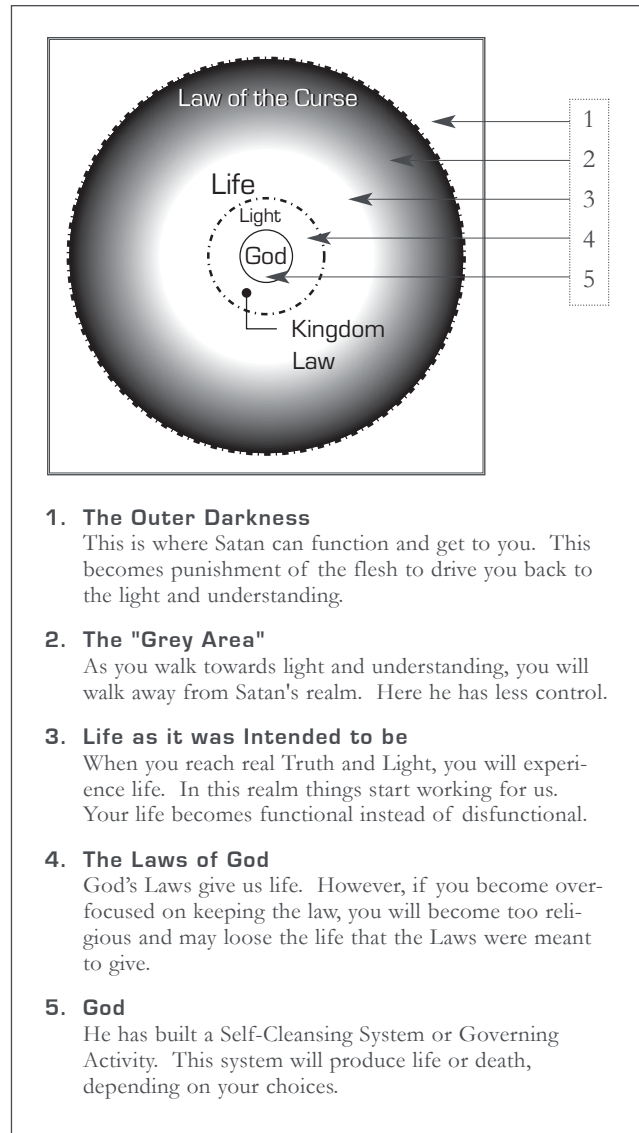
around, drive, push, and possibly destroy you if you don't move to the Kingdom laws (*see illustration on page 11*). Job was a good illustration of this. The whole system was designed to help us, not hurt us. It is like pain. Pain is good; it lets us know something is wrong. If we ignore it, it may kill us. However, pain gives us a chance to deal with the cause of the problem so we may be saved from the problem.

RULES FOR THE GAME

In conclusion, we want to remember that God is the designer of the system and the ultimate authority. When he made us in His image and likeness, He took a huge risk. He made us like unto Himself. He gave us a creative mind and free will. He believed in us. Had He not set up the Governing Activity we without a doubt would have created self-destruction without knowing it.

God was just as we are in that we bring kids into the world believing that they will turn out good and bring us a lot of joy and pleasure. We believe in them because we believe we can train them to become good and sensible; to become individuals that we can be proud of. But we, like God, know that it takes a set of rules, discipline and training for that to happen. That is how God is governing the world: by the system He created.

You could think of it this way: you are American (or Mexican, Kenyan, Ukrainian, etc.) but you may have never met your president or any of the founders of your constitution. However, this does not make you less of a citizen. In the same manner, you have never met God or Jesus face-to-face in the flesh (although you do meet them face-to-face in the spirit when you accept them as Lord and Truth), but they still govern by the system they founded.



1. The Outer Darkness

This is where Satan can function and get to you. This becomes punishment of the flesh to drive you back to the light and understanding.

2. The "Grey Area"

As you walk towards light and understanding, you will walk away from Satan's realm. Here he has less control.

3. Life as it was Intended to be

When you reach real Truth and Light, you will experience life. In this realm things start working for us. Your life becomes functional instead of disfunctional.

4. The Laws of God

God's Laws give us life. However, if you become over-focused on keeping the law, you will become too religious and may lose the life that the Laws were meant to give.

5. God

He has built a Self-Cleansing System or Governing Activity. This system will produce life or death, depending on your choices.

Yes, Jesus saves, but if we want the good life, we must discover and follow the rules of the game of life. Our successes and failures are the result of understanding the Governing Authority and following the rules. Just as God's answer to the man who fell off the cliff breaking his arm and leg, "Nothing personal. You just have to learn to live within the system I built." It is not that hard. Just love God and His law with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself. If you do this, you will enjoy and be a winner in the game of life. No wonder Jesus said, "you will know the truth and the truth will make you free." You will be like David in Psalms 1, who because he delighted himself in the law of the Lord, was like a tree planted by streams of water whose leaves do not wither and who prospers in everything that he does.

So, quit focusing on fighting the Devil. Rather, seek the truth and follow it: this will build a defense system (hedge) around you. Your focus will be on God and His ways, which will give you an understanding heart of the Governing Activity and an opportunity to make the right decisions, which is how God had intended it to be. When truth is practiced, it simplifies life, giving us peace, prosperity and fulfillment. Try it: it works.

For more information on how God will bring the fullness of His Kingdom to earth, read the book It is Time available from La Red Business Network.



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