

ABSOLUTE CONTRACTION

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From EVERYWHERE IN SCRIPTURE: ABSOLUTE CONTRACTION, PART 1.

Human intuition "feels" the passing of time as a forward moving line, running from the present into a distant future. One day passes into another, and then another, in linear fashion. In other words, time is seen as expanding or dilating toward the unknown future.

However, Scripture presents to the mind an understanding of time that is radically different. This revealed understanding cannot be grasped by intuition. Generalization from the Bible leads to the conclusion that time is not expanding/not dilating at all.

Rather, time is contracting back upon the Word of God. All events and other features of time point toward, and contract, toward the Word of God.

Inherently, therefore, human intuition and revelation are in a state of contradiction. This precise contradiction is at the axis of different readings of Scripture:

- Either our experience of time shapes our understanding of the Bible, OR
- Scripture influences our conception of time.

Bridging the two is not possible. One or the other (intuition or Scripture) is telling the truth about time; but not both. These are irreconcilable.

Textual Example: Acts 4:23-31. Peter and John had appeared before The Sanhedrin; being intimidated and released. Upon rejoining the other disciples, they related their recent experience. The brethren prayed; their supplication hanging on two beliefs:

#1. THE POWER OF GOD: "O Lord it is You who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them" (v. 24.)

#2. THE WILL OF GOD: "to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur" (v. 28.) These people believed that time and events had contracted back upon the power of God and the word of God.

“Rationalized Time” was overruled!

From EVERYWHERE IN SCRIPTURE. ABSOLUTE CONTRACTION, PART 2

In Scripture we can see absolute contraction in action. In Genesis, a sequence begins:

- Joseph has dreams,
- sold into slavery,
- placed in Potipher's house,
- accused of rape,
- jailed,
- released and raised to power;
- 14 prophetic years,
- 70 Israelites settle in Egypt (Genesis 37-50).

Every member of this sequence happened in that order because every member was obligated to contract back upon the Word of God. The compelling agency of this sequence of contraction was the power of God. This means that the power, the force related to the sequence is not in the sequence itself. *The power is in God who forces contraction.*

THE RATIONALIST ASSUMPTION:

- The power, the causation is in the sequence. In other words, just the right sequence will lead to the most desired destiny.
- Here is *the reach of rationalization*. It connects

A Rationalized Sequence ----> to A Rationalized Destiny, or to A Rationalized Future.
- The power to influence history, life, destiny, the future is in the sequence.
- Abraham believed this when he took The Hagar Sequence (Genesis 16). The patriarch disregarded the power of contraction. His rationalist mind at the time could not accept the obligated contraction of even the biology of himself and that of Sarai.
- Here we have the structure of a *decision theory*. This is called “problem solving” or “critical thinking.”
- We deal with everything in just this way. Example: sickness. Almost without thinking people set the rationalized sequence of treatment in place; being determined by the rationalized destiny. The hope, the faith is in rationalized sequence, rationalized time, not the Lord.

In the churches, it is obvious that Scripture is rationalized in order for it to fit within a rationalized understanding of time.

From EVERYWHERE IN SCRIPTURE. ABSOLUTE CONTRACTION, PART 3.

- #1. A great contradiction separates The Lord's *power of contraction* from *human rationalization*. Spiritual dynamics are at work in this. Any surface appraisal of contraction and rationalization might suggest that they are simply different perspectives on time.

That cannot be true. The truth is that each one stipulates a different kind of situation, not mere perspectives. The terms of "reality" are at stake.

- #2. THE HUMAN HORIZON. At the axis of this construct is man, and the horizon is of human making. It is composed of human desires and purposes. Men think of this horizon extending into the future. Men want to make it so: It is the measure of "success." God is made to fit somewhere within this horizon, whether He likes it or not.

However, there is --

- --#3. THE BIBLICAL HORIZON. The axis of this is the Word of God and we are on this horizon! Our circumstances, situations, states of being are all on the horizon. That is our place in this arrangement. The biblical horizon is constantly contracting back upon that axis. In the human horizon, the Lord and His Word are fitted in to the nature of that Horizon.

But in the biblical horizon, men and their affairs are the horizon, and are always contracting back upon the axis. That is the life of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David and it was the life of Christ. He himself was on the biblical horizon! His life contracted accordingly!

You and I are on this horizon, and our lives will contract back toward the Word of God and its authority over us accordingly. The power of God will compel this contraction. This where we fit in this horizon.

- #4 SPIRITUAL MATURITY. This *must* become a *world magnitude* projected into time by people of biblical faith. This magnitude is a personal achievement when thought, speech and behavior contract back upon revealed knowledge and understanding!

Spiritual Leadership is the beneficiary of this contraction. The Church of the Lord is not permitted to assimilate to the human horizon!

- #5. FROM THE BIBLICAL HORIZON, Jesus spoke these words, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me" (Luke 9:23).