

HOLY VIOLENCE #11

Welcome to the Jungle **(How to Survive and Thrive in Babylon)** **Part 2**

Introduction

As I was preparing for this 2nd message on “Welcome to the Jungle” the Lord reminded me of an old leadership lesson from the business world.

Max de Pree

“The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality.”

The problem with defining reality is you have to tell the truth and sometimes people don't like to hear the truth because it makes them uncomfortable.

President James A. Garfield

The truth will set you free, but first it will make you miserable.

The church at Galatia loved the Apostle Paul like a father; until he had to correct them with the truth that they were believing a wrong thing.

Galatians 4:15-16

Where is that joyful and grateful spirit you felt (before)? I am sure you would have taken out your own eyes and given them to me if it had been possible.
Have I now become your enemy because I am telling you the truth?

I am among those still believing that God will turn everything around with a miracle. I *know* God *can* do that. I *hope* He *will* do that!
But the truth is that right now, at least for a season, *this is reality...*

Theme

We as Christians are now living in the most spiritually toxic political climate in American history.

No generation of American Christians has ever had to live under a real antichrist government like the one we are under right now.

The question for us will be, “Do we have the kind of Christianity that can survive and thrive in it?”

(Don't assume we do. Many Christians have already caved in to the culture.)

The Apostle Paul warned us of days like these...

1 Timothy 4:1 NLT

Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.

How could anyone who calls themselves a Christian vote for political candidates who support abortion on demand? How could a Christian vote for those who will raise our taxes and work to take away our constitutional rights under the 1st and 2nd Amendments?

The only answer is that many in the Christian community have been deceived.

Joy Pullmann in The Federalist

Our country still includes a lot of well-meaning people who love America but have been deeply deceived enough to turn it over to its worst enemies.

Some of you have Christian friends or family members who actually voted for the pro-abortion party, many just because they didn't like Donald Trump. Christians who voted for the party of death and its socialist agenda became...

"Useful Idiots"

The term communists and socialists apply to those non-communist/non-socialists who naively or unwittingly supported their radical political agenda.

The truth is that if the Church had been awake and Pastors had preached the Word, and the Christians had voted biblically, the election would have turned out differently *whether there was voter fraud or not.*

Frankly, I'm tired of hearing about how they 'stole' the election. Yes, they cheated. But *we gave it away* because 30 million Christians didn't bother to vote and 90% of American's cowardly pastors failed to preach the word.

Add to that useful idiot Christians who voted for the pro-abortion ticket.

The truth is that the spirit of Babylon got into the church and now the church finds itself living in a spiritual version of Babylon.

In his book, "**Intoxicated With Babylon: The Seduction of God's People in the Last Days**", Steve Gallagher of Pure Life Ministries nails it perfectly...

Steve Gallagher

Babylon is not a place but rather the seducing spirit of Antichrist, which has quietly infiltrated the pulpits, pews, bookstores and homes of the Christian ranks. Armed with a vast array of worldly charms and enchanting indulgences, she has deceived believers into exchanging a vibrant life in God for the empty shell of powerless religion.

If you want to understand the spiritual nature of the Babylonian government we now live under, you have to go back to the beginning of the Bible and study the spiritual meaning of the beginning of Babylon in Genesis 11...

Steve Gallagher

It was there in Babylon that the forces of darkness gained new momentum in their war on God. In ancient Babylon, Lucifer's rebellion became systematized. No longer would the enemy's efforts be confined to the enticement of individuals toward sin. Satan had established a 'national mindset, unifying men in their rebellion against God's law'.

Babylon is the political manifestation of Satan's rebellion against God.

The origin of the term Babylon is 'babel', which means 'confusion'. Their worldview is a confusion of the meaning of words. For example: When they call for *peace* it means you can't have it unless you with them...

Karl Marx

The meaning of peace is the absence of opposition to socialism.

When they say '*unity*' it means you must come into total compliance with their agenda.

Ned Ryun, CEO of American Majority

This (latest) abuse of the impeachment process should make it very clear that the Democrats' idea of unity is submission and conformity to their radical ideas, not compromise or a return to sanity and reason.

They want nothing to do with unity, and you'd better get that memo straight in your head: *they will allow no dissent*.

This is not your father's Democrat Party; this is a party that has been taken over by the antichrist spirit of socialism. It has been in the earth since the building of Babylon. It has taken many forms but always has one goal.

A great Austrian sociologist defined the goals of such a government...

Ludwig von Mises

Totalitarianism ... is the subordination of every individual’s whole life, work, and leisure, to the orders of those in power and office. It is the reduction of man to a cog in an all-embracing machine of compulsion and coercion. It forces the individual to renounce any activity of which the government does not approve. It tolerates no expression of dissent. It is the transformation of society into a strictly disciplined labor-army—as the advocates of socialism say—or into a penitentiary—as its opponents say.

This was true in Fascist Italy in WWII:

Benito Mussolini

“A totalitarian state has a government in which all are within the state, none outside the state, and none against the state.”

The new administration has already tipped its hand as to how it will govern. During the campaign candidate Joe Biden criticized President Trump for his use of Executive Orders instead of going through the legislature.

Joe Biden

I’ve got this strange notion that we are a Democracy. You have to get the votes. If you govern by Executive Orders you are a dictator.

But what did he do? He signed 17 Executive Orders on his 1st day in office; 33 in his 1st week! 40 in his first 9 days. Compare him with 4 previous presidents:

**Executive Orders Signed
(In 1st week of Presidency)**

Clinton	1
Bush	0
Obama	2
Trump	1
Biden	33

David Chilton

“The demand for statism is a demand for control—nothing more or less. The real goal of increasing government intervention is totalitarianism.”

The bad news is this is where we’re at; the good news is *God’s people have been here before and came through in victory.*

We need to fear not! God's word shows the way we can survive and thrive, even if we find ourselves for a season under an antichrist system.

The story is found in...

II. The Prophetic Parallel: Israel in Babylonian Captivity

Context of the Book of Daniel

1. Israel had backslidden and fallen into idolatry; God's judgment was to allow the nation to be taken captive by the Babylonians.

2. Imagine the culture shock for Daniel and his friends, going to sleep in Jerusalem and waking up in Babylon. (Like we went to bed on November 4th and woke up in a new nation November 5th).

3. The first chapter of the Book of Daniel reads like a training manual for what the Democrats are planning to do to the Church today:

THE BABYLONIAN STRATEGY

(Daniel 1)

- Subdue and relocate God's people *politically* (1:1-2)
 - Re-program God's people *educationally* (1:4)
 - Conform God's people *culturally* (1:5)
- Redefine the identity of God's people *spiritually* (1:6-7)

A. Babylon Will Seek to Subdue and Relocate God's People *Politically*

1. The backslidden condition of Israel opened the door to a Babylonian invasion with the people carried captive into a strange land.

Daniel 1:1-2

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

2. What happened was horrible. But notice that it was the LORD who gave Israel into their hand. *Never forget that God is in control!*

3. Next we see that the King of Babylon took some articles and treasures that had been in the house of the true God in Jerusalem and put them into the house of his false god in Babylon.

a. Notice that the first thing Babylon does when it comes to power is steal your goods.

b. The first thing socialist governments seek to do is the redistribution of wealth.

4. They usually do this by increasing taxes on the wealthy; but they can also do it by Executive Order. Joe Biden signed new Executive Orders this week that will now make it legal to use our tax dollars to fund abortions.

5. So the first strategy was to subdue God's people politically.

B. Second Strategy: To Re-program God's People *Educationally*

Daniel 1:3-4

Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, four young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.

1. Socialists always seek to control the educational system.

a. This was true in Marxist Russia:

Leon Trotsky (1879-1940)

“We must approach the youth with the propaganda of atheism and socialism, for only this truly defines the place of man in the universe.”

b. This was true in Nazi Germany:

Adolf Hitler

He who owns the youth owns the future.

2. Here they take 4 young Israelis, who had been trained up at home in the Word of God, and begin the process of re-education in ‘the language and literature’ of Babylon.

Pastor Chad King

God's word is truth; good news that touches marriage, family, home and culture. But Babylon demands that our identity must be connected to their agenda, their belief system and their culture.

C. Third Strategy: To Conform God's People Culturally

Daniel 1:5

And the king appointed for them *a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank*, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.

1. The Babylonian diet was different than that of Israel; the 'king's delicacies' obviously consisted of pork and other foods forbidden to the Jews,

2. But the spiritual meaning is this was an attempt to re-program the children of Israel into Babylonian culture; a 'daily provision' of the food and drink of the king.

3. Today, the mass media is an agent of the left; it is a daily dose of the Babylonian agenda; 3 years of training and you're ready to serve the Babylonian king!

4. It's no accident that the voices on the left are already calling for all Trump supporters to be re-programmed.

Katie Couric

"The question is how are we going to really almost deprogram these people who have signed up for the cult of Trump."

a. CNN interviewed Cult expert and mental health professional...

Dr. Stephen Hassan

"The bottom line is that all Americans need to be de-programmed because we have all been negatively influenced by Donald Trump."

b. Meghan McCain's had this response on "The View":

Meghan McCain

Honestly, they can go to hell because I don't need to be reprogrammed.

5. Just remember that a Babylonian system wants to re-program us with the 'kings meat and wine'.

D. Fourth Strategy: To Redefine the Identity of God's People Spiritually

Daniel 1:6

Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Beltshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

1. There's a powerful element of authority that involves naming or defining something.

- a. God named man and gave him authority
- b. The man named the woman (Gen. 2:23) and Eve (3:20)
- c. The parents named the children (Gen. 4:1-2)
- d. To this day, when a woman marries, she usually will submit to a change of her last name, signifying a transfer of authority from her father to her husband. So here...

Adam Clarke

This change of names was a mark of dominion and authority. It was customary for masters to impose new names upon their slaves.

Albert Barnes

It is possible that this changing of their names may have been designed to make them forget their country, and their religion, and to lead them more entirely to identify themselves with the people in whose service they were now to be employed.

2. Babylon wants to exert its authority in our lives by re-naming or re-defining us. The great Puritan Bible scholar helps us here...

Matthew Henry

Their Hebrew names, which they received at their circumcision, had something of God, or Jah, in them:

Daniel—God is my Judge;

**Hananiah—The grace of the Lord;
Mishael—He that is the strong God;
Azariah—The Lord is a help.**

a. We are born again into the family of God; but Babylon wants to redefine us...

Matthew Henry

To make them forget the God of their fathers, the guide of their youth, they give them names that savor of the Chaldean idolatry.

Beltshazzar--the keeper of the hidden treasures of Bel

Shadrach—The inspiration of the sun, which the Chaldeans worshipped;

Meshach—Of the goddess Shach, under which name Venus was worshipped;

Abed-nego-- the servant of the shining fire, which they worshipped also.

b. Notice they did not take away their old names; they just called them by new names...

Matthew Henry

They would not force them from the religion of their fathers to that of their conquerors, yet they did what they could to wean them from the former and instill the latter into them.

3. This seems to be the strategy today; they will not seek to utterly destroy Christianity; they know they could never do that. Instead, they will seek to impose a mixture of identity; ½ Christian and ½ Babylon.

a. “Keep your Christianity-just conform it to the new culture.”

4. Review: Here is what faced Daniel and friends...

THE BABYLONIAN STRATEGY

(Daniel 1)

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III. Close: So What Is Our Response?

A. A Lesson in Living in Babylon

Daniel 1:8

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

1. This verse lays the foundation for the greatness of the life of Daniel, a life lived in the spiritual 'jungle' of Babylon. It's also a word for us today.

a. "But Daniel..."

2. The strategy of the Babylonian world order is to conform us to itself. History tells us most of the Jews went along. BUT DANIEL...

a. Remember, Daniel and his friends were just *teenagers* at the time!

b. They were under an evil political/cultural system but they will survive and thrive because they dared to be like Daniel...

RESPONSE

But Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself (1:8)

Purposed

To commit, to determine, to steadfastly resolve

(This is a BIG word!)

Charles Spurgeon, "Dare to Be a Daniel"

Daniel purposed, not with a kind of superficial 'I will', but he 'purposed in his heart', and gave his whole self to a certain definite purpose which he deliberately formed.

RESPONSE

But Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself (1:8)

Defile (Hebrew)

To soil, desecrate, stain or profane; to make impure or unclean

BBE make himself unclean

GWT not to harm himself

Charles Spurgeon

In Daniel's case, if he had done what it was proposed to him to do, it would have been giving up the separated life. This is the temptation of the present day. Profess to be a Christian, but float along the common current of the world. Take the name of a Christian, and go to your place of worship, and go through your ceremonies; but do not bring your religion into your business. Act as other people do. This is the temptation of the time.

3. Daniel goes on to become one of God's greatest heroes in the Old Testament. But it all begins here.

But Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself (1:8)

4. The reality is that this is where we are today: Welcome to the Jungle!

5. What happens to us in the future all depends upon what we purpose in our hearts right now. God help us to dare to be a Daniel! And may God give us '3 friends' to stand with us!

6. As for me, my reaction to these perilous times are captured in the some words from the great A.W. Tozer.

A.W. Tozer

I want to be a more serious-minded Christian man, more detached from this world, more ready for heaven than I have ever been in my whole life. I want an ear that is sharp to know the voice of the enemy, whether it comes from religion, politics, or philosophy.

A.W. Tozer

I want to know when I'm hearing the soft, soothing voice of Antichrist preparing me psychologically for a takeover. I would rather stand and have everybody my enemy than to go along with the crowd to destruction. Do you feel that way?

Closing Prayer

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