

## You Are Not in Captivity. You Are Not a Captive.

You are not in captivity. You are not a captive. Despite the number of Christians today who liken themselves to Daniel or Esther living under pagan dominion, this is certainly not the Christian condition in America. This nation has not been dragged away by conquerors or conquered from within. It has not declared itself officially pagan or totalitarian. Rather, it is STILL a nation ruled, managed and inhabited by countless Christians. What we have here is not an Israel help captive. It is an Israel dwelling in corruption and sin. It is heading to a terrible captivity. But it is not there yet.

You really aren't in captivity when your head of state is a believer, and when thousands of local leaders are Christian. You see what I mean, brothers? You are not in captivity when you as a Christian have a right to elect and lobby government, and can legally practice many forms of activism. You are not a captive. You are free.

It may be true that we look to heroes like Daniel or like Esther anytime we feel outnumbered or up against a stronger anti-Christian force. They do indeed have this broader application. However, there is no possible direct application, as Christians are free men. They simply choose not to LIVE as Christians. They choose not to GOVERN as Christians. Yet they are free. Where in the book of Daniel do we see that the king was a Jew? Where do we see the bulk of his advisors were Jews? Where in Esther do we see that Ahasuerus, his advisors and his other wives were Jews? Where do we see that all the men planning to slaughter Jews were also Jews? It's simply not that case. That is why there is no direct comparison. You Christians are free men. You are just living in sin, and too weak to want to make a difference.

When a citizen decides to teach little children in school that sodomy is good and that two men can get married, it is often a Christian (NOT a Persian or Babylonian) who does so. It is often Christians who manage those same schools where they teach that evil. It is Christians who CHOOSE to send their children there. It is Christians who elected a government that allows an educational system which is godless and promotes evil. It is not forced at the point of the sword. That would be ridiculous. This is not North Korea. It is not even ancient Rome. It is America and we have mostly Christians to thank for the depraved nature of school teaching. Christians choose freely to do that every day.

You are not in captivity. You are not a captive. When a business decides to pump pagan music into the air of its shop or promote lewdness and homosexuality in its materials, it is frequently not an atheist who does it. Rather, most of the time it is a Christian. When managers decide they're going to sell depraved literature simply because they are popular and they make money, they are typically Christian managers. They have meetings with other Christian colleagues. Nebuchadnezzar didn't force them to. They decided freely to sell those things and expose everyone walking into their stores to see them. These men are not captives. They are corrupt.

When executives, from the president to state governors continue to allow abortion under their domain, they are not forced to do so. They could use their executive powers to send men to shut down the mills where they murder little babies, but they do not. Moreover, when they push for allegedly pro-life laws, all they attempt to do is limit the murder. They rarely attempt to end it. These are the free actions of Christians, collaborating with evil, and pagan kings did not force them to do it. They just thought it would be easier that way. They are not in pagan Rome but in hard-hearted Israel.

In fact, when our nation maintains a system of Positivist law, a legal system that makes no serious attempt to subject itself to the greater law of God, it is maintained by Christians. They wrote the law. They execute the law. They argue in the courts using a godless legal system. They make rulings based upon it. They know fully that it claims man is the source of truth and not God. On top of all that they make almost no attempts to build a legal system for the future which reflects God's perfect law. They willfully create and manage a Humanist institution. This is not the action of captives. It is the action of compromisers and cowards.

We sometimes remember the terrible persecutions of ancient Rome. They were intermittent, but they were bloody and ruthless. Christians rounded up and murdered in the cruelest of ways. This again reminds us of how absurd it is to claim we live in captivity just because of a depraved secular culture. I mean, just imagine in ancient Rome; an emperor who is Christian orders the execution of other Christians. Officers who are Christians carry out the orders. Executioners who are Christians heat up the boiling oil and throw the other Christians in it. Businessmen who are Christians make commemorative mugs of the event and sell them, because the market, just like Caesar, must be obeyed. You see, that is a little picture of what we have going on today in

much of the West. Men held captive by their own weakness and faithlessness. It is nothing like Roman rule. It is more like a Christian one. The Church throws its own to the beasts.

And truly, we CAN see a less bloody version of what I have just portrayed. For example, you will find a believer silencing another believer on the job, because he spoke about the Almighty or His perfect law. You can see a believer firing another believer from his job because he would not promote the lewdness and sodomy which is common to promote today. You can see believers kicking other believers out of ministries of all sorts because they dare to preach what the Bible actually says. You can see believers in schools demanding that their believer students wear uniforms that make them look like complete harlots. If they don't wear them they are disciplined. It goes on and on. It's just a long string of compromised Christians, running what in most appearances is a pagan nation. This is not Daniel in captivity in Babylon. This is the wicked kings of Israel persecuting the true prophets of God. We are our own worst enemy.

Now don't get me wrong. I DO believe a captivity is coming. It may not be a certainty, but I am confident in saying that it comes soon if we do not repent. A captivity will look NOTHING like what we have now. A captivity will mean jail, violence or execution for Christians who express their faith. It will mean a government clearly and openly aligned with Satan. It will mean a more forceful and systematic silencing of the Christian message and teaching. You will know it when it comes. It will be truly terrible and violent and will change the way you live. We must repent, brothers, or we will be purified in a very unlikeable way.

There are always those Christians who will shout out – Where does the Bible say we need to change our nation? Where does it say we should bring the truth to secular institutions? They are secular after all. And I understand the question. But I assure you, the role of the Christian is not sequestered in the personal realm, or in sharing the Gospel. Biblically, just look at the commandments. All of the moral and ethical commands are ours to keep, and they are ours to keep outside of our home, not just in it. That includes where we work, even if we work in government. So if you want a verse, go look at the commandments. We don't have carte blanche to lead people into sin, just because we've got a government job. We don't have carte blanche to deceive children, just because we teach in a public school.

So yes, the Bible instructs us to BRING IT, everywhere we go. And yes it will transform a nation if we do so faithfully, fully willing to accept the consequences. It's true that some Christians have a consistent ethic of refusal to be involved in the civic sector, such as the small minority of Anabaptists; traditional Amish or Mennonites. However, most people who try and sequester Christians into merely sharing the Gospel, do not belong to those groups. They belong to groups that regularly vote, that approve of Christian participation in government institutions, that go to pro-life marches, and so on. Therefore, if they raise the objection that most of what I say is outside of our calling, they are simply being inconsistent. They are backing out of certain arenas because they are scared. They are also unprepared to suffer loss. They like their comfort.

I assure you BOTH faithfulness to the Almighty and a coming captivity of the Church will involve sacrifice, suffering and loss. Yet it is clearly the FIRST that we should prefer; the sacrifice of Christians living their faith by ceasing to act like pagans in the public sector; the suffering of being hated by nearly everyone, not just for the Gospel, but for righteousness sake. There will be loss as well, and fewer comfortable Christians. But this will be the greatest thing to happen to us. Sometimes suffering is.

Therefore, do not ask yourselves – What would I do if I were in the position of the early Christians? If we were being tied up to stakes and set on fire? Rather ask yourselves this – What would I do if I were in the position of Caesar? The position of his counselors and generals? The position of the synagogue leaders back then? The position of the idol makers? Of the ordinary folk? Because brethren, THAT'S the position you're in. You are not in captivity. You are not a captive.