

THE ROAD TO CAPTIVITY Daniel 1:1-2

Intro: The siege and captivity of Jerusalem by the Babylonians spoken of by Daniel took place in 605 B.C. The road that led to this capture and also the deportation of Daniel and his three friends began many years before. It started when the children of Israel began to toy around with other gods, making idols to them and worshiping the idols. God had said to His people in Exodus 20:3: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Yet, the people of Jehovah God ignored the command of God believing that they could go on in sin and not be punished for it. Along with idol worship, God's people became deeply involved in immoral perverted behavior. God had commanded His people in Exodus 20:14: "Thou shalt not commit adultery." But the children of God went into sin and thought that Jehovah God would allow them to sin and not bring His judgment upon them.

The carrying away captive of Daniel and many others was the realization of God's warnings to Israel through His preachers the prophets.

Many people in our day have the attitude of Israel, believing that they can continue in sin without consequence. Galatians 6:7 plainly proclaims: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." I am afraid that Hosea 8:7 is about to come true in America: "For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind..."

What we see in the Book of Daniel is the end of Israel as an independent nation for 2554 years. With the events recorded in the Book of Daniel, Israel ceases to be a sovereign state until 1948 A.D.

Any nation that thinks that it cannot fall should learn from the Book of Daniel that, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and a; the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17) Let us also be reminded of the words of Psalm 33:12: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own."

There are three sins that led to the captivity of Israel, three sins that Israel followed down the road to bondage: insubordination to the Word of God, idolatry, and immorality.

I. INSUBORDINATION TO THE WORD OF GOD

A. God had sent His message to the people over and over, and they ignored it. Great men of God stood and proclaimed the message of repent or perish, but they were largely ignored.

1. Israel had ignored the Sabbath day and the law concerning the Sabbath year (Jeremiah 34:12-22).
2. One of the reasons that Israel was led away captive was bad leadership. The King of Judah was a wicked man named Jehoiakim . Jerry Vines said of him: "He was a godless man with no reverence for the things of God." (20) In Jeremiah 36:21-26, we see the disregard of the Word of God by Judah's leader; this disregard led in part to the captivity of Israel.
3. It is important what a ruler believes because it affects the entire nation. The Word of God says in Proverbs 29:2: "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn."

B. Dear ones, we are to treasure the Word of God and not forsake it.

1. Proverbs 19:7 tells us that: "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple." Then in verse 10, the Bible says: "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."
2. Psalm 89:30-32 tells us that there is a penalty for forsaking the law of God, His Word, as did Jehoiakim: "If his children forsake my law and walk not in my judgments; if they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes."

II. IDOLATRY

A. All over Israel today there is the evidence that has been left archaeologically, reminding us of the idolatry that the children of God became involved in.

1. King Solomon sinned by going into idol worship (1 Kings 11:4-8).
 2. Jeroboam made golden calves for the people to worship; thus leading them astray (1 Kings 12:28-29).
 3. Ahab was a wicked ruler, and he was an idol worshiper (1 Kings 16:30-33).
 4. Because of the sin of idolatry that the children of God got involved in, they were led away captive to Babylon, one of the wickedest cities at that time led by the great idolater Nebuchadnezzar.
- B. The scriptures are very clear for us when it comes to the sin of idolatry. Leviticus 19:4: "Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the Lord your God."
1. Idol has become a big word in our society today. The definition of an idol is: "A false god, an image used as an object of worship, one that is adored in the place of Jehovah God."
 2. God warned Israel of His coming judgment upon them if they did not turn from idols. They did not listen, and another nation came to rule over them.

III. IMMORALITY

- A. As a result of the insubordination against the Word of God and the sin of idolatry, Israel fell into immorality, into moral apostasy.
1. Rampant immorality is the sign of a nation that has lost its moorings and is adrift in the sea of sensuality.
 2. Isaiah speaks of the condition of Israel in words that remind us of our own nation (Isaiah 1:4-6).
 3. Ezekiel 22:11 paints a horrible picture of the sexual sins of Israel.
- B. New Testament believers are warned against sexual immorality.
1. 1 Corinthians 6:18 says, "Flee fornication..."
 2. Galatians 5:19 tells us what the works of the flesh are. Now the works of the flesh are manifest which are these: Adultery, fornication [illicit sex],

uncleanness [living a life of sexual filth, wicked mind, wicked actions, profligate living], lasciviousness [unbridled lust, shamelessness].”

3. It is sad to hear of the so called young idols who are dying young because of a life of sin. Christian do not be fooled by the world.
4. Dr. John Walvoord said: “Worldly saints do not capture the world, the world captures them.”

Conclusion: What a terrible thing sin is, and how awful the captivity it brings. Yet there is an answer; the answer, the only answer is Christ crucified, buried and risen again.

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