



ORDER FROM CHAOS

As I've mentioned before, Bryce and I train in taekwondo. Well, he trains; I just try to not injure myself.

Anyways, he is part of a demo team who are practicing for a kickoff party in January. As we were at practice earlier this week, I was observing as all of the students were meticulously training and syncing up with one another to move as one unit. When they started, the timings were off, the moves weren't in sync, and it seemed sporadic and a bit chaotic.

They continued to work hard to make sure their moves were sharp and in perfect timing with those around them. As the practice went on, slowly but surely, the students became synced together.

Order from chaos.



One of the things that I love about taekwondo, and watching the students train, is the technicality of the art. Moves are to be precise, tight, and sharp. There's an order to the training; certain ways that things are to be done. Students learn to bow in at the same time, answer up as a unit, and control their movements. It's a very orderly and structured art.

I've been reading through the book of Leviticus and Numbers, and one of the things that I've noticed is the order, structure, and precision of the Lord's instructions.

As I read through the instructions for the construction of the Tabernacle, its furnishings, and its utensils, the Lord was very specific and orderly in what He required. As I read about the various types of sacrifices, the Lord was very detailed in His instruction. As the Lord gave instruction for the feasts, He left no stone unturned.

Listen to how the Lord instructed the people of Israel to camp:

Numbers 2:2

"The people of Israel shall camp each by his own standard, with the banners of their fathers' houses. They shall camp facing the tent of meeting on every side."

God structured and commanded things to be done a certain way. He wanted the people of Israel organized, camping the right way, and facing the right direction. As they encamped around the Tabernacle, He chose which camps were going to camp where, and so much more. God is a God of order, not chaos.

The Apostle Paul speaks of this when he is talking about spiritual gifts when he says in **1 Corinthians 14**, *"For God is not a God of confusion but of peace...But all things should be done decently and in order (vs 33, 40)."*

But it seems like we live in a world of chaos. There's war, hunger, catastrophe, dissension, and division at every turn. Our lives don't always seem "orderly." In fact, it seems more chaotic than orderly most of the time. Because of the Fall and our sinfulness, we will struggle in the tension between chaos and order our entire lives.



But don't lose heart.

Isaiah 40:4 says, *"Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain."* The God of order will one day make all the crooked, straight. According to **Romans 8:28** He will work *"all things together for good."* In the end, the God of order will *"make all things new (Revelation 21:5)."*

He will bring order to the chaos.

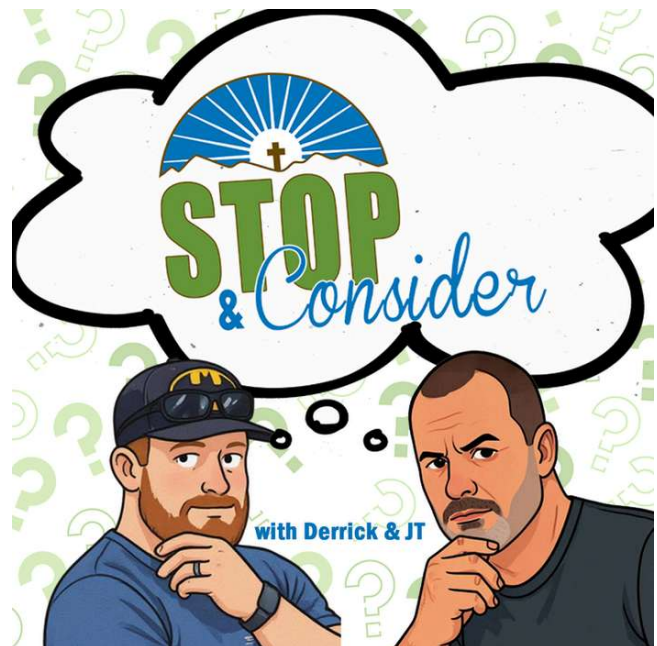
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