

HOLY VIOLENCE #4

“Dispossessing All Enemies”

I. Introduction

The Lord has given me a series of messages that speak to the turbulent times we are living in. We still do not know the final result of the Presidential election; or what will happen with the virus and the economy; but whichever way it all goes, we need to know this...

Theme

God is raising up an army that will dispossess all its enemies with a spirit of ‘holy violence’.

What does it mean to ‘dispossess’?

Dispossess

To deprive of land, property, or other possessions

The United States is a ‘Promised Land’ for American Christians. God raised up this nation through a covenant with our forefathers for His glory. But the land has been invaded by those say they hate Donald Trump. That’s a smokescreen.

The truth is, they hate America as founded; they hate God, and they are now mounting an all-out assault on His church.

Beloved, the solution is not political! It is spiritual! The solution is a re-commissioned church that understands what Jesus meant when He spoke of the kind of Christianity that moves in ‘holy violence’. Our text is taken from the words of Jesus.

Matthew 11:12

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

What does He mean when He says, ‘the violent take the kingdom by force’? He is not speaking of physical violence!

He is referring to those who press into the Kingdom with the same attitude of violence and earnestness found in armies that besieged and captured cities.

In this series I want to paint a prophetic picture of what this will look like by studying the Old Testament account of how Israel took possession of their Promised Land by the dispossession of those who were trespassing on it.

But before we dive into the story, I want to give you some general instruction on...

I. How to Understand the Bible

A. There is a Divine Connection Between the Old and New Testaments

1. In 1st Corinthians 15, the Apostle Paul provides us with a great key for understanding the Bible and the Divine connection between the Old Testament and the New Testament...

1 Corinthians 15:46

First the natural then the spiritual...

2. God gave us the Old Testament first; then He gave us the New Testament.

a. The Old Testament focuses on the *natural* world; the physical world; the New Testament focuses on the *spiritual* world.

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There is a progression in Divine revelation. The Old Testament histories and genealogies prepare the way for Christian doctrine. Bible study proceeds from the natural to the spiritual.

3. This means that many of the natural Old Testament events and persons foreshadow spiritual truth revealed in the New Testament; and that spiritual truth revealed in the New Testament often has a natural counterpart in Old Testament. This Divine connection was expressed by the great Saint Augustine:

Saint Augustine

“The Old (Testament) is in the New revealed; the New (Testament) is in the Old concealed.”

Saint Augustine

“The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed; the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.”

5. Augustine was telling us that all New Testament truth is in the Old Testament; but it is ‘concealed’ because it is in the natural, physical form so that it takes the New to reveal it.

6. Bible scholars refer to this as ‘typology’.

“type”

A historical event, person, or object that in some ways symbolized or anticipates a later occurrence or fulfillment; an Old Testament ‘foreshadowing’ of a New Testament person, event, or spiritual truth.

7. Notice that a ‘type’ can be a person, an event, or a spiritual principle.

a. **A person;** God sent Moses to deliver His people from Egyptian bondage. (First the natural). But in the New Testament God sent His Son to deliver His people from their bondage to sin and death. The life and ministry of Moses in the Old Testament is more fully understood in the light of the life and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. Moses is a ‘type’ of the Christ. (See image at end of notes).

b. **A type can be an event:** the Old Testament story of the Passover, where God’s people were protected from the plague by the blood of a *natural lamb* is a ‘type’ of how God saves and protects His people in the New Testament by the blood of the *spiritual lamb*, the Lord Jesus Christ. So Paul says...

1 Corinthians 5:7

Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us...

8. When I read about the natural (physical) persons and events in the Old Testament I will often find the spiritual meaning of it in the New Testament.

9. In the same way, the spiritual things mentioned in the New Testament often find a fuller revelation through the natural events in the Old Testament.

10. This is a Bible study key that can change your life!

God uses Old Testament events to teach New Testament truth. New Testament spiritual truth has natural counterparts in Old Testament events. This is the case with the New Testament concept of ‘holy violence’.

11. We can understand the *spiritual* nature of ‘holy violence’ by studying examples of *natural* violence in the Old Testament; for example...

David's violent victory over Goliath (in 1 Samuel 17) was a natural (physical) battle that foreshadowed the total victory of Christ over Satan through His work on the Cross.

- a. David/a type of Jesus faces off with Goliath/a type of Satan.
- b. It was winner take all; the fate of the nation was in the balance.

c. David defeats Goliath and cuts off his head with his own sword.

d. Goliath's greatest weapon was his sword and the 'head' in the Bible represents authority; Satan's greatest weapon against us is death; when He died on the Cross, Jesus used Satan's greatest weapon to cut off his head!

David sealed his victory by cutting off the giant's head with his own sword. Jesus cut off the head (authority) of Satan using Satan's greatest weapon...death.

(The writer of the New Testament book of Hebrews said it this way)

Hebrews 2:14-15: that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

e. This is one of many examples of how Old Testament natural violence teaches the Church how to use spiritual (holy) violence to defeat our enemies.

12. Now we will look at one the greatest prophetic pictures of what we must do is found in God's commands to Israel on how they were to *take possession* of their Promised Land *by a violent dispossession of all enemies...*

II. We Must Dispossess All Enemies

A. Story Context (Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy)

1. God had given Israel the Land by covenantal promise; just like God gave us America by a covenant promise.

2. But the Land was occupied by God's enemies; in the same way that God's enemies now occupy the halls of power in our own land.

3. What God said to Israel in the natural is a message to His church in the spiritual!

Deuteronomy 9:1-2

"Hear, O Israel: You are to cross over the Jordan today, and go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than yourself, cities great and fortified up to heaven, a people great and tall, the descendants of the Anakim, whom you know, and of whom you heard it said, 'Who can stand before the descendants of Anak?'

(The 'descendants of Anak' were the 'giants' Israel feared)

a. The message in this for us is that we cannot *possess* the land for the Lord unless we *dispossess* these godless squatters! That would include taking on the 'giants' we have feared. The good news is that God Himself will help us do it!

Deuteronomy 9:3

Therefore, understand today that the Lord your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and bring them down before you; so you shall drive them out and destroy them quickly, as the Lord has said to you.

4. Our nation is being overrun by those who hate God and want to do away with America as founded. They will seek to shut down the church. What they do not understand is that God gave this nation to His people! It belongs to us!

5. What the American church has not understood is that *they will possess* the land *unless we dispossess* them! All of them!

Numbers 33:50-52

Now the Lord spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, across from Jericho, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall drive out ALL the inhabitants of the land from before you...

(An old Puritan preacher noted...)

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That little word "all" is very expressive. It shows that the judgment was to be universal. It proved the greatness of God's care for Israel. It was also the test of Israel's obedience; and it was a test, we know, which they did not pass. They substituted a partial obedience for an unreserved obedience, and drove out some, but not all, the inhabitants of the land.

a. We saw with Saul in our last sermon how he was commissioned to destroy ALL the Amalekites but he spared their King; his partial obedience cost him the kingdom.

b. The Puritan Robert Hawker commented...

Hawker's Poor Man's Commentary

It is worthy our closest observation how frequently the Bible mentions the precept of totally destroying every vestige of the enemy. And the reason is told us; God is jealous of his honor--jealous of the affections of his people. And when we call to mind that an everlasting and irreconcilable opposition subsists between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent, the whole is explained.

c. Make no mistake! This is not about politics! Or personalities. Look at the language God used in His command...

Numbers 33:51-53

When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan, then you shall drive out ALL the inhabitants of the land from before you and destroy ALL their engraved stones, destroy ALL their molded images, and demolish ALL their high places. you shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess.

6. Remember the principle of 'first the natural, then the spiritual' when it comes to the subject of idolatry.

a. Idols in the Old Testament were physical or in the natural; but the New Testament reveals that *idolatry is a spiritual issue*; it means having anything in our lives that takes the place of the one true God.

b. The Israelites did not learn idolatry from the Lord; they were contaminated with it by mingling with the idolatrous nations God sent them to dispossess.

c. They were commanded to deal with the godless *and their idols!*

The Biblical Illustrator

The total dispossession of the Canaanites was the righteous judgment of God upon them on account of their sins. But it was also necessary for the safety God's people. The Israelites themselves were so prone to fall away from God that their being surrounded by many idolatrous and degraded nations would be sure to lead them gradually away from Him. They would soon cease to be a separate people -- a people consecrated to Jehovah.

d. God commanded a holy violence toward the idols, images and high places of the Canaanites; all must be destroyed; this is the attitude we must have toward idols and sins in our own lives.

7. The next verses contain a strong warning that speaks to us today:

Numbers 33:53-54

You shall dispossess the inhabitants of the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess. And you shall divide the land by lot as an inheritance among your families...But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be pricks in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell. Moreover it shall be that I will do to you as I thought to do to them.

8. God commissioned His people to a violent dispossession of all enemies; to fail or to stop short of a *complete obedience* would be a sin to them; and the punishment for that sin would be inflicted by the very enemies they failed to dispossess!

a. They will be like ‘pricks in our eyes’; like ‘thorns in our sides’.

Matthew Henry

God threatened Israel that, if they spared either the idolaters or their idols, they would be beaten with their own rod and their sin would certainly be their punishment. They would foster snakes in their own bosoms. The remnant of the Canaanites, if they made any league with them or any cessation of arms, would be pricks in their eyes and thorns in their sides. They would take all occasions to vex them, insult them, rob them, and use the utmost of their power to make mischief among them.

b. This is what happened; Israel failed; so David wrote years later...

Psalm 106:34-36

They did not destroy the peoples, concerning whom the Lord had commanded them, but they mingled with the Gentiles and learned their works; they served their idols, which became a snare to them.

c. This is a prophetic picture of exactly what has happened to us!
(First the natural, then the spiritual).

9. Our nation has fallen into the hands of our enemies because much of the modern American church has come to believe we can compromise with the enemy.

a. Instead of storming the gates of hell we have allowed God's enemies to storm the gates of the church.

b. We thought if we left them alone they would leave us alone; so 90% of America's Pastors refused to speak about politics; and now the politicians they tried to please are shutting down their churches.

c. The presumptive new President has already declared himself favorable to more extensive lockdowns 'if science says so.'

d. This is why a new George Barna survey predicts that 20%, (1 in 5) American Christian churches will permanently close their doors next year!

10. This is not about Republican versus Democrat! This is a battle for who owns the land; who dispossesses who! God told Israel, 'If you do not dispossess them I will dispossess you!'

Matthew Henry

God intended that the Canaanites should be dispossessed; but if the Israelites fell in with them, and learned their ways, Israel would be dispossessed. God's displeasure would justly be greater against Israel than against the Canaanites themselves. Let us hear this, and fear. If we do not drive sin out, sin will drive us out; if we do not put our lusts to the death our lusts will be the death of our own souls.

Geoffrey Chaucer, Canterbury Tales

"He who dines with the devil needs a long spoon."

Meaning, if you mix with bad people, you should be careful not to be influenced by them. A warning not to get too close when dealing with evil people.

Show me your friends, I'll show you your future.

The Apostle Paul said it this way...

1 Corinthians 15:33

Bad company corrupts good character.

9. Compromise can kill you! Let me give you...

B. A History Lesson on the Politics of Appeasement

1. Socialist strategies to take over governments depend upon the politics of appeasement in those they seek to control. What is appeasement?

Appeasement

The policy of acceding to the demands of a potentially hostile nation in the hope of maintaining peace.

a. This is what has happened in America; the church has watched the encroachment of the Marxist-Socialists without a whimper in the name of unity and peace.

2. Adolf Hitler rose to power little by little over a 10 year period until he was able to begin invading neighboring countries. The nations of the world allowed it to happen.

The 1938 Munich Pact

As Nazi armies invaded their neighbors in Europe, Britain's Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain offered Hitler terms of appeasement, and came home to jubilant crowds claiming "We have achieved peace with honor", a "peace for our time".

a. Chamberlain's rival and eventual replacement, Winston Churchill, identified what really happened...

Winston Churchill

"You were given the choice between war and dishonor. You chose dishonor and you will have war."

a. Chamberlain was wrong; Churchill was right.

3. The politics of appeasement from free nations allowed Hitler to come to power and trigger WWII. And...

The Munich Agreement became a byword for the futility of appeasing expansionist totalitarian states.

a. Chamberlain went for peace and made a fool of himself; Churchill went to war and became one of the greatest heroes of the 20th century.

b. Here are his words for wimpy Christians and spineless pastors who think they can survive by appeasing the enemy:

Winston Churchill

“An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last.”

4. This is the same choice facing the American Christian church right now: will we choose to go to war for this land or suffer dishonor from those we allow to take it from us? Either way we end up with war!

- a. If Trump wins, expect riots in the streets.
- b. If the Socialists come to power, expect to see a war on the church.

5. What I’m saying is that *either way it’s war*-and it will take a *militant church* to win it.

III. Close

A. What Do We Mean by “Militant”?

Militant

Combative and aggressive in support of a political or social cause, and typically favoring extreme, violent, or confrontational methods.

1. God is not calling us to physical violence but to ‘holy violence’ in the spirit!

a. In his book, “Battle Cry of the Believer”, teacher Tom Cannon tells us why we must be militant with a ‘holy violence’:

Tom Cannon, “Battle Cry of the Believer”

We must be militant because our enemy is militant. Remember that the Battle for the Ages won’t be won unless the Army of Light makes the decision to weapon up and march in God’s power and authority to defeat the enemy of our souls. We won’t win unless we fight.

2. The blame for what’s gone wrong in America can be laid at the door of the church and the pulpits of cowardly pastors afraid of their own shadow!

Tom Cannon

God did not call us to sit around the campfire singing Kumbaya, polishing our armor and telling stories of days gone by. He called us to be an army of action. Decisive action. Militant action. A mighty Army who will not sit by and allow

the devil to continue ransacking our nation, destroying our families, and ruining our lives.

3. There is a passive, almost effeminate, spirit in the church that's forgotten how to fight back.

a. We have remembered that the Bible says God is love. 1 time.

b. We have forgotten that **God is called 'the Lord of Hosts' 261 times in the Old Testament!** And Lord of Hosts means "Lord of ARMIES"!

Tom Cannon

We are a spiritual army called to forward motion, commissioned by our Commander-in-Chief, Jesus Christ, to destroy everything the enemy stands for, to violently force him out of our homes, churches and nation, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, take back all that he has stolen from us.

B. Review

1. God gave Israel a land to possess on condition of dispossessing those who would take it away.

Numbers 33:53

You shall *dispossess* the inhabitants of the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to *possess*.

2. We have made a prophetic connection with how these natural events in the Old Testament hold a spiritual message for the American Church in this present hour of national crisis.

3. We will never possess America unless we dispossess all enemies!

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