

Hijacked

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Script - 1 Pet. 2:9-10

A. Current events

1. For 2 very long months all the news was about COVID-19.
 - a. Shelter in place.
 - b. Flatten the curve.
 - c. Practice social distancing.
 - d. Wash your hands.
 - e. Wear a mask.
 - f. When will it end. Reopen America.

2. Then this week (May 25th, 2020) we all saw the horrific death of George Floyd.
 - a. Mass protest erupted.
 - b. The global reaction was massive rioting and looting.
 - c. George Floyd's death was the spark that lit the powder keg of the pent up frustration people were feeling from being cooped up, frustrated, under financial stress, etc.
 - d. The statement of US Attorney General Bill Barr. About radical lawless elements hijacking the legitimate protesters.
 - e. For a long time the SDA Church has been mentioned in several news articles as a model of racial integration. Although we do have some ethnic churches with different groups meeting we also have some very integrated churches like ours in Pacific Grove.
 - f. SDA's mourn with the family of Mr. Floyd at his horrific death.
 - g. SDA's have a long history of looking to the Bible for answers and understanding to current events that take place around us.

B. What can we learn from these current events?

1. Closing events in earth's history will be rapid ones.

a. We have warning from prophecy that there will be troublous times to come (Dan. 12:1-3).

b. We have been warned to be ready (Mt. 24:42-44; Lk. 21:34-35).

2. Any event that triggers a discussion about (law and order and forced obedience), could easily lead into a discussion about God's law and forced compliance, which according to prophecy will be a major issue at the end of time (The Seal of God; The Mark of the beast; The Image of the beast; Death decrees in the U.S.; etc.) (Rev. 13:11-12, 16).

3. Satan stands ready to move in, cause chaos and hijack us from the real issue (1 Pet. 5:8; Jn. 10:10).

a. Did Satan hijack the human race in the garden of Eden? (Gen. 3). Is he still a threat?

b. In Lk. 21:20-21 the disciples ask Jesus when would all these things happen and what will be the sign that they are beginning to take place and Jesus gave them signs to look for (Lk. 21:20-21; Mt. 7:21-23).

c. What are we as a church supposed to be doing? (1 Cor. 6:19-20; 1 Pet. 2:9). Giving the 3 angels messages; The remnant church of prophecy (Dan. 8:14; Rev. 10). Fulfilling the Elijah message - the forerunner of the coming King (Lk. 18:8; Rev. 12:11, 14; Isa. 53:11).

Under Pressure May 16th 2020

Script - Mal. 3:2-3; 1 Cor. 10:13.

A. Examples of being under pressure

1. Visiting an engineering lab at Walla Walla University. They showed us how they tested the strength of different objects. They put pressure on these objects until they failed then they knew what the breaking point was for each different kind of material.

2. Working as a chaplain at LLUMC and I observed several different people coming out of the effects of anaesthesia. Some were controlled and others were crying and carrying on as if they were dying. Different people have a different capacity for enduring uncomfortableness and pain. Pain tolerance.

3. Mal. 3:2-3 (Rev. 6:17).

B. The example of Daniel 3 - It is really a part of a bigger story, all of the book of Daniel.

1. Dan. 1 - Taken off to a foreign land. Probably separated from his parents. (Dan. 1) Standing by his principles. (Diet, not peer pressure).

2. Dan. 2 - Leaning on prayer for the answers that he needed.

3. Dan. 3 - Daniel's friends are standing up for their God. Did Daniel influence his friends to stand up for their God?

4. Dan. 4 - Daniel received special revelations from God and they were uncomfortable for him to deliver to Neb.

5. Dan. 5 - They were in the midst of a drunken party and Daniel is conspicuously absent from the party until called in to interpret the handwriting on the wall. It is said about him that the spirit of the living God dwells in him. He is also called 3 different times the "Dissolver of doubt". A very positive outlook.

6. Dan. 6 - Daniel in the lions den. He continued to pray even when he knew that the decree had been signed against him praying.

7. Dan. 7 - Special revelations from God about the future. A vision about the 4 beasts and about the 2nd coming.

8. Dan. 8 - Another special revelation about the Messiah and the Remnant church at the end of time. The 2300 days until the time of the end.

9. Dan. 9 - Answered prayer and revelations from Gabriel (2300 days explained). Prayers for others.

10. Dan. 10 - Gabriel is sent again with insights and words of encouragement for Daniel. Promise - (I will be with you always, even to the grey hairs...). Daniel 11:11-12.

11. Dan. 11 - further explanations from Gabriel.

12. Dan. 12 - A promise about God's people being delivered. Shut up the words and seal the book until the time of the end. And then a special blessing is mentioned for Daniel at the very last verse in the book (Dan. 12:13 about Daniel resting in Jesus and then rising to His reward).

C. What can we learn from the Bible today?

1. Daniel was blessed throughout his lifetime because of his unwavering allegiance to God.

2. Daniel communed with God through Prayer (Dan. 2:16-18; 6:10; 9:5).
3. Daniel's actions influenced others around him to be faithful to God (Dan. 3:17-18; 28-29).
 4. Daniel ran his life by principles from God's word, even during times of stress.
 - a. Diet
 - b. Habits - (Dan. 6) He was faithful in all his business dealings.
 - c. Finances - He was appointed to his high position to see that the king suffered no losses (Dan. 6). So we should be faithful to God in our support of his church (Mal. 3:8-11).
 - d. Sharing our faith and influencing others.