

Good Violence?

Matthew 11:9-12

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- ⁹ But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

- John had the privilege of preparing the way for Jesus Christ. (Verse 10 is quoting Malachi 3:1)
- Luke 1:15-17 - ¹⁵ For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

- Jesus is saying up to that point, John the Baptist had the greatest role or responsibility because he was the forerunner of the Messiah.
- That is why John is “more than a prophet”.
- John was still ministering under the Old Covenant. We forget that the Gospel are actually still part of the Old Testament, which simply means, the Old Covenant.

- ¹¹ 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 who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater [in privilege] than he. (AMP)

- Romans 8:15-17 - ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

- Ephesians 4:22-23 - ²² And He put all things [in every realm] in subjection under Christ's feet, and appointed Him as [supreme and authoritative] head over all things in the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills *and* completes all things in all [believers]. (AMP)

- **What Does Verse Twelve Mean?**
- ¹² And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing and violent people are attacking it. (NLT)
- Suffers/suffereth and violence in the Greek is *biazo* (bee-ad-zo); it's the same word. It means to force or crowd oneself into; to be seized.

- “The force mentioned can be either internal or external. The forces of evil from without seek to destroy it [The Kingdom of Heaven] ...but also those who are committed wholeheartedly press into it; that is the violently want to come in...I am not clear in my own thinking as to what *Jesus* meant. He may have been referring to both aspects” – J. Vernon McGee

- Notice Jesus' phrase, "from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence".
- This violence is particular to "The Kingdom of Heaven". That phrase does not come into the Bible until John the Baptist uses it and then it is used 32 times in the Book of Matthew (NKJV).
- "The Kingdom of God" is a New Testament term found 75 times in the NKJV.

- Luke 3:7-9 - ⁷ Then he said to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as *our* father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. ⁹ And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

- Psalm 51:16-17 - ¹⁶ For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give *it*; You do not delight in burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise.
- Jeremiah 4:4 - ⁴ Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, and take away the foreskins of your hearts, you men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, lest My fury come forth like fire, and burn so that no one can quench *it*, because of the evil of your doings.”

- Romans 1:16-19 - ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them.

- Romans 1:28-32 - ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 - ³ We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. ⁴ We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. ⁵ We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ. ⁶ And after you have become fully obedient, we will punish everyone who remains disobedient. (NLT)

- Ephesians 6:11-13 - ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. .

- 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 - ³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. ⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

- ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize]. (AMP)
- 2 Thessalonians 2 – The Great Falling Away
- Violent in the Greek is biaio which means a forcer, energetic or violent,
- Force in the Greek harpazo which means to seize. It is a derivative of the word haireomai meaning to take for oneself; to prefer or choose.

- Philippians 3:7-15 - ⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. ¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- 1 Timothy 6:12 - ¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

- Hebrews 6:17-19

- Luke 9:57-62

- Matthew 13