



Volunteers Needed

- For Sunday School teaching rotation—see Gean or Amity
- For table decorations—sign up sheet

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The Violent Take It by Force

by David Briones

Jesus said, “From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force” ([Matt. 11:12](#)). Two questions have left readers scratching their heads: first, what is meant by the kingdom’s *suffering violence*, and, second, who takes the kingdom *by force*? To gain some clarity on this issue, let’s start with the second question and work our way back to the first.

Who are “the violent” who “take [the kingdom] by force”? The word translated “the violent” always carries a negative connotation. It therefore cannot describe a positive action, as in “eager men are forcing their way into it” (J.B. Phillips). It must refer to those who opposed the kingdom. This becomes even more obvious when we recognize that the word translated “take” (or “lay hold of”) almost always involves malicious intent. Wicked people who fit this description include Herod Antipas, who imprisoned John the

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After God’s Silence — What?

By Oswald Chambers

When He had heard therefore that he was sick, He abode two days in the same place where he was. —

John 11:6

Has God trusted you with a silence — a silence that is big with meaning? God’s silences are His answers. Think of those days of absolute silence in the home at

Bethany! Is there anything analogous to those days in your life? Can God trust you like that, or are you still asking for a visible answer? God will give you the blessings you ask if you will not go any further without them; but His silence is the sign that He is bringing you into a marvelous understanding of Himself. Are

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"Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand "
Ephesians 6:13

Philippians 4:1

"Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved. "

"Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. "
I Corinthians 15:58

Violence...

(Continued from page 1)

Baptist ([Matt. 11:2](#)), and the Jewish leaders who opposed Jesus' ministry (9:34; 12:22-24).

What is meant by the kingdom's "suffering violence"? The Greek verb can rightly be translated one of two ways: "suffering violence" or "forcefully advancing." Both are possible translations. The first option understands the kingdom to be under attack by the forces of darkness (Herod Antipas, Jewish leaders, and so on). Option two envisions God as forcefully advancing the kingdom against that very opposition. While each highlights a true element of the kingdom of heaven, option one is more convincing. For if "the violent take [the kingdom] by force," then it would make more sense to view the kingdom as "suffering violence" at the hands of "the violent." In both clauses of [Matthew 11:12](#), God's kingdom is the direct object of unbelieving hostility.

As the kingdom faced hostility then, so does it now. But believers can confidently rest in God's triumph over evil, sin, and death itself in the Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever opposition the kingdom and its subjects may face, Job's declaration to the Lord remains true: "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted" ([Job 42:2](#)).

Bible Study & Fellowship Groups

Day	Time	Contact	Location	Current Study
Mondays	5:30 pm	Young Adult Ladies Hannah Zentz	Hannah & Jared's house	Spiritual Disciplines
	6:30 pm	Young Adult Guys Jared Zentz	Ralph & Christy's house	Hebrews
Tuesdays	6:00 pm	Women Laura Cormos	At church	Revelation
	6:00 pm	Men Ken Hettinger	At church	Sunday Sermons

Bible in a Year - Reading Plan

September

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Matthew 1; Luke 2 | 11. Matthew 11 | 22. John 7-8 |
| 2. Matthew 2 | 12. Luke 11 | 23. John 9-10 |
| 3. Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3 | 13. Matthew 13; Luke 8 | 24. Luke 10 |
| 4. Matthew 4; Luke 4-5 | 14. Mark 4-5 | 25. Luke 12-13 |
| 5. John 2-4 | 15. Matthew 10 | 26. Luke 14-15 |
| 6. Matthew 8; Mark 2 | 16. Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9 | 27. Luke 16-17 |
| 7. John 5 | 17. John 6 | 28. John 11 |
| 8. Matthew 12; Mark 3; Luke 6 | 18. Matthew 15; Mark 7 | 29. Luke 18 |
| 9. Matthew 5-7 | 19. Matthew 16; Mark 8 | 30. Matthew 19; Mark 10 |
| 10. Matthew 9; Luke 7 | 20. Matthew 17; Mark 9 | 31. Matthew 20-21 |
| | 21. Matthew 18 | |



Also found in the YouVersion Bible App as the Blue Letter Bible

OCT BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES	Brenda Thompson	10/6	Dan O'Connell	10/15
	Way & Gean Stevens	10/7	Martina Dobson	10/15
	Tom Williams	10/9	Kellen Englehardt	10/17
	Eva Laugel	10/12	Dave Edmonds	10/23
	Jennifer Hodge	10/14	Brooklynn Schaffner	10/30
	Randy Moore	10/15		

God's Silence...

(Continued from page 1)

you mourning before God because you have not had an audible response? You will find that God has trusted you in the most intimate way possible, with an absolute silence, not of despair, but of pleasure, because He saw that you could stand a bigger revelation. If God has given you a silence, praise Him, He is bringing you into the great run of His purposes. The manifestation of the answer in time is a matter of God's sovereignty. Time is nothing to God. For a while you say — "I asked God to give me bread, and He gave me a stone." He did not, and today you find He gave you the bread of life.

A wonderful thing about God's silence is that the contagion of His stillness gets into you and you become perfectly confident — "I know God has heard me." His silence is the proof that He has. As long as you have the idea that God will bless you in answer to prayer, He will do it, but He will never give you the grace of silence. If Jesus Christ is bringing you into the understanding that prayer is for the glorifying of His Father, He will give you the first sign of His intimacy — silence.

Do you shop at King Soopers? Now you can help raise funds for Valley Christian Church and the Youth Group/Children's Ministry by linking your King Soopers card to the church's account. Please follow the directions attached to this newsletter. Laura Cormos is more than happy to help answer any questions you might have. Many thanks for your support! You are a blessing!

Valley

...personal
...practical
...positive

VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Youth Pastor Sam Hardy

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At Valley we won't bore, bribe or badger you - we just want to communicate to you that God is real, and very present in your life. So we speak in terms that everyone can understand and tackle issues that everyone can relate to.

Our pastor is an exciting and energetic speaker who is able to develop messages that are personal, practical and positive. Lane clearly believes the things he tells us and you can see how God's principles for life put into practice provide us with a fulfilling life.

When you first visit Valley, we want you to be able to experience an uplifting time of worship, encouraging messages, friendly people and enjoyable atmosphere.

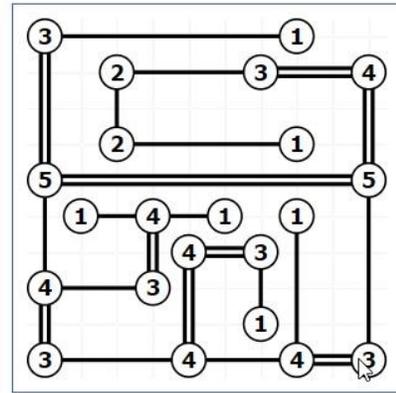
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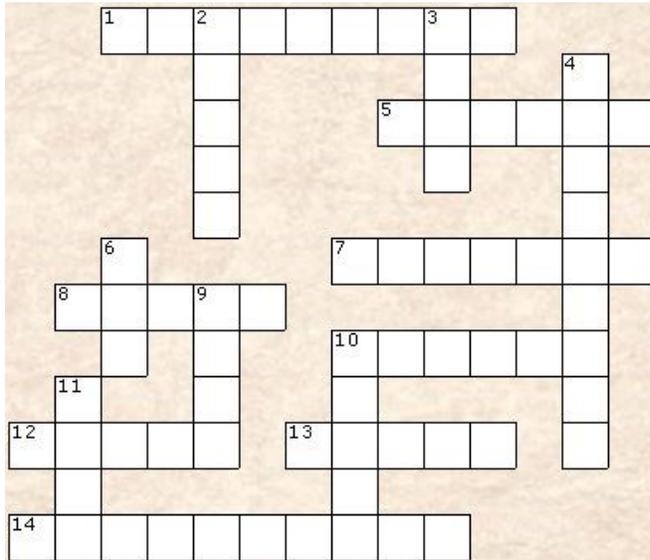
Most of all, let love guide your life, for then the whole church will stay together in perfect harmony.
Colossians 3:14

Aug-Sep
Puzzle
Solution



Brain Workout Corner

Blessing & Woes Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be ___
- 5 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be ___
- 7 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the ___ of heaven
- 8 Woe to you who laugh now, for you will ___ and weep
- 10 Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go ___
- 12 Blessed are you who weep now, for you will ___
- 13 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the ___
- 14 Blessed are those who are ___ because of righteousness

DOWN

- 2 Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown ___
- 3 Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of ___ against you
- 4 Woe to you when all men speak ___ ___, For so did their fathers to the false prophets.
- 6 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of ___
- 9 But woe to you who are ___, for you have already received your comfort.
- 10 Blessed are the pure in ___, for they will see God
- 11 Blessed are you when men ___ you, when they exclude you and insult you