

# TIMES SQUARE CHURCH

**01** The Language of Hooks and Chains  
by Tim Dilena

**02** Summit Youth  
Conference

**03** The Holy Spirit and Bonefishing  
by RT Kendall

**04** Financial Peace  
University



## The Language of Hooks and Chains

**01**

Tim Dilena

Christian writer A.W. Tozer spoke these profound and prophetic words, “We need a baptism of clear seeing. We desperately need seers who can see through the mist...Christian leaders with prophetic vision. Unless they come soon it will be too late for this generation. And if they do come, we will no doubt crucify a few of them in the name of our worldly orthodoxy.” I see what is coming in this nation and I see what the church must become. I want you to see what happens to a nation that will not listen to God’s voice any longer. I believe when a nation refuses to listen to God’s voice, God will find another way to speak.

One day after millions celebrated the new year, 13 MILLION people thought they were going to do a Monday Night Football Game and ended up at a prayer meeting. The Bills and Bengals game was interrupted when 24-year-old Damar Hamlin collapsed on the field in the first quarter after having a heart attack. His heart stopped and he died on the field. The NFL was 9 minutes into the game when tragedy struck. Then the miraculous happened live. While medics worked on Damar, America had a prayer meeting. 100 millionaires on that field knew then that their money couldn’t fix Damar’s heart but praying to God could. As they prayed and the medics worked, his heart started to beat again.

**There were 3 things that I learned from that MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL game on January 2, 2023.**

**1. Money can’t fix our nation, only prayer can**

Some of the richest men in America on that field and in that stadium instinctively fell to their knees when they realized their resources can’t revive a dead man. People pray when they are in distress.

“ **Their money couldn’t fix Damar’s heart but praying to God could.** ”

**2. When it comes to life and death, all the laws prohibiting prayer and God are out the door.**

No one thought that night about what ESPN, the NFL, or the FCC would say about people praying to God. In fact, the next day on ESPN, while Damar was still in ICU, an ex-NFL player and commentator, Dan Orvlosky, stopped his commentary and prayed on live TV. He said, “God, we come to you and we believe You are God. We pray for healing for Damar, that You would heal him.”

# “When a nation stops listening and stops praying, God will get our attention.”

THE LANGUAGE OF HOOKS AND CHAINS

TIM DILENA

### 3. Finally, our nation can be brought to its knees in one single moment.

I believe revival in our nation will come that suddenly.

Multitudes prayed when people thought we were playing a game.

A physical heart attack seemed to awaken the spiritual hearts of people.

When a nation stops listening and stops praying, God will get our attention. God uses another language to get the attention of a nation that no longer responds to him. What language does God use? It's the language of hooks and chains.

We are now being warned about a new omicron variant, known as XBB.1.5, that is spreading like wildfire across the U.S. That same Monday night, Russian President Putin deployed a ship armed with the country's latest Zircon hypersonic missile into the Atlantic Ocean. That ship's hypersonic missiles are capable of penetrating any existing anti-missile defenses by flying nine times faster than the speed of sound at a range of more than 620 miles. Putin has emphasized that Zircon gives the Russian military a long-range conventional strike capability, allowing it to strike any enemy targets with precision.

We haven't even gone but a few days into 2023 and now new variants and threats are being reported.

It's amazing what distress, difficulty, and disaster will make people do. I believe it will make people turn to God. It's not God's preferred plan, but it is God's patience with us. This is the story of America and it's the story of Manasseh.

**Manasseh is the story of a powerful Old Testament king that would not listen to God speak until God used a different language, the language of hooks and chains.**

“The Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. Therefore the Lord brought the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria against them, and they captured Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze chains, and took him to Babylon. When he was in distress, he entreated the Lord his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. When he prayed to

Him, He was moved by his entreaty and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.” 2 Chronicles 33:10–13 (NASB)

**Did you see that Manasseh paid no attention to God until God used a different language, hooks, and chains? Manasseh ignored God until life became difficult and until Manasseh's power and resources couldn't fix his situation. That sounds very much like a Monday Night Football game on January 2nd.**

When God chooses to speak this way to a stubborn people, C. S. Lewis reminds us of Divine Humility. That it is very gracious of God to be persistent with us, when we only turn to Him in desperation. Lewis says, “God is not proud. He will still have us even though we have shown that we prefer everything else to Him.”

Sometimes no one ever really knows what lurks beneath the ground until things get a good shaking. A few years ago an April earthquake in the region of the Solomon Islands shook loose a World War II torpedo boat that had rested on the ocean floor for over 60 years. The entire boat hull was intact—explosives and all. Who knows what a good shaking can unearth?

And who knew that underneath such wretched disobedience of Manasseh that there would be a humble man?

What happened to Manasseh when God sent a shaking to Israel and He used hooks & chains to get him to his knees? In his distress, Manasseh humbled himself and prayed to God. II Chronicles 33:13 says that the shaking brought him to this revelation: “Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God”. It took hooks and chains to help Manasseh know that the Lord was God. The greatest thing that Manasseh received when he prayed, was not his throne back but his knowledge that the Lord was God. I believe a shaking is coming to our country.

Like the ocean earthquake, it will “unearth” things not seen for many years in America and multitudes will cry out to God. It's a shaking that will bring men to God once again. God is going to use the same language He did with Manasseh and it will have the same result. There is a distress coming to America. For decades, our country has not responded to God but a coming distress will make the nation pray again.

God is speaking today. The Bible constantly warns us not to treat the voice of God lightly. Three times in the book of Hebrews, there was this kind of warning. The book of Hebrews was written to a backsliding people. They were on the verge of going back to an old futile way of life without God. And this is what the author says repeatedly in Hebrews 3:8, 15; 4:7. Over and over again.

“Today if you hear His voice,  
do not harden your hearts”

## Summit Youth Conference

TSC’s Bible School, Summit, is excited to announce our second annual Summit Youth Conference is right around the corner. This two-day event, which is designed for middle school, high school, and young adult students will be held on March 31st–April 1st, 2023, and promises to be a powerful time of worship, teaching, and community building.

At this year’s Summit Youth Conference, participants will have the opportunity to connect with other young people who share their faith and grow in their relationship with God. Our speaker this year is Pastor David Ham, senior pastor of Soul Cry Church. Pastor David is a dear friend of Summit, having served at TSC and taught on the Summit’s campus over the years.

One of the unique features of the Summit Youth Conference is the emphasis on community building. Participants will have plenty of opportunities to connect with one another and build meaningful relationships that will last long after the conference is over. We’re excited to see how the momentum from our recent Revival Services will carry over into the Youth Conference. During Revival Services, we saw God move mightily and we believe that

## The Holy Spirit and Bonefishing

Many years ago I began hearing about bonefishing when we lived in South Florida. It literally involves hunting and fishing. Bonefish are found in very shallow water in the Florida Keys and the Bahamas. Something about it intrigued me. I was told they are extremely hard to catch, that you don’t fish for bonefish without a guide. Someone has to pole or punt the boat so another can cast for the fish—once you see them. You need the expert of a guide to find the fish first—hard to do. Then get the fish to take the bait—harder to do since it means perfect casting. Finally, to land the fish—a real challenge.

I went on my own to a fishing camp in Key Largo. I asked if I could rent a boat to go bonefishing. The manager said, “Who’s your guide?”

Take notice of God’s voice today. The nation of Israel & their leaders would not pay attention to God’s voice in their day. But they did pay attention to God’s hooks and bronze chains that took them to Babylon. Our country seems to continually reject God’s voice today. There is coming to this nation a mercy moment and men will again fall on their knees. Remember though, that mercy moment will come with great distress, with hooks and chains. But in the end, like Manasseh, men will know that the Lord is God.

02

Summit International School of Ministry

He will continue to move in the hearts of young people during this conference. We can’t wait to see how God will use this event to transform the lives of the young people who attend.



We encourage you to invite any middle or high school students you know to come join us! This is a great opportunity to grow in faith, connect with other young people, and have fun in the process.

For detailed information regarding registration, price and dates please visit [summitpa.org/youthconference](http://summitpa.org/youthconference).

03

R.T. Kendall

I didn’t have a guide.

“Are you a bonefisherman?”

“I will be after today”.

“Sir, have you ever been bonefishing before?”

“No”.

“Sir, no one—no one—goes bonefishing without a guide”, the manager cautioned me. You will never see them without a guide”.



## THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BONEFISHING (CONTINUED)



I tried bonefishing on my own without a guide. I was too proud to hire a guide and I didn't want to pay the price. But I couldn't find bonefish on my own. I spent months trying to find and catch a bonefish. I read magazine articles on how to catch a bonefish. I failed. But one day I swallowed my pride and hired a guide. He took me to the exact same place in Largo Sound where I had fished many times without seeing

them. Within a few minutes he pointed out a bonefish; I saw one for the first time. Before the day was over I hooked five bonefish. The guide made all the difference.

In preparing His disciples for the Holy Spirit to take His place, Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will "guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). Was the guide necessary? Absolutely. The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God for they are "foolishness" to him (1 Cor.2:14). We need the Holy Spirit—the guide. The natural man thinks he can read the Bible and understand it since he can read architecture, science or psychology. Wrong. He thinks his great brain will help him understand the word of God. Wrong. The Bible is a spiritual book; it was written by the Holy Spirit.

We must bow to the Holy Spirit. We must be led by the Holy Spirit. As God opened Lydia's heart (Acts 16:14), so too must the Holy Spirit enable us to understand His word. We are helpless without the Spirit. It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing (John 6:63).

Never—ever—attempt to understand the Bible without the help of the Author. If you want to get close to God, get close to the One who wrote it.

# Financial Peace University

04

Zamary was born again 9 years ago, a year after marrying her Muslim husband. When they married, they each brought two children into a new "blended family".

In addition to her two kids, Zamary also brought into her marriage a debt of \$68,000. However, once born-again, Zamary gained a new perspective and wanted to get out of the yoke of debt. She stumbled on a book, *Financial Peace*, that helps people get out of debt using Biblical principles. As she applied the lessons from the book, she managed to get out of debt and was able to tithe extra, as well as give toward charitable donations. But this was just the first step.

As others learned that Zamary got out of debt, they started asking her for help. She decided to become a financial coach. This opened doors to share about Jesus. All her lessons are grounded on the Bible and faith in Jesus, so she has a lot of opportunities to explain scripture and offer prayer to each student she helps, including Atheists, Jews, and Muslims.

Having a few classes under her belt, Zamary felt called to offer her class free of charge. When she prayed about how to do this, the Lord led her to Times Square Church Connect Groups! During her first group, her members started telling others about it. She's already started to set up a second group, which is already almost at full capacity.

As Zamary is serving others, the Lord is also using her testimony within her family. Recently, her family visited her husband's home



country of Lebanon. As they witnessed the poverty around them, they were moved with compassion and her husband started looking for ways to help. Zamary immediately said she would look at her budget and pray to see how she could help. Her husband was in awe that his Christian wife was so willing, and able to help when so many of his own peers were unwilling. Not only did she send money over, but she was able to introduce her husband to Christian missionaries and see the work they are doing in Lebanon to care for practical needs and share the love of Jesus.

There is still another miracle that Zamary needs however and that is the salvation of her husband and their 5 children. However, we are believing that God can move in their hearts as well and ask that you pray for Zamary's family too.