## **How to Fix the World**

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This is the world of Satan the Devil. But, he will soon be put out of the way so that the world can be changed (Rv20:2,3b). The peoples and nations of this world will be conquered by the Gospel of the Kingdom (Mc4:13). This will be a violent procedure – the Kingdom of God is available only to the violent (Mt11:12). The ultimate victory is guaranteed by the zeal of God (Is9:7).

<u>The Day of YHWH</u>: It all starts with <u>God's final wrath on the nations</u> of this world (Rv15:1,16:1-2,5b-6). <u>The Battle of Armageddon</u> will eliminate the last resistance of the nations (Rv16:10-12,16, 19:19-21a). Finally, <u>Satan will be bound</u> (Rv20:1-3a). During the Day of YHWH, the "<u>destroyers of the earth</u>", "<u>the wicked</u>", <u>will be terminated</u> — this will include the left-wing elites, the political puppets, the liberal judges, the perverse educators, and all in leadership positions that have followed the satanic philosophies that made this world the way it is (Rv11:17-18, Ps11:5, 37:12-13, 94:20).

<u>Conquer the World</u>: The <u>survivors of the holocaust</u> scattered over the whole earth will be in a state of desperation: they <u>will need healing, food, shelter, and hope</u> – as Jesus sent the disciples out into the world, we will have to do the same (Mt10:5a,7-8a, Lk10:1-2a,9). Throughout the Bible there is a <u>metaphor of violence to conquer the world</u> – indeed the whole world will be conquered by <u>the Gospel</u>, <u>the teaching of God</u>, <u>the Way of God</u> (Mc4:13, 5: 5b-6a,8-9, Hb4:12a, Is11:12,14, 41:15-16a, 45:14a, 54:3, 61:5-6).

<u>Violence and the Kingdom of God</u>: Jesus provides the ultimate expression of the metaphor in his endorsement of John the Baptist. John's attitude of zeal is required of anyone aspiring to the gift of admission to the Kingdom of God (Mt11:12-13, Lk16:16). King David was a soldier, a warrior – with his own hand he had killed many people. David was familiar with the rigors of training for war, with the heat of a battle, with the constant danger of death – but he also <u>understood the spiritual implications</u>. David also recognized it was God who gave him the ability to be successful in battle (Ps18:29-38). David specifically promised YHWH he would share with others the learning he had acquired from God – he would "preach the gospel" (Ps9:11, 18:49, 108:3, 34:11, 22:22,25, 40:5-10).

The Zeal of John the Baptist: John spent about 12 years in the wilderness, preaching - the crux of his message was repentance, but there was also a strong ethical component to his preaching (Mk1:5, Mt3:1-2,7-9a, Lk3:18). John's most important task was to announce the Messiah (Lk3:2b-3a, Mk1:7-8). After baptizing Jesus, John publicly witnessed Jesus' divinity (Jh1:29-34). It was the receipt of the Holy Spirit which empowered the Apostles and disciples (Lk24:46,48-49). The fact of the resurrection is the singular motivator behind the Zeal of the Apostles which gave them the strength to build the New Testament Church (At1:8b, 2:32, 3:15, 5:30a,31-32a, 10:39-43).

<u>A Character Attribute of God</u>: "Righteous jealousy" and "zeal" are a fundamental character attributes of God. The <u>second commandment</u> is the seminal scripture on God's "righteous jealousy" (Ex20:4-6, Dt5:8-10). Righteous jealousy is the character attribute of God which makes him <u>completely intolerant of any form of sin</u>; in particular, any form of "<u>idolatry</u>", which is <u>the root of all other sin</u> (Ex34:11-16, Dt4:23-24, 6:13-15). God requires True Worshippers to develop this character attribute. <u>Righteous jealousy is the well-spring of zeal</u>. That is where the "<u>metaphor of violence</u>" applies: to fix the world, we must have such a <u>zealous hatred of sin</u> that we relentlessly stamp it out in every circumstance and <u>teach the Way of God</u> (Is9:7, 26:11, 42:13, 59:17, 63:15a, Titus 2:13-14, 2Cr9:1-2, 11:2, Rv3:19, Rm12:11).

We cannot fix the world now, but we soon will be required to do just that. God will lay the groundwork by confining Satan and "destroying the destroyers of the earth". We will be going out into a devastated and suffering world which God will require us to conquer through the Gospel Message. Those who have gone before us, King David and John the Baptist, have left us a legacy of zeal — we can follow their examples to accomplish God's purpose. Entry into the Kingdom of God requires an attitude of violence: zeal to conquer in our daily battle and zeal to conquer the world with the Way of God. Zeal is one of the fundamental character attributes of God. We are required to develop godly zeal in order to be considered candidates for the gift of eternal life.