

Preparing for Captivity

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2 Chr 29:6-9 For our fathers have trespassed, and done that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD our God, and have forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the LORD, and turned their backs. ...{8} Wherefore the wrath of the LORD was upon Judah and Jerusalem, and he hath delivered them to trouble, to astonishment, and to hissing, as ye see with your eyes. For, lo, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives are in captivity for this.

I. When God's people forsake God and his ways He brings them into captivity.

Isa. 5:13 Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.

- A. God does this, and it is the only way to deal with his wayward people short of destroying them.
 - 1. It is chastisement and is meant for correction.
 - 2. It is harsh, humiliating, heartbreaking, and painful.
 - 3. It is God's only option when people refuse to listen and obey.

CAPTIVITY, n.

1. The state of being a prisoner, or of being in the power of an enemy by force or the fate of war.

2. Subjection; a state of being under control.

3. Subjection; servitude; slavery.

- B. God's people have already entered into captivity, but don't seem to be aware of it yet.
- C. We have no voice now – we are under the control of the wicked and those that hate God and his ways.
- D. It isn't about everyone having their rights – we have no rights anymore.
- E. They don't simply want the freedom to practice their iniquity – they want to force us to embrace it also and teach it to our children.
- F. The law is on their side and all the powers that be. (media, spiritual darkness, etc.)
- G. It is illegal to speak of our God or Christ in many public places, and it is even being forbidden in private places now in this country.
 - 1. At the same time it is a protected right for a man to go into a women's public restroom if he claims to be a woman.
 - 2. It is a hate crime to proclaim that homosexuality is wrong and Christians are losing their livelihoods and being put in prison for it now.
 - 3. And now with this pandemic, churches are targeted and forbidden to meet or sing, while Walmart, liquor stores, and nightclubs go on doing business.
- H. This is quite a difference from the days when a school teacher had to be a Christian or they were disqualified.
 - 1. Quite a difference from the acts of our Congress that appropriated money to buy Bibles for the citizens of the United States to make sure they were read in the schools. (September 11, 1777)

- II. God's people are scattered during a captivity.
 - A. Their contact with one another is limited to prevent them from strengthening one another.
 - B. This usually happens through the power of the state, but it is a reality now because of the supposed pandemic.
 - C. The apostasy, confusion, and wickedness that has saturated the minds and lives of those who identify themselves as Christians has prepared the churches for this, and therefore they are welcoming it, for the most part.

- III. Captivity does not always come from a sudden and violent invasion by the enemy, but sometimes starts slowly and gradually and then gets more and more oppressive.
 - A. When the children of Israel went into Egypt it was by divine provision and deliverance, but as time progressed it became captivity – and it got worse and worse.
 - B. Likewise, our forefathers came to this land by the hand of God and divine provision and it has now turned into captivity for the people of God.
 - C. So we can expect things to get worse and more oppressive as time goes on until Jesus comes for his bride.
 - D. Knowing this, we should begin to prepare ourselves and our families for what lies ahead.
 - E. Those who lead others into captivity usually try bribes and lies and trickery before they resort to violence and force. Listen to Rabshakeh the Syrian as he talks to the Jews:

Isa 36:16-17 Hearken not to Hezekiah: for thus saith the king of Assyria, Make an agreement with me by a present, and come out to me: and eat ye every one of his vine, and every one of his fig tree, and drink ye every one the waters of his own cistern; Until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of corn and wine, a land of bread and vineyards.

- F. Many modern churches and Christians have been bribed into submitting themselves to the wicked by their promises of security and their offers of financial help.
 - 1. For example, most churches have fallen into the trap of incorporating themselves in exchange for not paying sales tax on the things they buy. In so doing they have sold their right to preach and practice what the Bible clearly teaches.
 - 2. They are finding that they are defenseless in court when they refuse to perform ceremonies for same-sex marriages, or when they fire an employee or a teacher for immorality.
 - 3. The Bible is no longer their authority or guide for faith and practice – that is dictated to them by the state and the courts.
 - 4. They are servants of the state now and not servants of God.
 - 5. They are not free any longer, but are living under servitude and bondage to the wicked.
 - 6. This also goes for families who go to the government for help. The government is buying your rights and your children from you with the meager help they offer you.
 - a) There are always strings, and although they may not be obvious or exercised by them now, they have bound you with them and can use them when they please, so be prepared.

- IV. We must not keep our heads in the sand and just hope for the best! We must be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. We must foresee the evil and prepare for it!
- A. The oppression and harshness of the captivity brings to light those who were prepared for it and those who truly know and walk with God. (for example: Daniel and the Hebrew boys, Nehemiah, Mordecai, Ezra, etc.)
 - B. Captivity, therefore, is not always a bad thing, but a good thing for God's kingdom – because it purifies his people and vindicates his holy name.
 - C. The first step in preparing yourself and your family for what is coming is to disassociate yourself and your family from the false prophets of our day.
 - D. Captivity is always preceded and accompanied by false prophets having the ear of the people, and therefore holding them in blindness and deceit.
 - E. The false prophets will preach peace and safety, when sudden destruction is imminent – they will not teach you and encourage you to prepare for captivity.
 - F. If we do not separate from them we will remain in ignorance and blindness until it is too late to do anything about it.
 - 1. There were people in Israel who listened to Isaiah, Jeremiah, and the others.
 - 2. There were people in Israel who recognized the phoniness of the false prophets and refused to listen to them or allow them to influence their family.
 - 3. But these people were practically invisible because they were scattered from one another.
 - G. False prophets must be identified if you are to separate from them and not allow their influence upon your life or your family.
 - H. The Bible gives us plenty of information about them. Please listen to what the Bible says about them and see how relevant they are to our present situation.

Isa 9:16 For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.

Isa 56:10-12 His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. {11} Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter. {12} Come ye, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.

Jer 14:13-14 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place. Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

- I. False prophets do not walk with God and therefore do not get their messages from God.
- J. They are worldly minded, worldly trained and influenced, and instruments of Satan's world system of control.
- K. They are spiritually blind and do not see the trouble ahead for God's people.

Jer 23:32 Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.

- L. They are imposters and phonies, they are the blind leading the blind – and they will lead you and your children no where but into deeper oppression and captivity. Run from them!
- M. Be very, very careful who you listen to and allow to influence your views and opinions about sin, salvation, God, and our present situation.
- N. And start preparing for the captivity because it is upon us.
 - 1. Prepare to be more and more separated from other true believers.
 - 2. Learn about how to be a Christian and worship God without the freedom we have always taken for granted.
 - 3. Learn to keep a low profile on social media and in your community with your neighbors, etc.
 - 4. Prepare yourself and your family to know how and when to submit to ungodly rulers and their ungodly and unjust laws.
- O. Things are changing and have been for years, but the pace has picked up dramatically in this past year.
 - 1. It is not going to be reversed or even slowed down, but it is going to speed up even more.
 - 2. Be prepared.