

HOLY VIOLENCE #12

Welcome to the Jungle

Part 3

In all of human history two nations stand out as unique: Israel and the United States of America. Their connection comes from their relationship with the one true God at their founding.

God Himself directly established the nation of Israel in the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai. The United States was birthed out of the desire of our founding fathers to establish one nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all.

God gave Israel a Promised Land to live in and promised them prosperity as long as they did not turn away from Him and fall into idolatry and sin.

God gave our founding fathers this land; but the same rule applied. God's faithfulness to America was to be conditional upon America's faithfulness to God.

The great French historian Alexis de Tocqueville defined the connection between America's goodness as pre-condition to America's greatness.

Alexis de Tocqueville

"America is great because America is good. If America ever ceases to be good she will cease to be great."

This same sentiment had been expressed on April 30, 1789, when President George Washington stood before a cheering throng of patriots to deliver the 1st Inauguration Day address. He called for God's blessing on the new nation; but he included a warning...

President George Washington, 1st Inaugural Address, April 30, 1789

"The propitious smiles of heaven cannot be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right that heaven itself has ordained."

In an open letter to President Joe Biden, Rabbi Jonathan Kahn, a Messianic Jew, asks the question, "have we disregarded to eternal rules of right?"

Rabbi Jonathan Kahn

Have we disregarded the eternal rules of right? America, like Israel at the height of its prosperity-turned away from God. We have driven Him out of our public squares, out of our schools, our culture, our lives. And as did ancient Israel, we have let in other gods and served them.

Jonathan Kahn

We have called evil good and good evil. And like Israel we have lifted up the innocent-our babies-and shed their blood. Israel sacrificed thousands. We have sacrificed tens of millions-unborn children who are not here this day because we took their lives and their silent screams ascend to heaven and their blood is on our hands.

Jonathan Kahn

“We passed down rulings in Washington that war against the eternal laws of heaven, on human life, human nature, gender, marriage. We’ve indoctrinated our children against the ways of God. We have done as we were warned not to do and then we wonder why the blessings of God have been removed from our land.”

We need look no farther for proof than to compare the glory of the first Presidential inauguration with the gloom of the ceremony last month.

Inauguration Day at the Capitol, January 20, 2021

There was no George Washington. Instead, there was Joe Biden. Instead of a cheering throng of patriots, celebrating freedom, the City was locked down and the Capitol was occupied by 25,000 Army Reserve and National Guard troops with barbed wire around the compound. *Why were they there?*

They were ordered to be there because the new President and his Team were cowering in fear of the very people they were just elected to lead!

He laid his left hand on the Bible while raising his right hand to swear before God that he would uphold the Constitution.

I will quote extensively from Jonathan Kahn’s comments in his open letter to Joe Biden.

Jonathan Kahn

Mr. President, how can you place your left hand on the Bible, the Word of God, and then with your right-hand sign laws into existence that war against

His word? How can you place one hand on the word that ordains human life as sacred and in the image of God from conception and then with the other hand sign laws into existence that promote the killing of that human life of those children?

Jonathan Kahn

You plan to enact laws that will disregard the distinction between male and female, man and woman. You plan to strike down the Hyde Amendment so that those who recognize abortion is murder will be forced to support the act of murder with their taxes. You plan to enact laws that will specifically neutralize the protection of religious freedom. How does one do such things and name oneself as a believer in God and a follower of Jesus?

How does one sign the sign of the cross and then sign decrees that rage against what God has so clearly set forth in His word concerning life and death, holiness and sin, righteousness and immorality, good and evil?

Some will say this is too strong. I suggest it may not be strong enough. It is tragic that many Christians are still blissfully unaware of what is happening to our country; many Pastors are still pussyfooting about politics; but one courageous media man puts the case quite clearly...

Tucker Carlson

We're watching a profound change taking place in American society and it's happening very fast. The stakes could not be higher. There's a clear line between democracy and tyranny, between self-government and dictatorship. And here's what that line is. *That line is your conscience.* They cannot cross that. Government has every right to tell you what to *do*. But...

Tucker Carlson

No democratic government can ever tell you what to *think*. Your mind belongs to you. It is yours and yours alone. *Once politicians attempt to control what you believe, they are no longer politicians. They are, by definition, dictators.* And if they succeed in controlling what you believe you are no longer a citizen, you are not a free man. You are a slave.

The bad news is that unless God works a miracle, we are, at least for a season going to be living under an ungodly government.
The good news is that God's people have been here before, survived and thrived!

God Raises Up His Faithful Remnant Under Evil Government

- Daniel and his friends in *Babylon*
 - Moses and Joseph in *Egypt*
 - Esther in *Persia*
 - Jesus under *Rome*

Remember that God trained David to be Israel's greatest king as he served under King Saul, one of Israel's worst kings!

Based on the Bible we can believe that God will raise up His faithful remnant in this hour as well.

So we will continue our teaching series on "Welcome to the Jungle". We are using the story of Daniel and his friends as God's guideline for how to survive even thrive in an America that is now under a totalitarian seeking government; like Daniel, we went to bed in Jerusalem and woke up in Babylon.

American Christians went to bed in November with one system of government in place and woke up in January to find themselves under another quite less friendly.

Welcome to the Jungle

It is one thing to live the Christian life in the Jerusalem. It will be quite a greater challenge to live the Christian life in Babylon.

I. Welcome to the Jungle

A. God's Guidelines in the Book of Daniel

Theme

The Book of Daniel gives us God's guidelines for living the Christian life in an anti-Christian political environment like Babylon of old.

The lives of Daniel and his 3 friends can teach us how to survive, and even thrive, in Babylon.

1. Daniel is one of the greatest heroes in the Old Testament; one of the few men whose long life has no blemish recorded in the Bible. What was the secret of his success? Where did his greatness begin? I believe it is recorded here...

Daniel 1:8

But Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the king's meat, nor with his wine...

a. Here we have the foundation for all that follows; the explanation for Daniel's future greatness before God. It all begins with a radical from-the-heart commitment to refuse all forms of worldly defilement.

Charles Spurgeon

It was because Daniel, while yet a youth, a captive, a student, was so decided in what he did, that his after-life became so bright. God help you, who are beginning life; for, if God begins with you, and you begin with God, your life will be one of happy usefulness, which will have a truly blessed end!

b. An old Puritan Bible commentator meditated on the greatness of Daniel.

H.W. Battle in The Biblical Illustrator

The scene of this heroic resolution was Babylon. The circumstances add luster to the moral grandeur of the brave purpose. To appreciate the splendid courage of this purpose, you must imagine yourself placed in Daniel's position.

A captive boy, selected by command of the King, for special supervision in mental, physical, and social discipline, he suddenly found himself in the line of such promotion as might well fire the ambition and dazzle the imagination of a less ardent nature.

H.W. Battle

But an inconvenient difficulty looms up at the very threshold of this brilliant career. The thing we call conscience whispered, "You cannot, you must not!" and the hero within answered "I will not!" Can you find a grander, exhibition of moral courage in all history? Shall he do it? that is the question. "And he purposed in his heart that he would not."

2. The 1st thing we have to do is purpose in our hearts that we will not be 'defiled' by the new environment being forced upon us, represented here by the 'king's meat' and the 'king's wine'. This was not just a legalistic question of eating bacon or having a glass of wine! It was a spiritual thing.

Matthew Henry

The defilement here referred to in the case of Daniel probably was, that by partaking of this food (which probably had been offered to idols), he might, in

some way, be regarded as condoning idolatry, or as lending his approval to a mode of living which was inconsistent with his principles, and which was perilous to his health and morals.

3. Babylon in the Bible always represents the world and world systems, including its religious and political systems. Daniel lived in the world, but he was not of the world. He was in Babylon, but he made up his mind he would not allow Babylon in him!

a. A ship can survive in the sea. But if the sea gets into the ship it will sink. So it is with the Christian life in this world.

4. The paradox for the believer is that we are IN the world but not OF the world. Revisit Jesus' prayer to the Father hours before He would go to the Cross.

John 17:14-16

I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. *I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

5. Daniel was *in* Babylon. But he would not let Babylon to come into *him*.

Charles Spurgeon

Though they might change Daniel's name, they could not change his nature, nor would he give up anything that he believed to be right. Captive as he was, he had a right royal soul; and *he was as free in Babylon as he had been at Jerusalem, and he determined to keep himself so, for he "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank."*

6. The greatness of Daniel's life begins here with a decision that will soon be confronting many Christians: "How will you handle having to live under an oppressive political power?" Daniel is a model for where to begin.

Charles Spurgeon

The first method in resisting temptation is that the heart must be set. 'Daniel purposed in his heart.' He looked the matter up and down, and he settled it in his heart and made up his own mind. *Oh, for a made-up mind! Oh, for the*

man who knows how to look at his compass, and to steer his vessel whither he ought to go! The grace of God is a great heart-settler.

Charles Spurgeon

Next to that, self-denial must be sought. If you will be out and out for God, you must expect self-denial, and you will have to habituate yourself to it. Be ready for a bad name; be willing to be called a bigot; be prepared for loss of friendships.

7. First I must purpose in my heart that I will not be defiled by the wicked political system I find myself under; secondly, I must be prepared expect it will cost me something to take a stand! (Many will fail at this point.)

8. Daniel’s decision put him in danger; ours will as well. It’s already begun.

Katie Couric

“How are we going to deprogram these people who have signed up for the cult of Trump?”

Washington Post columnist Eugene Robinson

“There are millions of Americans, almost all white, almost all Republicans, who somehow need to be deprogrammed, as if they are members of a cult.”

a. This is language from George Orwell’s “1984” where the “Big Brother” government instituted “Newthink” and “Newspeak” policies to coerce the people to conformity. Winston had to have his mind ‘made right’.

Gary DeMar

Political deprogramming is the bread and butter of Marxist regimes. Forced compliance is what drives oppressive regimes to maintain conformity.

9. Count the cost you will pay for taking a position on as clear a subject as what the Bible says about homosexuality in a country that now flies the rainbow flag at U.S. embassies around the world.

- **Rolf Szabo** worked for Eastman-Kodak for 23 years. He was fired for giving his opinion in an email about the Gay and Lesbian coming-Out Day sponsored by the company. He asked to be left off the email list because he found the information ‘disgusting and offensive’. The company demanded he write a letter of apology and when he refused, he was fired.

- **Motivational speaker Danny Buggs** was publicly castigated by Atlanta's gay community because during a speech to 500 male students at Tone Mountain Georgia High School: "God made Adam and Eve not Adam and Steve".

(It seems obvious because if it had been Adam and Steve none of us would be here today).

10. I multiply examples but leave it at this: Welcome to the Jungle. At least for a season we will be living under the moral equivalent of Babylon. This will be an alien culture for the true people of God. We need to take our cues from the word of God on how to handle what it will be like.

III. Conclusion: God Works All Things Together For Good!

A. There is Another Way to Look At It

1. I said this all last year: no matter who wins the election, the way we do church and Christianity in this country has to change.

2. You may not like this, but the kind of change wants work in the church is probably more likely to happen under Biden than under Trump. Lance Wallnau describes the situation:

Lance Wallnau

We could have had 4 more years of delayed crisis. But it would have been 4 more years of hell raging against Donald Trump while the church continued its wobbly path of business as usual. God said "NO" to that option. Instead, we have entered a new chapter of history and God has chosen to let the nation experience the consequences of its choices.

a. It is doubtful the church would change much in a status quo world.

3. The second thing to think about is that God may use the election result to destroy the very idea of socialistic solutions by allowing it to come to power.

Lance Wallnau

Even if the evidence comes out that the election was manipulated, (as I hope), we still have 70 million people who voted for the policies they are now about to

get. And the next 2 years may kill the American romance with Marxist revolution. It will be like ‘scratch and sniff’. Is this what you voted for?

4. Israel wanted a king to ‘be like the other nations’.

1 Samuel 8:4-5

Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

1 Samuel 8:6-7

But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.

a. God warned them of the oppressive policies their king would bring on them...

1 Samuel 8:18

And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the Lord will not hear you in that day.

1 Samuel 8:19-20

Nevertheless, the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

5. Here we have the heart of the nation exposed:

- They reject God wanting a king (a political savior)
- They will sacrifice their uniqueness to ‘be like all the other nations’
- They want a government that will ‘go out before them and fight their battles’

6. This is the appeal of socialistic systems; replace God with political salvation by man. God will always judge and eventually bring down such a system. Until He does... **WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE.**