

HOW DOES GOD DESTROY?

by Nyron Medina

“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 He permits.”

Ellen G. White, The Great Controversy p. 614

There are some religions that teach us that God is so loving that He does not kill or do any acts of destruction Himself. They claim that God does not destroy because it is unlike His loving nature to do so. Here is an example from a group misnamed the “Truth For The Final Generation.” In one of their books they state: “Since the law is a transcript of God’s character then if it is not in the law to kill, it is not in the character of God to kill.” **The Character of God, Vol. I, Lecture 1, p 7.**

Then if God does not kill in penalty for wrong or sin, who does the killing, and who slew the inhabitants of the world with the flood, and the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone? To this, these teachers answer that, those impenitent people sinned away God’s presence, so that God withdrew His protecting or maintaining presence, and either Satan, sin, or the forces of nature brought the penalty upon the evil doers. These false prophets claim that if God does destroy, then the only way He does it is to withdraw His presence and allow Satan, sin or the forces of nature to do the killing, but they refuse to accept that God can indeed order His agents to actually destroy people, or that He Himself can do the physical acts of destruction.

Here are some quotations to substantiate what they are saying.

“... there is a correct way to interpret and understand such terms as God smites, God punishes, God sends destruction, God destroys, God’s wrath. Such language when applied to God does **not** mean the same as when applied to man... That the mechanism of punishment, wrath, destruction and all punitive language is that God withdraws his active, creative, maintaining presence and disaster and destruction occur.” **The Character of God And His Dealing With Sin, p. 7**

“Here Jesus was plainly showing that wrong doing brings its own punishment whereas God’s way is the way of life.” **Ibid., p. 23.** “God simply judges the case, pronounces the sentence...and hands the offender over to the executioner, (self, forces or nature, malice or enmity of Satan). God’s ways are ever and only to withdraw His protection from the offender.” **Ibid., p. 46.** “If God uses, as a last resort, the method of hurting and damaging those who do not agree with Him or His ideas, then His Spirit is Satanic.” **Ibid., p. 75.**

We have given you enough quotations to sufficiently see what groups like the “Truth For The Final Generation” and the “Three Angels Ministry” teach, so that no one can charge us of misrepresentation.

Now in answering the claims of this teaching we must say that while we do agree that God does withdraw His protecting hedge from some impenitent sinners and Satan and his angels engineer their deaths, this is **NOT** the only way in which God destroys. There are two other ways which these false prophets refuse to also believe. God destroys by doing acts of physical destruction Himself and also by directly ordering His agents to execute the penalty, which is His justice. The Bible also teaches these two ways in which God destroys and we shall now demonstrate them for you from the holy scriptures.

The death penalty for murder was given by **God Himself** to the earth, since the time of Noah. Now if God does not destroy even in penalty to sinners, why does He encourages men, as state ministers, to do it?

“And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man’s brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed, for in the image of God made he man.” Gen 9:5,6.

In giving civil laws and penalties to enforce these laws to the nation of Israel, God decrees that the judges of the nation should give the death penalty. Now if God only destroys by withdrawing His presence, should He not do this when somebody commits murder? Yes, He should; but observe how God Himself orders men to give the death penalty.

“He that smiteth a man, so that he die he shall be surely put to death... And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death.” Ex 22:12,15. When Moses came down from the mount, he found the children of Israel worshipping a

golden calf (Ex 32:15-21), observe God did not withdraw His presence, but rather commanded His agents to destroy those who were in idolatry. “And he [Moses] said unto them, “Thus saith Yahweh God of Israel, put every man his sword by his side and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp and slay every man his brother and every man his companion, and every man his neighbor...and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.” Ex 32:27,28.

Notice that it was Yahweh God that gave this punitive command to Moses, who in turn passed it down to the tribe of Levi. Let us now observe a situation that the judges of ancient Israel did not know how to handle and let us see what God told them.

“While the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the Sabbath day, and they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. And the Lord said unto Moses, the man shall surely be put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died as Yahweh commanded Moses.” Num 15:32-36.

This is a good example that shows how God destroys. He did not withdraw His presence and thus allow Satan, sin or the so-called forces of nature to penalize the man; the judges did not know what to do with the man and it was God Himself by special revelation instructed Moses to give the defiant and rebellious man the death penalty which God’s agents executed. All this clearly shows that the groups that are teaching God does not kill or destroy, or that God destroys only by withdrawing His presence, are teaching one-sided error and are thus lying on God.

One can read Lev 24:10-17 for another similar situation. The terrible consequences of advocating a teaching like the falsehood we just exposed are many, and the implications are manifold. It not only robs God of His justice, but presents love as a mere sentimentalism and ethical behavior. It also sends the wrong message to criminals who will make much exploitation of that teaching to the social suffering of the nation with the increase of crime. If that concept was God’s way, then society could run on such principles, but then it can never work.

Finally, all liars, especially those who lie on God, will be lost (Rev 22:15). So repent of that false teaching and accept the truth of the scriptures; in Jesus’ name.

Amen.