



## PROPHECY AGAIN

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**END CHRIST'S SUFFERING BY AGGRESSIVE EVANGELISM.  
POPE'S PUSH FOR UNITY IN OVERDRIVE. EXPECT OPPOSITION**

1. Let us carefully read and analyze Matthew 11:12. "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."
2. Note: The word "force" means to seize, to catch away, to capture something. See Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, number 726.
2. Note: The word "suffereth or suffers" means "is gotten by force." See marginal reference to confirm.
4. Note: Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is gotten by force and by violence. The word "violence" does not have a negative but a positive connotation in the context of this scripture.
- 5a. What does the "kingdom of heaven" mean? The phrase "kingdom of heaven" means the "throne of heaven" because a kingdom denotes a throne. The Bible speaks of two thrones, namely the "throne of glory" and the "throne of grace." See the following scriptures respectively, Matthew 25:31 and Hebrews 4:16.
- 5b. As used in the Bible, the expression "kingdom of God" is employed to designate both the kingdom of grace and the kingdom of glory. The kingdom of grace is brought to view by Paul in the Epistle to the Hebrews. After pointing to Christ, the compassionate intercessor who is "touched with the feeling of our infirmities," the apostle says: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace." Hebrews 4:15, 16. **The throne of grace** represents the kingdom of grace; for the existence of a throne implies the existence of a kingdom. In many of His parables Christ uses the expression "the kingdom of heaven" to designate the work of divine grace upon the hearts of men. {GC 346.4}
- So **the throne of glory** represents the kingdom of glory; and this kingdom is referred to in the Saviour's words: "When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations." Matthew 25:31, 32. This kingdom is yet future. It is not to be set up until the second advent of Christ. {GC 347.1}
6. What does the grace of God or the throne of grace bring? Titus 2:11 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Note: The "throne of grace" points to salvation from sin.
8. Note: Salvation begins by the conviction of the Holy Spirit. Once we are convicted of sin, a war begins in our minds; should we surrender or not. The greatest battle or violence ever fought is in our minds. Once we confess our sins and surrender to Jesus, we have to retain that godly character; this leads to violence, a war in our minds. See Romans 7:18-25; 1 John 1:9; 1 Corinthians 15:31; Colossians 3:5-10.
- 9a. Who manifested violence, force, who was in a battle and manifested determination in order to receive salvation? Genesis 32:24-30

A deep sense of our need and a great desire for the things for which we ask must characterize our prayers, else they will not be heard. But we are not to become weary and cease our petitions because the answer is not immediately received. "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force" (Matthew 11:12). **The violence here meant is a holy earnestness, such as Jacob manifested. We need not try to work ourselves up into an intense feeling, but calmly, persistently, we are to press our petitions at the throne of grace.** Our work is to humble our souls before God, confessing our sins, and in faith drawing nigh unto God. . . . It is the design of God to reveal Himself in His providence and in His grace. The object of our prayers must be the glory of God, not the glorification of ourselves. . . . {TMK 272.2}

9b. Jacob was in fear and distress while he sought in his own strength to obtain the victory. He mistook the divine visitor for an enemy, and contended with him while he had any strength left. But when he cast himself upon the mercy of God, he found that instead of being in the hands of an enemy, he was encircled in the arms of infinite love. He saw God face to face, and his sins were pardoned. {YI, May 24, 1900 par. 4}

"The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." This violence takes in the whole heart. To be double minded is to be unstable. Resolution, self-denial, and consecrated effort are required for the work of preparation. The understanding and the conscience may be united; but if the will is not set to work, we shall make a failure. Every faculty and feeling must be engaged. Ardor and earnest prayer must take the place of listlessness and indifference. Only by earnest, determined effort and faith in the merits of Christ can we overcome, and gain the kingdom of heaven. Our time for work is short. Christ is soon to come the second time. May God help those who have heard the warning message to remember that "the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." {YI, May 24, 1900 par. 5}

10. What instruction does the Lord Jesus give to Laodiceans? Revelation 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_

11. What does it mean to buy of Jesus the gold tried in the fire, the white raiment, and the eyesalve? Isaiah 55:1-3

"Heed the counsel of the True Witness. Buy gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich, white raiment that thou mayest be clothed, and eyesalve that thou mayest see. **Make some effort. These precious treasures will not drop upon us without some exertion on our part.** We must buy--"be zealous and repent" of our lukewarm state. We must be awake to see our wrongs, to search for our sins, and to zealously repent of them. {1T 142.3}

12. As salvation is gotten and maintained by warfare, violence, stern battles with self, so the work of evangelism must be done aggressively. See John 9:4 and John 4:34,35.

13. The following events show that probation is fast closing and the harvest of souls is near.

14a. Revelation chapter 18 speaks about Babylon, which points to the Papacy in the primary sense. The Papacy will commit fornication, will unite with the kings and the merchants of the earth. See Revelation 18:2,3.

14b. "Pope Francis receives Apple CEO" [http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/01/22/pope\\_franzis\\_receives\\_apple\\_ceo/1203081](http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/01/22/pope_franzis_receives_apple_ceo/1203081)

15a. In order to understand these current events, we must study Bible prophecy. Once Nebuchadnezzar, king of ancient Babylon, gathered the treasurers, the monied men, then a false system of worship of the image was forced upon the people with persecution for God's commandment-keeping people. See Daniel 3:1-7.

15b. Note: Since Pope Francis is gathering unto himself the merchants of the earth, then the crisis is near for God's people. See Revelation 13:15-17.

16a. "Pope Francis to join Google's Eric Schmidt in rare tech industry meeting" "The two share one common passion: environmentalism and the importance of sustainability.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/13/pope-francis-google-alphabet-eric-schmidt-vatican-meeting-us-tech-ceo>

16b. "Bill Gates And Other Billionaires Pledge To Take On Climate Change" <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2015/11/30/457900449/bill-gates-and-other-billionaires-pledge-to-take-on-climate-change>

16c. "Pope Francis on Thursday met with actor and environmental activist Leonardo DiCaprio. The two share an interest in climate change." [http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/01/28/pope\\_franzis\\_meets\\_with\\_actor\\_leonardo\\_dicaprio/1204367](http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/01/28/pope_franzis_meets_with_actor_leonardo_dicaprio/1204367)

16d. What does Pope Francis say is the primary thing to be enforced in the nations, in order to combat climate change and to preserve the environment?

237. On Sunday, our participation in the Eucharist has special importance. Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath, is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world...The law of weekly rest forbade work on the seventh day...(Ex 23:12). Rest opens our eyes to the larger picture and gives us renewed sensitivity to the rights of others. And so the day of rest [Sunday], centred on the Eucharist, sheds its light on the whole week, and motivates us to greater concern for nature and the poor.

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

17a. The following is another sign that human probation is about to close, the mark of the beast is near, the great harvest of souls is near.

"The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christlike garments; but she is unchanged. Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity." {GC 571.1}

17b. "Why Pope Francis Just Asked Protestants for Forgiveness" <http://www.newsweek.com/pope-francis-protestants-forgiveness-persecution-419512>

17c. "Pope Francis will travel to Sweden in October for a joint ecumenical commemoration of the start of the Reformation, together with leaders of the Lutheran World Federation and representatives of other Christian Churches." [http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/01/25/pope\\_to\\_travel\\_to\\_sweden\\_for\\_joint\\_reformation\\_commemoration/1203462](http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/01/25/pope_to_travel_to_sweden_for_joint_reformation_commemoration/1203462)

"Such were the means which Rome had invoked to quench the light of the Reformation, to withdraw from men the Bible, and to restore the ignorance and superstition of the Dark Ages. But under God's blessing and the labors of those noble men whom He had raised up to succeed Luther, Protestantism was not overthrown. Not to the favor or arms of princes was it to owe its strength. The smallest countries, the humblest and least powerful nations, became its strongholds. It was little Geneva in the midst of mighty foes plotting her destruction; it was Holland on her sandbanks by the northern sea, wrestling against the tyranny of Spain, then the greatest and most opulent of kingdoms; it was bleak, sterile Sweden, that gained victories for the Reformation." {GC 235.3}

"All Northern Europe seemed about to be brought again under the tyranny of Rome. It was the armies of Sweden that enabled Germany to turn the tide of popish success, to win toleration for the Protestants,--Calvinists as well as Lutherans,--and to restore liberty of conscience to those countries that had accepted the Reformation." {GC 244.2}

17d. "Why Pope Francis' push for unity is going into over-drive" <http://www.cruxnow.com/church/2016/01/19/why-pope-francis-push-for-unity-is-going-into-over-drive/>

18. Since probation is soon to close and the harvest of souls is near, we must be conducting aggressive evangelism. See Matthew 20:6,7.

19. As Jesus was conducting aggressive evangelism, who did Satan work through to attempt to silence Him? How was Jesus viewed and treated? Matthew 12:46-50 \_\_\_\_\_

The sons of Joseph were far from being in sympathy with Jesus in His work. The reports that reached them in regard to His life and labors filled them with astonishment and dismay. They heard that He devoted entire nights to prayer, that through the day He was thronged by great companies of people, and did not give Himself time so much as to eat. His friends felt that He was wearing Himself out by His incessant labor; they were unable to account for His attitude toward the Pharisees, and there were some who feared that His reason was becoming unsettled. {DA 321.1}

His brothers heard of this, and also of the charge brought by the Pharisees that He cast out devils through the power of Satan. They felt keenly the reproach that came upon them through their relation to Jesus. They knew what a tumult His words and works created, and were not only alarmed at His bold statements, but indignant at His denunciation of the scribes and Pharisees. They decided that He must be persuaded or constrained to cease this manner of labor, and they induced Mary to unite with them, thinking that through His love for her they might prevail upon Him to be more prudent. {DA 321.2}

The enmity kindled in the human heart against the gospel was keenly felt by the Son of God, and it was most painful to Him in His home; for His own heart was full of kindness and love, and He appreciated tender regard in the family relation. His brothers desired that He should concede to their ideas, when such a course would have been utterly out of harmony with His divine mission. They looked upon Him as in need of their counsel. They judged Him from their human point of view, and thought that if He would speak only such things as would be acceptable to the scribes and Pharisees, He would avoid the disagreeable controversy that His words aroused. They thought that He was beside Himself in claiming divine authority, and in placing Himself before the rabbis as a reprover of their sins. They knew that the Pharisees were seeking occasion to accuse Him, and they felt that He had given them sufficient occasion. {DA 326.1}

With their short measuring line they could not fathom the mission which He came to fulfill, and therefore could not sympathize with Him in His trials. Their coarse, unappreciative words showed that they had no true perception of His character, and did not discern that the divine blended with the human. They often saw Him full of grief; but instead of comforting Him, their spirit and words only wounded His heart. His sensitive nature was tortured, His motives were misunderstood, His work was uncomprehended. {DA 326.2}

20. As Jesus was conducting aggressive evangelism, who did Satan work through to attempt to silence Him? How was Jesus viewed and treated? Matthew 15:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_

The disciples noted the rage of the spies as their false teaching was exposed. They saw the angry looks, and heard the half-muttered words of dissatisfaction and revenge. Forgetting how often Christ had given evidence that He read the heart as an open book, they told Him of the effect of His words. **Hoping that He might conciliate the enraged officials**, they said to Jesus, "Knowest Thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?" {DA 398.1}

21. Why should we be aggressive in the work of evangelism? \_\_\_\_\_

Those who think of the result of hastening or hindering the gospel think of it in relation to themselves and to the world. Few think of its relation to God. Few give thought to the suffering that sin has caused our Creator. All heaven suffered in Christ's agony; but that suffering did not begin or end with His manifestation in humanity. The cross is a revelation to our dull senses of the pain that, from its very inception, sin has brought to the heart of God. Every departure from the right, every deed of cruelty, every failure of humanity to reach His ideal, brings grief to Him. When there came upon Israel the calamities that were the sure result of separation from God,—subjugation by their enemies, cruelty, and death,—it is said that "His soul was grieved for the misery of Israel." "In all their affliction He was afflicted: . . . and He bare them, and carried them all the days of old." Judges 10:16; Isaiah 63:9. {Ed 263.1}

22. Consider the following quotation and write your thoughts. \_\_\_\_\_

We shall be brought into strait places in our work. Trials will come. God will test the strength of our faith; he will prove us to see if we will trust him under difficulties. The silver and gold are the Lord's, and when his stewards have done their duty fully, and can do no more, they are not to sit down at ease, let things take their course, and let the missionary work come to a standstill. It is then that they should cry to God for help. Let those who have faith seek the Lord earnestly, remembering that the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. {HS 293.5}

23. Consider the following quotation and write your thoughts. \_\_\_\_\_

"In the beginning, the work goes hard and slow. Now is the time when all should bend their shoulders to raise the load and carry it forward. Advance we must, though the Red Sea be before us, and impassable mountains on either hand. God has been with us and has blessed our efforts. We must work by faith. 'The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.' Matthew 11:12. We are to pray, believe that our prayers are heard, and then work. {LS 298.1}

"The work may now seem small; but there must be a beginning before there can be any progress. 'First the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.' The work may start in weakness, and its progress may for a time be slow; yet if it is commenced in a healthy manner, there will be a steady and substantial gain. {LS 298.2}