

# Seizing the Kingdom of God With VIOLENCE

by

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A very interesting passage in Matthew 11 is essential to our understanding of what the Lord expected of His immediate disciples and continues to expect from true “born again” disciples today as we are faced with escalating warfare between the beast kingdom and the kingdom of God in Christ.

*Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.* Matthew 11:11-14  
KJV

What is meant by “he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John the Baptist”?

John the Baptist was an anointed prophet, but he did not have the internal presence of the Holy Spirit that every single, born-again believer has today.

The presence of the Holy Spirit as our counselor, guide, and source of the manifested truth, covenant promises and power of God in Christ equips us with the ability to overcome Satan and the beast kingdom in all its forms...IF...we are walking by faith in the fullness of who we are in Christ.

Notice immediately that our Lord is not talking about violence against the kingdom of God. He is talking about the spiritual “violence” required to walk in the fullness of Christ as His bond-servants, and as His disciples, glorifying Him by manifesting His presence, His power, His truth, and His love in a world primarily given over to the influence of the beast kingdom, which unfortunately includes both historic and current aspects of the organized church of Jesus Christ.

Notice first of all that He stated that of all the prophets and kings of Israel none are recognized by God the Father as being greater than John the Baptist. Then He shifts the focus to post-John the Baptist.

The Amplified version gives us additional insight:

*I assure you and most solemnly say to you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet the one...present day disciple... who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater [in...covenant... privilege] than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven...manifested in the earth through the body of Christ...suffers violent assault, and violent men seize it...the kingdom of heaven... by force [as a precious prize]. For all the prophets and the Law prophesied up until John. And if you are willing to accept it, John himself is [the fulfillment of] Elijah [as the messenger] who was to come [before the kingdom]. He who has ears to hear, let him hear and heed My words.*  
Matthew 11:11,12 Amplified

John ministered in the spirit of Elijah, and those who are ministering the truth about things to come immediately prior to the second coming of the Lord, and the resurrection of the saints on some future 1 Tishri feast of trumpets as well as His return with His saints on the 10 Tishri day of the Lord, are also ministering in the spirit of Elijah.

But what is this “violence” that believers ministering in the spirit of Elijah are manifesting in the present warfare of the kingdom of God in Christ against the beast kingdom?

This is not violence against the kingdom of God. What it portrays is the forcefulness of the disciple to press into the kingdom of God with a totality of effort and obedient faith responses.

Strong’s identifies this “violence” as: **“a share in the heavenly kingdom is sought for with the most ardent zeal and the intensest exertion”**.

It is important to note that the kingdom of God fell with power on the body of Christ at the initial fulfillment of Pentecost, and it continues to be with us all the way until the resurrection on some future 1 Tishri feast of trumpets.

This “power” given to the body of Christ on the initial event of Pentecost includes all of the God-ordained leadership assignments of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher, and all of the manifested faith empowerment gifts, none of which have “passed away,” though a majority of the body of Christ are no longer manifesting these because of spiritual somnolence.

This somnolence is currently manifested in the majority of both those who were assigned leadership positions, and the body of Christ in general (i.e. prophetically revealed by the Lord in the parable of the ten virgins as the “virgins” who fell asleep when the Lord tarried).

What is demonstrated is that the “violence” assaulted on the kingdom of heaven...(as the kingdom of God is manifested through the body of Christ)... is the determination of true disciples of Christ to be who they have been called, anointed, and empowered to be in the warfare of the body of Christ against the beast kingdom.

The “violence” these men and women exhibit in order to seize the fullness of the kingdom of God in Christ is their faith-filled determination to be and to do all that they have been called and anointed to do in Christ.

“Violence” in this instance, then, describes the disciple’s uncompromised effort as a bond-servant of the Lord to be all that they have been anointed to be, and to do all that they have been anointed to do, no matter what the cost.

And it will cost them.

They will be forced to leave denominations and church assemblies that are unwilling to conform to God’s truth and God’s will. They will be abandoned by friends and brothers who are unwilling to overcome the group-think comfort of various denominations and their doctrines. And they will be targeted by Satan for demonic assaults in almost every area of their lives, assaults allowed by the Lord so that these will be required to put on the full armor of God in this warfare.

These “violent” believers are those ministering in the uncompromised spirit of Joshua and Jacob, taking back the kingdom of God ground of truth and practice that the enemy has stolen both within the organized church and in the world as demonstrated by our division into hundreds of denominations (distinct doctrines and practices) and millions of rabbinic opinions.

These “violent” men and women of faith are also those ministering in the spirit of Elijah turning the hearts of the fathers of our faith (apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers) back to the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God, and the hearts of the children and disobedient of the body of Christ back to the truth and will of God in order to prepare a generation for the great, climactic fight of faith on our immediate horizon.

A fight of faith that the majority of the organized church is denying, and will, therefore, be more easily defeated in.

These “violent” ones are also metaphorically identified by the Lord as the “wise virgins” of the end time (4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> seals) church whose primary opposition will include the “foolish virgins” (born again believers) who ultimately

fall away from faith in Christ as is clearly demonstrated in Matthew 24 and 25, though very few are teaching this truth, because it contradicts their denominational “truth,” and makes tithing members uncomfortable.

“Violence” then describes the aggressive, persistent, uncompromised pursuit and response to the truth, promises, and commands of the Lord as this truth, these covenant promises, and these commands are revealed and confirmed to them by the Spirit of truth.

But it does not describe the angry infighting of denominations and individual believers over doctrine and practice.

Yet, it is not inappropriate to challenge the teaching of false doctrine and false practice. Jesus and His immediate disciples, including Paul, definitely challenged false doctrine and false practice both within and without the body of Christ, but their motivation was their love for Christ and their desire for others to receive and walk in the truth, covenant promises, and commands of the Lord.

It was NOT based on pride or conformity with “group-think” traditions...(i.e. denominationalism)....

As a new believer, freed from the intense bondage of occultic false religion I was awakened one morning by the sound of my name spoken into my spiritual ears, “**Jim.**”

As I sat bolt upright in our bed with the first rays of sunlight shining through our bedroom windows I saw “**John 14:15**” written like a holograph above our bed.

I quickly woke my wife, Peggy, who was primarily responsible for my redemption in Christ, and in a trembling, excited voice I said, “I’ve been given a scripture! I’ve been given a scripture!”

Then I jumped out of bed to get my Bible, and as I opened the Bible to John 14:15 I read, “**If you love Me, obey My commands.**”

Spiritual “violence,” then, is the uncompromised, determined pursuit of His truth, His covenant promises, and both His personal and His corporate commands, identified by Paul as the “fight of faith.” And this uncompromised, determined pursuit of His word and will is to hear obey His commands, whether “Stop!” or “Go!”

***Fight the good fight of the faith [in the conflict with evil]...not just Satan, but the beast kingdom as a whole...; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and [for which] you made the good confession [of faith] in the presence of many witnesses. 1 Timothy 6:12 AMP***

It is ordained by God that all mankind from Adam forward be engaged in this warfare either as a knowing soldier and bond-servant of the Lord or as an unknowing enemy of God, whether a servant of Satan, or a compromised, unfaithful, “foolish” child of God.

And, in this note, we recognize that Satan has effectively compromised the true body of Christ through the division of the organized body into numerous denominations (distinct doctrines and practices) and millions of rabbinic opinions concerning the truth, promises, and commands of our Lord, Jesus Christ, which demonstrates both a lack of “hearing” by the Spirit, and a lack of “obeying.”

In what we have identified as the “Armor of God” passage what we see as the first and most important part of the armor is the **belt of truth**.

It is the belt of truth that holds all of the armor in place and empowers the sword of the Spirit.

I will, then, end this discourse with the Amplified version of the armor of God passage, a passage that I come back to frequently, especially if I feel defeated and discouraged as a warrior of God and a bond-servant of the Lord.

**In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides].**

**<sup>11</sup> Put on God’s whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies *and* the deceits of the devil.**

**<sup>12</sup> For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.**

**<sup>13</sup> Therefore put on God’s complete armor, that you may be able to resist *and* stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place].**

**<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore [hold your ground], having tightened the belt of truth around your loins and having put on the breastplate of integrity *and* of moral rectitude *and* right standing with God,**

**<sup>15</sup> And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness <sup>[b]</sup>produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace.**

**<sup>16</sup> Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one].**

**<sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God.**

**<sup>18</sup> Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose *and* perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).**

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The Lord instructed His disciples about how they would continue to follow Him by faith after He was resurrected based on the Lord's final instructions to His disciples on the day He was betrayed and crucified.

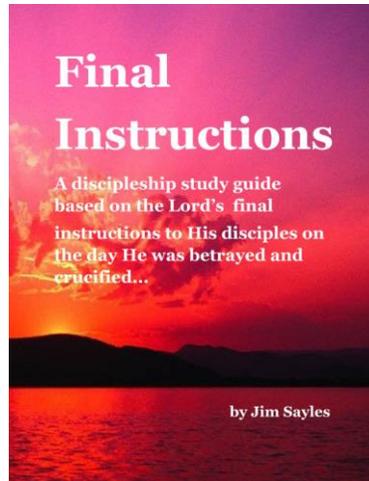
On that day, just after the Passover meal, the Lord, who is our Passover, told His immediate disciples how they would continue to "hear" His truth, covenant promises, and commands.

Up to that point they had known Him as a man (the Word made flesh), and their presumption, when He gave them notice of His impending crucifixion and death, was one of loss.

What He revealed, instead, was that the coming of the Holy Spirit would be to their benefit, empowering them by grace through faith to continue His works. He also revealed that the indwelling Holy Spirit would produce a supernatural spiritual intimacy with Him that would surpass anything they had experienced with Him in the flesh as they participated in His divine nature through active faith.

This active faith would come as the disciples received and obeyed the truth, promises, and commands of the Lord as revealed by the Holy Spirit, glorifying Him (manifesting His presence) just as the Lord had received and obeyed the revealed will of the Father while in the body, manifesting the presence and power of the Father.

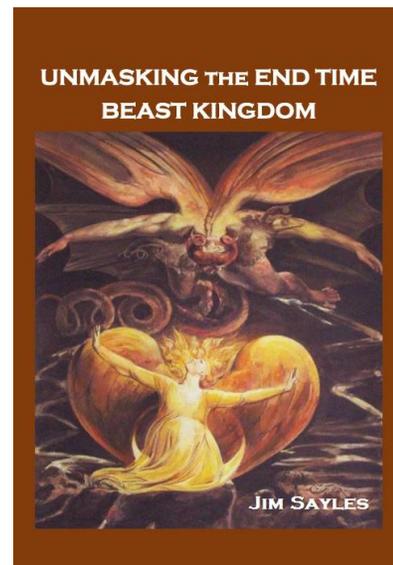
These instructions still apply to disciples today even though much of the professing church has attempted to explain away the revolutionary truth found in John 13-17.



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