

22. If this relationship was taking place in the New Testament's Church Age, the relationship between Abraham and Jesus would be problem-solving device #10, Occupation with Christ.

Doctrine of Occupation with Christ

A. Definition:

1. Occupation with Christ is the ultimate problem-solving device. It describes the status of the believer's soul when its mentality has an advanced and facilitated inventory of doctrine among all eleven categories of systematic theology.
2. This status is characterized by personal love for Christ achieved by maximum submission to the spiritual-growth process that isolates Him as the ultimate Authority, ultimate Guide, ultimate Friend.
3. The acquisition of personal love is the result of one's advance to personal integrity. The love of God is the integrity of God and the integrity of God is the love of God.
4. The acquisition of personal integrity occurs when one's doctrinal inventory develops, facilitates, and submits to righteous standards obtained by prolonged positive volition to and application of the Word of God.
5. In concert with this principle is orientation to divine justice, the attribute of God that protects His righteousness. Submission to divine righteousness necessitates defense of those standards by orientation to divine justice.
6. Therefore, true love occurs in the soul of the believer when he acquires personal integrity: submission to the Word which is the accumulation of righteous standards.
7. Defense of the Word is volitional submission to its standards in the soul while defending those standards externally by one's lifestyle, behavior patterns, and character traits.
8. Therefore, the capacity to love someone who is invisible requires a tremendous amount of information in the *kardía*. The believer who has made Jesus Christ his role model shares the happiness of God.
9. Spiritual maturity is an environment of the soul that enables the believer to orient and adjust to every circumstance from maximum function of doctrinal and grace orientations.
10. Sharing the Happiness of God is the spiritual environment that confidently orients and adjusts to every aspect of life with assurance that God, in eternity past, allowed or desired for your long-term benefit.



B. Orientation:

1. The Bible presents passages that orient the believer to the thinking of Christ.
2. In the dispensation of the Church, the believer must pursue, learn, and then apply the doctrinal rationales of the Lord's.

1 Corinthians 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to advise him. But we have the mind of Christ. (NET)

3. Several verses command the believer to rely on the Lord as his ultimate resource for the application of his Law of Freedom:

Hebrews 12:2 Keeping your eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set out for him he endured the cross, disregarding the shame, and has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of God. (NET)

1 Pet 3:15 But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess. (NET)

4. God makes a direct positive demand on your will and volition to be occupied with Christ, which is a mandate to be consistent in the metabolization of doctrine.
5. Occupation with Christ is having fellowship with Him and the Holy Spirit:

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by Whom you were called [**καλέω** (*kaléō*): **common grace**¹] into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord. (NET)

The “call of God” occurs between common and efficacious grace. It is God the Father inviting the unbeliever to change his mind about Jesus Christ and believe in His Son for salvation.

6. Fellowship with the Holy Spirit is imperative for the believer to apply doctrine in his soul:

¹ The invitation of God to believe in Jesus Christ. When the unbeliever listens to the gospel and hears an accurate presentation, God the Holy Spirit makes that information lucid, comprehensible, and understandable. Belief in Christ results in eternal life; rejection of Him results in eternal condemnation. This describes the divine appeal to the unbeliever's Law of Freedom to either accept or reject the offer. Scripture refers to this as “the call” or “the calling of God.”



2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. (NASB)

Philippians 2:1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ [**and there is**], if there is any comfort from love [**personal integrity, and there is**], if there is any fellowship with the Holy Spirit [**and there is**], if there are any emotional responses or resultant mercies [**and there is**];

v. 2 be filled with my happiness that you might be thinking the same things [**divine viewpoint**], having the same virtue love, united in soul rapport, concentrating on one objective... (EXT)

Philippians 2:5 ... having this thinking in yourself which was also in Christ Jesus. (EXT)

7. The mature Christian does not seek encouragement from or dependence on people but from dependence on God. Occupation with Christ does not depend on emotionalism or any other human work but rather on perception of the Word of God and its application.
8. Most believers in the twenty-first century place their confidence in circumstances, other people, or human concepts of security. But this is the devil's world. Lucifer takes every opportunity to sell you the bill of goods that *cosmos diabolicus* can provide true happiness.

Understanding this biblical reality helps avoid those traps. Occupation with Christ is the soul's strategy for true happiness regardless of the environment around us.

But the spiritual advance to that rarified level of the spiritual life is a long row to hoe. It requires the development of the asset of becoming a doer of the Word rather than just a hearer only.

There are three doctrines that orient the believer to the cosmic environment in which he functions and the divine assets available to successfully navigate within it: The Angelic Conflict, the doctrine of Dispensations, and the doctrine of the Divine Decree.²

² To study these doctrines, consult these books: *The Angelic Conflict*, *The Divine Outline of History: Dispensations and the Church*, and *The Integrity of God* in which see "Appendix B: The Doctrine of the Divine Decree," each written by R. B. Thieme, Jr., and published by R. B. Thieme Jr., Bible Ministries, Houston, Texas.



C. Motivation and Function:

1. Occupation with Christ subtly phases out one's dependence on people over to dependence on the Lord. This does not refer to normal interactions with others when functioning in an organization where people depend on each other to achieve an objective.
2. Dependence only on the Lord is the standard for the believer's spiritual life. With doctrine in the soul while in fellowship with the Holy Spirit we depend exclusively on the Lord to provide solutions to our problems.
3. Generally speaking, others cannot be depended upon to resolve your personal problems. Usually the best solution is to change yourself and that is accomplished by growing in grace and depending on grace.
4. Occupation with Christ is acquired by the inculcation of divine viewpoint. We are free agents with the divine asset of the Law of Freedom. Inculcation of divine viewpoint allows the soul to choose and then apply divine solutions.

2 Corinthians 5:14 The love of Christ keeps on motivating us, and we have reached the conclusion that One [**Jesus Christ**] died as a substitute for us all; therefore, all [**of humanity**] have died [**spiritually at physical birth**].

v. 15 Furthermore, He [**Jesus Christ**] died a substitute for all [**unlimited atonement**], in order that those who live [**believers in Christ**] should no longer live for themselves, but for Him Who died and was resurrected.

v. 16 Therefore, in the future, we acknowledge no one from human viewpoint even though we have known Christ from human viewpoint. Now we do not know Him from the human perspective any longer. (EXT)

5. Occupation with Christ does away with human viewpoint. Our nation is torn apart by the dichotomy of ideas. For many, human viewpoint has deteriorated into human good while for others it has metastasized into evil.
6. A client nation is maintained when most of its citizens seek to use the Law of Freedom to pursue "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" while others possess the doctrinal inventory to prolong the endeavor from generation to generation.



7. Excerpts from *The Declaration of Independence* and *The Constitution of the United States of America* amplify the point:

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any form of Government becomes destructive to these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.³

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States of America.⁴

8. Loss of thought eventuates into loss of freedom as the Dark Side co-opts that loss with the inculcation of the lie, a situation Paul addressed in the first century in:

1 Timothy 4:1 But the Holy Spirit explicitly reports, that in later times [**between the First and Second Advents**] some believers will become apostate from the truth, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons [**faculty of the Satanic Academy of Cosmic Didactics**],

v. 2 by means of hypocrisy from the source of human liars have been branded in their own conscience as with a branding iron. (EXT)

9. As the Whirlwind intensifies then the purveyors of human viewpoint and evil spread polemics against various standards of establishment truth while being intolerant of any competing opinion. The biblical defense against the Whirlwind's ever-increasing force on the Beaufort Wind Scale is occupation with Christ.
10. Occupation with Christ results in God emphasis taking precedence over people emphasis thereby eliminating human viewpoint. This is replaced by an ever-advancing perspective of reality founded on divine viewpoint.

³ The Declaration of Independence, paragraph two.

⁴ The Constitution of the United States of America: Preamble.



11. Because of the Word of God, mature believers have clear discernment about what is transpiring in Client Nation America, great confidence in the fact that a novice politician but master negotiator is now in control of our national government. Bible-based believers remain unsurprised over the cosmic assaults against his establishment-based corrections and the resultant hostility.
12. David recognized this very assault on him and his government which was history's first iteration of a client nation. In the aftermath of these wars, David pondered the prospects of the nation's future in the first of the Messianic Psalms
13. A text of Psalm 2 refers to the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant in the person of Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, and His ultimate victory over those nations that opposed Him both Jew and Gentile at the Second Advent.
13. This Psalm is clearly Messianic, but its application may be applied to Gentile client nations and to the United States in particular at this point in its history.
14. This Psalm is primarily focused on the political and military turmoil that emerges during Daniel's seventieth heptad, better known as the Tribulation. The international conflicts of the Church Age are instigated by the same dark forces that dominate the Great Tribulation and therefore may be interpreted from that perspective.

Psalm 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people
imagine a vain thing? (KJV)

1. We will continue with quotes from the NASB and expanded translations, but the verbiage of verse 1 from the King James is so well-known that subsequent English translations lose its impact.
2. The verb "rage" is the Qal perfect of רָגַשׁ (*ragash*). This is a hapax legomenon that describes the plotting and scheming of adversaries from the Dark Side that coordinate uprisings and demonstrations against the establishment standards held by the righteous. It has to do with promoting civil disobedience.
3. Imagining "a vain thing" has to do with the propaganda that motivates and accompanies the rabble's uprisings. The word "vain" is רִיק (*riyq*): The delusions that accompany the machinations of deluded, propagandized people.
4. The strategy by the Beast Dictator of the Tribulation is the amalgamation of nations under one dominant leader, specifically himself. This is the cosmic strategy of internationalism.



5. During the Church Age, Lucifer tries to implement that strategy. Presently this is encouraged by propaganda that promotes “no borders” which allows anyone to “immigrate” into the county without any restraint. The current efforts in the USA are a trial run on the idea here.
6. The European Union has already tried it but is reaping the dividends from the free flow of Semitics that have already or will soon overtake the governments of those nations. England is severely damaged by this process and Brexit is an effort to stem the flow.

Psalm 2:2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord and against His Anointed [מָשִׁיחַ (*Mashiyach*): **Messiah**], saying, (NASB)

1. In the period called the Great Tribulation, many nations will struggle for dominance in the Levant which means that Jerusalem must be conquered, and the Israelites killed or banished from the land.
2. The effort will be to establish dominance over the land bridge the Levant’s geographic location creates. It is the junction of three continents: Europe, Arabia, and Africa. The government that wins that piece of real estate controls the Eastern Hemisphere.
3. The destruction of Jerusalem and the conquering of its environs is an attack against the Jews, Judaism, and the nation Israel. In general, it is the assumed elimination of the Jewish and Christian religions.
4. Presently, most of the world’s nations do not wish to amalgamate in one global union. The push now is with the larger more prosperous nations such as the USA and Europe with assumption the others will follow. The restraint against the globalist strategy is the principle that Jesus Christ controls history on behalf of the pivot.
4. The sentence begun in verse two continues in:

Psalm 2:3 “Let us tear their fetters apart and cast away their cords from us!” (NASB)

1. This expresses the strategy and tactics of the nations. “Let us” speaks of an international strategy. The verb “tear” is the Pi‘el imperfect of נָתַק (*nathaq*). The Pi‘el stem is intensive while the imperfect tense is an action that is ongoing.
2. This refers to the reorganization of cultural, political, and military standards based on establishment viewpoint, national precedents, and military strategy.



3. We have seen the attack of the Progressives on our nation's establishment culture and the breakdown of law and order. These are illustrated by the silencing of religious speech in the public square, the deemphasis of the marital union between right man and right woman, the collapse of the family structure, the courts' annulments and usurpations of Constitutional absolutes, the breakdown of law and order, and the discarding of absolute standards in place of anything goes.
4. "Casting away their cords from us" refers to the trend toward "no absolutes" starkly and irrationally illustrated by opposition to the clear and obvious gender of an innocent, newborn child.

Psalm 2:4 He who sits in the heavens laughs,
the Lord scoffs at them. (NASB)

1. This verse reveals the Lord sense of humor at such lunacy. God laughs at the ends human viewpoint takes the unfettered soul. The word "laughs" is the Qal perfect of the verb **סַחַח** (*sachaq*).
2. The ideas that emerge from the unordered soul are indeed laughable and certainly so from the One who ordered our brains to process language and conjugate verbs.
3. That people chose to utilize the magnificent creation of the human mind and its innate ability to process thought and to convert that thought into the development of ideas is truly a miracle in the eyes of the beholder.
4. God gave us this ability uniquely to Homo sapiens. Animals, birds, and reptiles cannot process verbs, but we can. Yet many chose to buy into ludicrous ideas from the dark side and in doing so elicit hoots of hilarity from the Creator of their ability to conjure up such silliness.
5. Not only does the Lord laugh at them he scoffs at them. The word "scoff" is the Qal imperfect of the verb **לָעַג** (*la'ag*): "to mock, show contempt."
6. The God who invented the ability to think, process verbs, acquire knowledge, and learn divine thought is both amused and astonished at the rationales the human mind can entertain in opposition to truth.

Psalm 2:5 Then He will speak to them in His
anger and terrify them in His fury, saying, (NASB)

1. Several of the words in this Psalm are words that clearly belong in the vocabulary of human origin but are used in the development of Scripture to demonstrate from human vocabulary the attitude God has toward the rationales adopted by human viewpoint. This verse uses two of these.



2. The first is the noun, אַף (*'aph*): “anger.” God does not commit sin, so this is not literally what is meant. Such words are used as language of accommodation to convey the divine attitude toward human sin and wrongdoing.
3. It and words to follow communicate the divine negativity toward violations of His righteousness and the execution of justice toward those violations. Whatever righteousness demands, justice executes.
4. The words “anger and fury” convey divine disapproval and rejection of thoughts, decisions, or actions that violate righteous standards to which justice must respond. “Anger” (*'aph*) is one and “fury” or “rage”: חַרוֹן (*charon*), is the other.
5. These two come together and result in the kings of the Tribulation and political leadership in the Church Age being “terrified,” the Pi‘el imperfect of the verb, בָּהַל (*bahal*): “to terrify”:

“Terror” of Yahweh.” This fear of death lies behind the terror man has of Yahweh. The verb *bahal* is used to describe man’s terror of Yahweh in approximately 20 passages. This word is found most frequently in contexts that speak of Yahweh punishing man. It applies to the divine punishment of Israel’s enemies much more often. It is no accident that *bahal* is often used in connection with descriptions of the day of Yahweh: the sudden, unexpected, and ominous evoke sudden terror (Psalm 2:5).⁵

6. The context of David’s Psalm is the end of the Tribulation when the Lord imposes His seven bowl judgments on the Gentile rulers.

Psalm 2:5 Then the Lord will speak unto them in his anger and terrify them in his rage, saying,

v. 6 “But as for Me, I have installed My King [Christ at the 2d Advent] upon Zion [צִיּוֹן (Siyyon): city of David], My holy mountain.” (EXT)

1. The following three verses discuss the doctrine, Jesus Christ controls history. Verse 7 is about the virgin birth:

Psalm 2:7 “I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He [God the Father] said to Me [Jesus the Messiah], ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. (NASB)

⁵ Benedikt Otzen, “בָּהַל,” in *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*, rev. ed., eds. G. Johannes Botterweck and Helmer Ringgren, trans., John T. Willis (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1977), 2:5.



2. This verse is a quote of the Lord Jesus Christ's prophecy of the virgin birth that is also recorded in Hebrews 10:5–14. The word “decree” is the noun חֶק (*choq*): and it refers to the divine decree.
3. The resolution of the Angelic Conflict requires witnesses for the Prosecution. God the Father created the human race as the resource from which these witnesses would emerge.
4. Nothing is unknown to God. His omniscience knows all that is knowable. He knew in eternity past all those who would use their Law of Freedom to place their personal faith in Christ for salvation and become potential witnesses.
5. However, due to the fall of Adam, all his progeny was born with a sin nature to which his original sin was imputed. Therefore, God had to provide a means for them to become potential witnesses
6. This was resolved by the divine provision of a Savior. Anyone could use his Law of Freedom to believe in Him for the forgiveness of sins and the imputation of eternal life. (John 3:16–18.)
7. Verse 7 is a prophecy of the provision of the true humanity of Jesus Christ as the potential Savior of all mankind. Potentiality becomes reality by faith alone in Christ alone.
8. The Psalm continues in verses 8–9 with the Lord continuing His quotation of God the Father:

Psalm 2:8 ‘Ask from Me [God], and I shall give You [Jesus] the nations [in the Millennium; winner believers will rule these nations under the authority of Jesus Christ⁶] for Your inheritance, plus the uttermost parts of the earth [nations outside the boundaries of millennial Israel] for Your possession,

v. 9 ‘You shall rule them with a scepter [שֵׁבֶט (*shebet*): symbol of governing authority] of iron [בַּרְזֶל (*barzel*): rulership], You shall shatter them to pieces like a potter's vessel [idiom for quick, sure, and fair administration of justice].”
(EXT)

(End JAS2-48. See JAS2-49 for continuation of study at p. 481)

⁶ Paragraph 1 of the Fourth Nike Award: Rulership authority over a nation in the millennial theocracy (Revelation 2:26).

