**Even in Captivity, great things can be accomplished for the Lord!** – **Lesson on Daniel at request of a brother**

**TAKEN INTO CAPTIVITY (Daniel chapter 1) -** Daniel and his three friends were taken into captivity. They had to do as they were told. But they took a stand for God, and God blessed them with the recognition of the King. Many of our freedoms are limited right now. But we can still take our stands for Jesus (**Acts 5:27-31**).

**GOD BLESSES DURING CAPTIVITY (Daniel 2:44-49) -** Daniel is blessed with a talent of wisdom and interpretation of dreams. He interprets King Nebuchadnezzar’s dream that include a prophecy of the Lord’s Church. Because of this God given talent, Daniel and his friends are blessed immensely, even in captivity!

Even in our recent lockdowns and limitations great things have been accomplished. The gospel continues to spread, God’s people continue to serve Him, and the lost are being saved. You know on the day of Pentecost Jerusalem was an occupied territory of the Roman Government. But the gospel kept spreading and people were being saved from their sins (**Acts 2:40-42; 4:4, 32; 5:42-6:1, 7; 8:4**).

**TRIALS TURNED INTO OPPORTUNITY FOR DANIEL’S FRIENDS IN CAPTIVITY (Daniel chapter 3) -** A golden image of Nebuchadnezzar of 90 feet high and 9 feet wide was set up to be bowed down to and worshipped. If one did not bow down to the image and worship it they would be cast into the fiery furnace. Daniel’s three friends now were in the midst of a trial for their lives. They turned that trial into an opportunity to stand for God (**Daniel 3:16-25**). By standing for God they influenced a King and a nation for good (**Daniel 3:28-30**).

We will have trials in this life. We need to pray that God gives us the wisdom to be able to turn those times of trials into opportunities. I think of Joseph of Arimathea (**Matthew 27:57-60**).

**TRIALS TURNED INTO OPPORTUNITY FOR DANIEL IN CAPTIVITY (Daniel chapter 6) -** Now Daniel is under trial, with the leaders scheming against him. They want to trap him because of his God (**Daniel 6:6-11**). By Daniel holding his ground for God, however, wonderful things result (**6:16-28**). Daniel continues to prosper in captivity, under another King.

Lately many men have been trying to limit our freedom to worship and trying to cause doubt in our faith for our God and our Savior Jesus Christ. We need to be like Daniel and serve God no matter what the situation, and good things will result (**Ezekiel 14:14, Romans 8:28**).

**AFTER 70 YEARS, DANIEL PRAYS (Daniel chapter 9) -** Our lives have been changed in the last 6 months. Things have changed in some ways that many of us would have never thought would happen. And I believe it is appropriate that we pray that things get better if it is God’s will. **In Daniel, his friends, and many Israelites, their lives were put into captivity for 70 years! Can you imagine that?**

Daniel kept track of the years (**Daniel 9:1-2**). And what does Daniel do? He humbly prays to God on behalf of himself and his fellow Israelites in captivity (**Daniel 9:3-19**). He wants Jerusalem, God’s city to be restored as it was in the past. God hears Daniel (**Daniel 9:20-23**). Daniel is strengthened (**Daniel 10:19**). And Daniel was comforted (**Daniel 12:9-13**).

Prayer is still powerful. If we are in the bondage of sin, prayer to God can help us get through it and overcome those temptations. When we are anxious, prayer can calm us. When we are uncertain, prayer can reassure us and keep us focused on the goal of Heaven.

***Even in Captivity, great things can be accomplished for the Lord.***

Maybe you are a Christian who has allowed sin to keep you in captivity. We are here to help and encourage you. God does not want you to be captive to sin anymore!

Maybe you are not a Christian. You have not humbled yourself completely to God’s will. Be like Daniel and humbly obey. Repent of your sins, confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and be baptized so that your sins can be washed away. Rising from the waters of baptism is when you are born again, not to live for yourself, but to live for God!

Please make you wishes be known while we stand and sing!