

The Law of the Forum
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From Hebrews 1:1-4. THE LAW OF THE FORUM, PART 1.

#1. A forum is a place for the exchange of ideas.

#2. The general idea: The book of Hebrews gives the reader a particular comprehension of time. Time was made to be, created to be, a forum for the voice of God.

(1) God speaks into time and into human minds (v. 1.)

(2) In "the long ago" (v. 1) The Lord spoke through "prophets"

(3) But in "these last days" (v. 2) He speaks through "His Son"

(4) Time is winding down. It is not infinite.

(5) This time track shows a transition of authority from limited (prophets) to maximum (Son). Therefore, time was created (v. 4) by God as a forum in which the voice of God is to be heard.

(6) This transcends and contradicts the human intuitive understanding of time by experience and chronology. Time is not synonymous with either one of them. According to Hebrews, there is no equivalence between them. The Jews never grasped this truth. Example: The desert generation routinely looked at time exclusively in terms of experience and chronology (3:7-11). They were faithless.

(7) This gives answer to questions about why certain things happen to us in time. Trials and blessings are experienced by each of us, but those circumstances obey *the law of the forum*. Every lifetime comes into being on the terms of the law of the forum.

The time conceded to each of us on earth constitutes a forum for the voice of God. It's not about our experience! So, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me" (3:15). Einstein was wrong—our time (our time) has absolute meaning! Your life has absolute meaning!

From Hebrews 1:3. THE LAW OF THE FORUM, PART 2

Jesus was *superextraordinary*: He was the "radiance of His glory," "the exact representation of His nature," "upholds all things," "made purification of sins" (1:3) -- incomparable.

Yet, the Lord's time on earth was consciously constructed in obedience to the law of the forum. His days on the earth and in time, by His own comprehension, were lived as a forum for the voice of God. This King of Kings never understood His temporal lifespan in terms of the experience of it nor its chronology. And He is our example!

Here is the great test for us: How shall we look upon time in general, and our experience of it, along with its chronology? To live our lives in Christ as a forum will bring with it the unavoidable discipline of God! Pain, trials, suffering, loss. "My Son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him; for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, and He scourges every son whom He receives" (12:5,6.)

No! Our days here are not about pain-free experience and sunlit uplands. Our days are the forum for the voice of God. No one likes nor desires such rigorous discipline, but it is part of the law of the forum. We know how it feels when the hammer falls! We are left stunned, overwhelmed, devastated!

And the Lord says to us: "This situation, and your conduct in it, is a forum for My voice." I think we'll have to cowboy up!

From Hebrews 10:37-39. THE LAW OF THE FORUM, PART 3.

This law regarding time puts a requirement upon all believers: WE ARE REQUIRED TO RISE ABOVE OUR OWN PSYCHOLOGY. It is a notable mistake to think that our personal psychology is the way in which, or by which, we connect with time. It is not true, and it becomes the error of the psychologization of understanding.

The Lord will have none of it: "But my righteous One shall live by faith; And if He shrinks back My soul has no pleasure in Him" (10:38). We will suffer in our personal psychology just as did Jesus in His time in the forum.

Those listed on the roll call of the faithful in Hebrews 11 must have experienced great distress in their days in the forum. However, neither the Lord nor the faithful anywhere in Scripture ever held the thought that one's personal psychology was the high road connection to time, situation and circumstance. Jesus was required to overrule His own human psychology. There was no shrinking back because of situation and circumstance.

Rather, it is the law of the forum that connects us to our often weighty, difficult and demanding situations. "Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward." Why not? "For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised" (10:35,36.)

We are going to feel low, depressed, "blue" at times. But in building our lives on the law of the forum, we are determined to rise above our own psychology.

"But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul" (10:39). The forum, thus, has a language manifold of its own.