



Taking The Kingdom By Force

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“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. 13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. 14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come. 15 He that hath ears to hear, let him hear” (Matthew 11:12-15).

Following His endorsement of John the Baptist, He went on to confirm that John was the prophesied prophet who would come in the Spirit of Elijah before the Messiah. “And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? 11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things. 12 But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. 13 Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist” (Matthew 17:10-13). It takes spiritual discernment to understand scriptures, hence Jesus final admonition “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear” (vs 15).

Jesus points out a salient truth about possessing God's kingdom by force; but what does this mean in reality. “Violence” here does not mean physical destruction of lives / property to get one's way as that is against Christian principles as evidenced in these scriptures:

- 1) Luke 9:55-56 55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. 56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them....
- 2) Matthew 26:52-53 Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place... Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?
- 3) Matthew 5:39 whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

A battle free life is an illusion, but what did Jesus mean? Let's see from other scriptures as Scriptures interpret scriptures “For precept must be upon precept...; line upon line...; here a little, and there a little” (Isaiah 28:10).

- 1) 2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.
- 2) 2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
- 3) Jude 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

“He that hath ears to hear, let him hear” (Matthew 11:15).

- 4) Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- 5) 1 Corinthians 15:32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.
- 6) Titus 1:9-11 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. 10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: 11 whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.
- 7) 2 Timothy 3:8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds...
- 8) Hebrews 11:36 And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:
- 9) Matthew 5:29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.
- 10) Matthew 10:37-38 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.
- 11) John 12:25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.
- 12) Mark 8:38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father....
- 13) Ephesians 6:11-12 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.