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## **“Contented Captive”**

*“If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.”*  
*(Revelation 13:10)*

### **Life-Long Captivity**

**Daniel 1:1, 3-4, 21** – (1) “In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. (3) Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, (4) youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king’s palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. (21) And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.”

**Daniel 6:16** – “Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, ‘May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!’”

### **Progressive Pilgrimage**

**Psalms 84:4-7, 10** – (4) “Blessed *are* those who dwell in Your house; they will still be praising You. (5) Blessed *is* the man whose strength *is* in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage. (6) *As they* pass through the Valley of Baca (*weeping*), they make it a spring; the rain also covers it with pools. (7) They go from strength to strength; *each one* appears before God in Zion. (10) For a day in Your courts *is* better than a thousand. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.” (NKJV)

### **God’s Captives Reap Joy**

**Psalms 126:1-6** – (1) “When the LORD brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed. (2) Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, ‘The LORD has done great things for them.’ (3) The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. (4) Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negev. (5) Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. (6) He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.” (NIV)

<b>Key Point: God’s Captives are Blessed; Now &amp; Later!</b>
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## **Response:**

### **(1) Choose Your Captivity**

“...

you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?” (Romans 6:16)

### **(2) Be Content with your Assignment**

“Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches.”  
(1 Corinthians 7:17)

### **(3) Remember, Joy will come**

“...Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.”  
(Psalm 30:5)

## **Questions:**

What impacted me the most in this message?

Do I lack contentment in the place God has me at this point in my life?  
(1 Tim. 6:6; Phil. 4:11-13; Heb. 3:2)

Am I thankful that I am a bond slave of Christ rather than a duped  
“free” person under the devil’s dominion? (Col. 1:13; 2 Tim. 2:26)

According to Luke 6:21, who is “blessed”? (see also John 16:20)