



Does God Allow # 3

Hello everyone. Welcome to “Notes from the Presence.” In today’s article, we are going to look at matters of legalities in the spirit realm.

To begin, I would like to mention a theological notion that has quite a bit of scriptural backing. It is the idea that God actually turned the earth over to humankind for a set number of years. Some theologians call this the "earth lease theory." Most agree that the time period God has set for humankind to run amuck on our planet is 6000 years. When this time frame comes to an end, God will step back in and set up His kingdom on this earth again, putting Jesus (a human person) on the throne of the kingdom for an extra 1000 years (the millennium). This will complete a 7000 year cycle on our earth mirroring the seven days of creation and then a new heaven and earth will be created.

Let's look at this scenario from a practical standpoint. Imagine for a moment that you own a house and you are going to lease it out to a family for a set period of time. As soon as you sign the lease and give the new family the keys, your rights to the house are limited by law. You cannot enter the house whenever you want. You must have a good reason to do so and even then, you must give a certain amount of notice. The house only comes back into your full possession after the lease is up. Only then can you enter the house and view how well the tenants have been caring for your property. If you have had good renters, the house should be in pretty good shape. If you have had bad ones, your house might require considerable work to bring it back up to par again. I know of a case where someone leased out a house to persons who used it as a grow-op. The house was so badly damaged that it had to be literally gutted and re-built from the ground up. Incidentally, the bible tells us that eventually our world will be so badly damaged that if God does not intervene, no life will be able to survive on our planet any longer (Matthew 24:22).

I would like to point out that much of what we experience on this planet is the result of a set of legal circumstances. Leases are matters of legality. They are governed and enforced by law. One admirable character trait of God is that He loves justice. Although we celebrate when justice is enforced in our world, "justice" is a legal term. We also know that God is a God of law and order. He gave the children of Israel the Mosaic Law, and then once again, gave them the choice to either follow it, or abandon it. My question again - who made the choice for evil? It was the people who decided to abandon God. When disaster would strike, they would turn to God and He would restore them. This cycle repeated for centuries on end. So then, does God own this planet? The answer is emphatically yes! My friend who leased his house out to a weed grower owned his house too. However, God has given this planet to us - humankind. In doing so, He has limited His access to His own property until the lease is over.

Psalm 115:16 *The heavens are the heavens of the Lord, but the earth He has given to the sons of men.*

There is one other extreme legal force in our world, the devil himself. The devil is actually nothing more than a cheap polyester suit, slimy, wannabe lawyer. He has been trying to catch God in a legal snag for eons of time. He knows that if he could ever catch God in a situation where His word was compromised, he would have eternal victory because it is impossible for God to lie. Many of his efforts with Jesus amounted to trying to trap Jesus in a legal catch 22. When God gave mankind dominion over this planet, the lease was signed. The devil knew he had to get the keys to our planet legally in order to embark on destroying God's creation. When Adam and Eve sinned, the devil had the legal opening he was looking for. He took and held the keys to the dominion of our planet all the way up until Jesus entered our world. There is one telling scripture in the account of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. Listen to the cynicism and arrogance with which the devil speaks these words:

Luke 4:5-8 *And he (the devil) led Him (Jesus) up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'"*

This passage gives us a stunning picture of the ownership of our planet's domain. The dominion originally given to Adam was handed over to the devil. Friends, God has had limited access to our planet for centuries. Eventually, He will take back what is His, but right now, our planet is tied up in a legal battle. Actually, I should qualify that last statement. Thankfully, Jesus did take the keys of our planet back from the devil. He did

it through the cross and He did it legally. He did not bow down and worship the devil. Instead, He offered Himself as a substitute for our sins, and legally went and snatched the keys of dominion and death from the devil. However, the reason Jesus could do all of these things is because He was human. God has limited the dominion on this planet to that which works through humans.

So the question remains - if Jesus (who is God/human) took the dominion of our planet back from the devil, then where are those keys today, and who has the right to use them? Why then, is there still evil on our planet since God now has restored dominion? The answer is very simple and once again, we as humans need to take full responsibility for our own actions. There are somewhere around 7.8 billion humans on our planet right now. Only about 11% of them know and believe in the God that we are discussing in this blog. The other 89% are still in full partnership with the devil whether they acknowledge it or not. Even though the devil has lost his keys of dominion, humans are still handing him back those keys six billion times every single second of time and existence. Most humans don't believe God exists and they don't know the devil exists either. In the absence of truth, the devil takes full advantage of ignorance and deceives humankind into destroying the earth and he does it through the very beings that God created to rule and caretake our planet for the kingdom of God. Also, our world is still under the curse and so evil and disaster still floods our planet.

Now for the BIG question - what about the 11% that do believe in the God we are discussing? Should they not be able to live free from disaster and the curse through the work of Jesus on the cross? That is a very good question. Three weeks ago, when we started on this subject, we posed the question - does God allow? Why did God allow my son to die, or my friend to get cancer? However, I think the questions most of the people I know are asking sound a bit more like this - let me paraphrase:

OK, I acknowledge that evil is on our earth because we as humans have chosen evil. However, I have chosen to believe in God. I am not part of the problem. I am part of the solution. So, why, since God is a God of love, and I have chosen Him as my Lord, did He allow evil to come upon *me*? He is my Lord and Saviour and I have given Him full control of my life. Shouldn't He be able to protect me and intervene on my behalf? His word is full of promises that seem to indicate He loves me. Why didn't this love manifest in a practical way and rescue me?

I sense another cliff hanger! Thanks for reading today. Jesus is real and He holds the keys!"