

Pressure or Hope?

Sunday Morning, February 3, 2013

Thesis:

God Uses Pressure and/or Hope To Unite His People
For His Purpose!

Introduction:

By What Pressure Will God Seek to Unite His People
For His Purpose(s)?

I. Some of His People Are Motivated By Pressure!

(I Samuel 11: 1-11)

1 Nahash the Ammonite came up and laid siege to Jabesh-gilead. All the men of Jabesh said to him, "Make a treaty with us, and we will serve you."

2 Nahash the Ammonite replied, "I'll make one with you on this condition: that I gouge out everyone's right eye and humiliate all Israel."

3 "Don't do anything to us for seven days," the elders of Jabesh said to him, "and let us send messengers throughout the territory of Israel. If no one saves us, we will surrender to you."

4 When the messengers came to Gibeah, Saul's hometown, and told the terms to the people, all wept aloud.

5 Just then Saul was coming in from the field behind his oxen. "What's the matter with the people? Why are they weeping?" Saul inquired, and they repeated to him the words of the men from Jabesh.

6 When Saul heard these words, the Spirit of God suddenly took control of him, and his anger burned furiously.

7 He took a team of oxen, cut them in pieces, & sent them throughout the land of Israel by messengers who said, "This is what will be done to the ox of anyone who doesn't march behind Saul and Samuel."

(More of passage on next page)

As a result, the terror of the Lord fell on the people, and they went out united.

8 Saul counted them at Bezek. There were 300,000 Israelites and 30,000 men from Judah.

9 He told the messengers who had come, "Tell this to the men of Jabesh-gilead: 'Deliverance will be yours tomorrow by the time the sun is hot.'" So the messengers told the men of Jabesh, & they rejoiced.

10 Then the men of Jabesh said to Nahash, "Tomorrow we will come out, and you can do whatever you want to us."

11 The next day Saul organized the troops into three divisions. During the morning watch, they invaded the Ammonite camp and slaughtered them until the heat of the day. There were survivors, but they were so scattered that no two of them were left together.

Vs. 1 - Bargaining With The Adversary

(Sample – Tithing "I'll Have More Money If I Don't")

Vs. 2 - Adversary's Conditions

Gauge Out Right Eye = Unable to Engage in Warfare

Unable to Fight Back

Satan Wants to Disable Us

He Wants to Make Us Ineffective and Powerless

He Wants to Humiliate Us

We Are Supposed to Be Ambassadors of Christ!

Vs. 3 – Don't Do anything for 7 Days

Nahash Arrogantly Concedes. A Space for Reconsideration!

Vss. 4 & 5 - An Attitude of Despair and Defeat!

Are We Overwhelmed by the Challenge or Power of the Enemy?

As a Church, or As the People of God, Do We Feel We Cannot Have a Victorious Ministry or Life for Christ?

Vss. 6 -7 Righteous Indignation or Godly Anger

God Strikes Their Livelihood (money, oxen, personal tragedies)

God Will Make Known His Displeasure Towards Unfaithfulness

Do We Fear God?

(Proverbs 1:7)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Vss. 8- 11 God Will Give Wisdom and Victory To Those Who Fear Him!

II. Some of His People Are Motivated By His Hope!

Be Patient the Lord is Coming!

(James 5: 7-8)

7 Therefore, brothers, be patient until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth and is patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains.

8 You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, because the Lord's coming is near.

We Will Come With Him!

(I Thessalonians 3:13)

May He make your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints. Amen.

Live Holy Lives In And For Christ!

(Revelation 19: 6-16)

6 Then I heard something like the voice of a vast multitude, like the sound of cascading waters, and like the rumbling of loud thunder, saying: Hallelujah, because our Lord God, the Almighty, has begun to reign!

7 Let us be glad, rejoice, and give Him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, & His wife has prepared herself.

8 She was given fine linen to wear, bright and pure.

For the fine linen represents the righteous acts of the saints.

9 Then he said to me, "Write: Those invited to the marriage feast of the Lamb are fortunate!" He also said to me, "These words of God are true."

10 Then I fell at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow slave with you and your brothers who have the testimony about Jesus. Worship God, because the testimony about Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

11 Then I saw heaven opened, and there was a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True, and He judges and makes war in righteousness.

12 His eyes were like a fiery flame, and many crowns were on His head. He had a name written that no one knows except Himself.

13 He wore a robe stained with blood, and His name is the Word of God.

14 The armies that were in heaven followed Him on white horses, wearing pure white linen.

15 A sharp sword came from His mouth, so that He might strike the nations with it. He will shepherd them with an iron scepter. He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty.

16 And He has a name written on His robe and on His thigh:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Anchor Yourselves in Hope

(Hebrews 6:11)

Now we want each of you to demonstrate the same diligence for the final realization of your hope,

(Hebrews 6: 18-19)

18 so that through two un-changeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us.

19 We have this hope as an anchor for our lives, safe and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain.

Blessed is the Wise Servant of God!

(Matthew 24: 42-46)

42 Therefore be alert, since you don't know what day your Lord is coming.

43 But know this: If the homeowner had known what time the thief was coming, he would have stayed alert and not let his house be broken into.

44 This is why you also must be ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

45 "Who then is a faithful and sensible slave, whom his master has put in charge of his household, to give them food at the proper time?

46 That slave whose master finds him working when he comes will be rewarded.

Fight A Good Fight! Finish Your Course!

(II Timothy 4: 7-8)

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

8 There is reserved for me in the future the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me, but to all those who have loved His appearing.

Conclusion:

God Uses Pressure or Hope to Unite and Motivate His People For His Purpose(s)!

Which Do You Prefer?