

## Hope in Captivity part 1

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## The Biblical Cycle of Judgment and Deliverance

Is there hope in captivity? In Romans 15:4 Paul writes to the Christians at Rome, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." This Bible has been given to us in great numbers only during the last few generations. With the high-speed printing press, practically every family in Christendom now has available to them one or more Bibles, and we are to read these because through the scriptures we might have hope.

Now at the same time, the people of Christendom in America and Europe, and in other parts of the lands which claim the name of Christ, are fearful, and they are looking at trouble. They are fearful of captivity. They are becoming alarmed about many things. All of these nations have the same problem that we do: an increasing control by their national or federal government. The debt in the land is increasing to the extent that people are working one-third to one-half of their time just to pay the interest in taxes to their local government, the metropolitan areas, the states, and the federal government, and so on. There is a tremendous increase in lawlessness and immorality and disease in the land. At the same time, the alien nations which are born to destroy us are increasing with great might while we are decreasing. Our military might is practically non-existent today.

And yet Russia is now reaching a point with their navy where they can control most of the seven seas. The American fishermen and the Canadian fishermen along both of our coasts are being driven from the ocean by Russian trawlers and fishermen that come through and drag their nets right through our fishermen's nets, destroy all of their gear, and the fish that they had been harvesting and selling in America is now going to other lands. This and a thousand other things which I could mention stare us in the face right at the time that the scripture says we are supposed to have hope by reading the Bible.

In verse 8 he says of Christ, "I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers." And perhaps these are related. These promises made unto the fathers might be related to what is happening to us today, even the bad things or the terrible things which we fear. But anyway, since our near future seems to be one of captivity unless the situation is reversed, let us turn back to the book of Judges. For in this book Israel went into captivity several times. And if we are God's people, and if we are headed for captivity under alien hands and by alien people, and Paul says we are supposed to learn from these scriptures and this history of Israel and God's word to the Israel people, let us read some of these things that happened to them, specifically having to do with captivity.

Israel, as you know, by the time we reach the book of Judges, had come out of Egypt. They had been in the wilderness. They had been given the law at Mount Sinai. Moses had died. Joshua had brought them into the land, and they had actually conquered and taken over a good part of

the promised land, or Canaan land. Then in chapter 2 of Judges, in verse 1, "And an angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you." In other words, God reiterated His promise that He made with them and said, I will not break it. "And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?"

God had given the Israel people certain instructions. They were not to make treaties with non-Israel people, and they were not to allow alien religions to flourish in the land of Israel. But they had done both of these things, and God says, "Why have ye done this? Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you." Joshua had told them, and Moses had told them, that if they did not drive out the alien, the heathen, the Canaanite from the land of Israel, then God would just leave them there, and these heathen people would be a snare to Israel and their gods would be a trap unto them. They would be thorns in their side. And this is, of course, what happened to them by the time we come to this portion of the book of Judges.

"And it came to pass, when the angel of the Lord spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices, and wept." They repented when the angel of the Lord came. "And they called the name of that place Bochim: and they sacrificed there unto the Lord." And when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel went every man unto his inheritance to possess the land. "And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord, that he did for Israel." Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being an hundred and ten years old, and they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash. "And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel."

This was the third generation after coming into Canaan land. And you know, of course, I am going to make a comparison with this to our coming into this land on this North American continent. Our fathers who came here from Europe were Christian people who believed in the God of Israel, and they knew and understood that God had actually brought them here. In fact, as you read some of the old sermons that were preached in the sixteen hundreds and seventeen hundreds, they likened their coming through this covenant to that of Israel coming out of the land of Egypt, coming through the sea and through the wilderness into the promised land.

But now time has gone by. A generation is now living in this land, as it was in old Canaan land, who had not personally seen God's deliverance of the Israel people. They had been told this by their fathers, but they had not personally seen it. "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim. And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the Lord to anger."

Now this seems as if that is impossible here today. Some of you recall that I did a sermon one time at a conference titled *The Bible in America and America in the Bible*. There was a book written in the nineteen thirties in which the man had written about all of the different translations of the Bible that were used in colonial America, later when we became a nation, and right up to the present day. But in giving the history of the Bible in America, he told about many of the early colonies, who founded them, and their Christian background, and so on. He repeated there something we know from other history books. In the early colonies in America, none but Christian people were allowed to vote or hold office. In fact, even in the great colony of Pennsylvania under William Penn, who was noted for his tolerance of all branches of the Christian faith, Catholics and Jews were not allowed to vote or hold office. And this remained true in some of the colonies for over a century, for over a hundred years. In many of the colonies they would not even allow a Jew to live, and the Catholics were so persecuted that, according to that book, *The Bible in America*, and according to other textbooks that I have, at the time of the American Revolution there were only twenty-four Roman Catholic priests in all of the colonial area. Catholicism was practically non-existent, was not allowed literally in the colonies of the United States.

Now, in Israel coming into Canaan land, God told them specifically and in great detail they were not to allow the worship of any other gods but the God of Israel. They were to drive those people out. And if they would not turn away from their gods, they were to put them to death. Today in America, I do not know the specific figures, but something like one-third of the people of this land are professing Catholics. And if you will take a look at the national government, you will find that in the executive branch of the United States government, about ninety percent of the men in the top offices are Jews, the same people that our forefathers refused even to allow to vote.

Going on in the second chapter of Judges, "And they forsook the Lord, and served Baal and Ashtaroth." Now this is another thing that I believe we have done. Not only have we allowed the alien to come in and take over the land to some extent, but we have allowed them to insinuate the doctrines of their heathen religion into what we call Christianity. And I am not going to give you a lot of details on that, but for new listeners I would heartily recommend that you get my series on *There Are Disciples of Baal in America*. I think you will be surprised, as I have been during the last five to ten years as I began to study this, to discover that many of the doctrines, yes, the doctrines which are taught from supposedly Christian pulpits, are identical to that which was taught by the Canaanites under what they called, and what we call today, Baal worship in old Canaan land.

Just recently many of the Christian preachers and other people have been surprised when the wife of the President of the United States apparently made some sort of a public statement where she spoke up and implied that she did not mind if her daughters had premarital sex, and she also spoke in favor of abortion. Now many people who attend Christian churches are upset about that, and they are surprised and they are angry, and so on. But perhaps most of them do not know that Baal worship involved adultery. In fact, the act of adultery was an act of religious worship under

the worship of the god Baal. And the religion of Baal worship required a blood sacrifice, and that blood sacrifice required under Baal worship was a little baby. A little baby was killed and offered for a sacrifice to Baal.

Well, in America they call it abortion, and something like one million young babies, many of them only a few weeks old in their mother's womb, are being killed every year in America. People think of it as foolishness or medical malpractice, and some think of it as a crime of murder. But very few people understand that it is actually an act of religious worship, of Baal worship. And these people who are performing this and promoting it, who are trying to make it legal, and people like Mrs. Ford who come out in favor of it, are actually in effect Baal worshippers. That is their religion, and that religion is in the land of America.

"They forsook the Lord, and served Baal and Ashtaroth. And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies." Now this word spoilers here means robbers, plunderers, people who steal from the children of Israel. I do not know what you think is happening to you when you work for some employer for fifty weeks out of the year, and when you get your paycheck you only get about sixty-five to eighty-five percent of what you earn. And then when you go to the store to buy things, you pay anywhere from five to twenty-five percent of that price in taxes. You are being spoiled. You are being robbed. You are being plundered. And here God says because Israel worshiped other gods, He turned them over to the spoilers. He actually turned them over to people who would rob and plunder those people.

We in America have, as I have mentioned many times, about eighty million people working at full-time jobs. We produce more manufactured goods than all the rest of the world put together. We have the largest agricultural crop harvest of any nation on the face of the earth. And yet our people are in debt to the extent that the average American worker when he dies leaves an estate of approximately two thousand dollars. Has he been robbed? Has he worked all of his life and found that what he worked, the fruit of his labor, is taken from him? Obviously it has been. And if we are to learn anything from the scripture, we had better start relating what God did to the children of Israel to what is happening to us.

"Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the Lord was against them for evil, as the Lord had said, and as the Lord had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed. Nevertheless the Lord raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them." Yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods and bowed themselves unto them, and they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the Lord, but they did not so. And when the Lord raised them up judges, then the Lord was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For it repented the Lord because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them.

Really, the history of America has been somewhat in the same manner. We have had revivals and our people have turned to God, and God has blessed us, and then we have turned

around. We have gone into sin and iniquity, and we have had judgment upon it. Abraham Lincoln knew enough about this Bible that if you read his words carved in the marble of the Lincoln Monument in Washington, D.C., he states specifically that the Civil War was the hand of judgment of God upon this nation for its sin and iniquity. Now we do not have presidents like that anymore. In fact, we hardly have preachers like that anymore who will tell our people that our troubles, our trials, and our tribulations are because we have disobeyed the God of Israel.

Verse 19 says, "And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way." And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel. He said, "Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice; I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died: that through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the Lord to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not." Therefore the Lord left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua.

In other words, God said, All right, if you want to go whoring after these other gods, I am going to allow the aliens, the heathen, the non-Israelite, to remain in your land to test you, to tempt you, to see whether you follow Me or whether you will follow their gods. Some of you Christian people, I am sure, have been surprised in the last few years to find that even the Indians are rising up and telling our people they want nothing to do with the white man's God, and they are kicking the missionaries off the reservations. In fact, here in Arizona they have ordered the ranchers off their reservation, and they are telling us this is their land and we are to leave. And God said to ancient Israel, I will leave these heathen in the land, and they will become thorns in your sides, and their gods will be a snare unto you.

Some of you know that one of the tribes up in northern Arizona and northern New Mexico has a religion which involves the use of drugs, peyote or something like that they call it. Many of our people are actually getting involved in the taking of that drug because they follow that religion and they eat that poison, that berry or whatever you call it. This is happening all over this land. In our case, apparently there are not enough of the heathen and the antichrist and ungodly people in our land for God to test us, so He is allowing them to come in. And they are coming in by the hundreds of thousands and the millions.

They brought one hundred thousand of the Vietnamese in, and one of the first things that they did when they landed in California was for the Buddhist priest to set up a little chapel, or whatever you want to call it, in the army barracks there, and they had worship to Buddha and they praised Buddha for their deliverance into this land. Is the worship of other gods going on here? Of course it is. Even the Jews are coming in, God only knows how many. The United States government passed a law some several years ago, about five years ago now I believe, and the American taxpayer, unknown to most of them, is paying every Jewish family that leaves Russia a cash sum of thirty thousand dollars. How would you like to get thirty thousand dollars in cash from your government? Every Jewish family leaving the Soviet Union is given thirty

thousand American dollars from the American taxpayer, supposedly to relocate them in Palestine. About half of them do not stay in Palestine. They are coming on to America, and they are buying the little stores and all of these small businesses all over this land, and they are coming in with that money and they are buying America with your money.

God, I believe, is actually allowing the Asiatics and the Negroes and the Jews to take over much of this land because we are doing exactly what our fathers did in ancient Israel. We are turning from Him. We are not following His commandments, and we are worshiping other gods.

Let us go on in chapter 3. "Now these are the nations which the Lord left, to prove Israel by them, even as many of Israel as had not known all the wars of Canaan; only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof; namely, five lords of the Philistines, and all the Canaanites, and the Sidonians, and the Hivites that dwelt in mount Lebanon, from mount Baal-hermon unto the entering in of Hamath. And they were there to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the Lord, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses."

Well, here I wonder, did Israel pass the test? "And the children of Israel dwelt among the Canaanites, Hittites, and Amorites, and Perizzites, and Hivites, and Jebusites: and they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods." They intermarried with these dark-skinned Canaanites and they worshiped their gods. Today in America, finally some of our people are beginning to realize that our government has been taken over by people who are going to force us to intermingle with the heathen.

Just recently they have had a lot of trouble in Boston, Massachusetts, as you know, because they had a federal court order that commanded them to bus the little Negro children and the Puerto Ricans and the rest of them into the white schools, and to bus white children into the Negro schools. They have been doing that, but they have had so much trouble that about seventy-five percent of the white children are either not going to school or they have started private schools. Well, just last week I heard an announcement on the radio that someone has stated that they are going to now get a federal court order which will take the Boston school district out from under the hand of the local school board and place it in trusteeship under a federal judge.

Remember during the Revolutionary War that our fathers declared their independence from England because they said, among other things, one of the things that king did was to remove the colonial elected officers and place his own appointed people over them. That is what our federal government is doing to us today. They are beginning to remove our local elected officers and place various parts of our government and society under appointed federal or monarchical judges. This is happening, I believe, because we have allowed this thing to come to pass. The people have said, "Oh, there is nothing wrong with mixing with the Negro." And God says, "All right, if you think you can mix with the Negro, I will show you how to mix with the Negro. I will move them right into your homes and into your schools, and we will see how you like it." And I believe this is the hand of God of judgment on us.

When we will not learn to separate ourselves from the heathen, God turns right around and lets us have the thoughts of our own heart. He says, All right, I will leave the heathen. I will

multiply them in the land, and you will have them. Now how serious was this intermarriage here, as they took their daughters to be their wives and gave their daughters to their sons? Verse 8 says, "Therefore the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hand of Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia: and the children of Israel served Chushan-rishathaim eight years." Israelites intermarrying with the heathen is so serious in God's sight that He actually puts them in captivity among aliens and other peoples and other nations.

Verse 9 says, "And when the children of Israel cried unto the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the Lord delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim. And the land had rest forty years." Then Othniel the son of Kenaz died, and then everything was all fine and they lived happily ever after, right? The next verse says, "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the Lord." He gathered unto him the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and smote Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees. So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years.

So they were released again, and this goes on and on. Every time Israel turned around, God said, All right, this is what you want, I will let you have it. And they had it to the extent that they ended up in captivity. Chapter 4, starting in verse 1: "And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the Lord, when Ehud was dead. And the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, that reigned in Hazor." Again they were put into captivity.

Here is a long one in chapter 6, which we have gone into in some detail before, so I will only read the first part of it. "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. And the hand of Midian prevailed against Israel: and because of the Midianites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strong holds." You know, I get many patriotic newspapers and newsletters, some Christian publications, and I am sure you get some of them. There is developing quite a business in America of selling survival equipment. Our people are actually considering the necessity of finding dens and caves in the mountains and hills in order to survive. This is what happened to Israel. They were sent into captivity under these Midianites, and they actually had to build them dens which are in the mountains and caves and strongholds.

"And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them." These children of the east, we have identified them here before. They are what we know today as the Jews, and they are Asiatics. They are Orientals. They are plunderers. "And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass." I do not know how many of you have actually considered the difference in the available food in America today compared to even five years ago.

About five years ago we had surpluses stored in granaries all over America. About fifteen years ago you could drive across North and South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, parts of Wisconsin, and the rural areas, and you would see farmers who had purchased maybe five or ten or fifty or a hundred of these portable metal granaries in order to store the surplus commodity that they had produced in their fields. That is all gone. The government granaries are empty, as far as we know. Today, if this last sale which is going to be made to Russia this year is completed, there will be less grain in America than necessary to continue to feed our people by this winter.

Now here in ancient Israel these people came up and encamped against them, and they actually destroyed the increase of the earth. They destroyed part of the crops, and the rest of it they took themselves. We have something called the ecology movement in America today, and we think it is here to help us, to help give us clean water and clean air, and so on. But if you analyze the operation, even that part of the government that is operating under the so-called EPA, or Environmental Protection Agency, you will find that their activities primarily result in limiting the production of the American businessman, factories, and farms. They are being closed down all over this country by these people. They are actually limiting or destroying the increase of the earth.

Verse 5: "For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came as grasshoppers for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it." We have had in America in the last fifteen to twenty years many hundreds of thousands of so-called refugees. Even as long ago as the Hungarian Revolution, when the people of Budapest and the surrounding area almost threw off the communist yoke, they had refugees who were sent over here. Well, our people did not have sense enough to realize that all of those people who came out of Hungary immediately when the revolution started were not the anti-communists, because the anti-communists were winning. Those refugees were communists.

In fact, the head of the House Committee on Un-American Activities at that time, after they had made an investigation, discovered that President Eisenhower had given a specific order for planes to fly to Austria to pick up sixty-two hundred refugees from Hungary. The chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities said that their investigation showed that every one of those sixty-two hundred were communists. The Hungarians were driving them out during the first approximately ten days, and they left, and Eisenhower flew them all to America. During the succeeding months, when the Russian tanks came in and began to fight the Hungarians and take over control, then many thousands of anti-communist Hungarians escaped from Hungary and went to Austria, but there were no planes there to bring them to America. They ended up staying back in Europe.

This has probably been true of many of these people who came out of Cuba, and the people who came out of China, and the people who came out of Vietnam. They are coming here supposedly as refugees from communism, but our government, which does everything it can to help communism and to help the communist nations, obviously would bring communists to America, not anti-communists. So here in ancient Israel these people actually entered into the

land of Israel to destroy it. I wonder how many of those refugees who have come to America in the last twenty years have come here for our destruction.

Now how could this happen? How could these people do this in America, and how could they do it in ancient Israel? Well, I think the answer is in verse 1: "The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years." God Almighty is delivering America into the hands of its enemy. We can blame the enemies. We can blame the politicians. We can blame ourselves for being blind and not seeing it. But I believe we should see the hand of God in it. Gideon delivered them, and of course that is a story in itself which we have on tape. If I recall, it is either in six or eight sermons to cover the next two chapters. But let us read what happened after Gideon.

Chapter 8, starting in verse 33: "And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel turned again, and went a whoring after Baalim, and made Baal-berith their god. And the children of Israel remembered not the Lord their God, who had delivered them out of the hands of all their enemies on every side: neither shewed they kindness to the house of Jerubbaal, namely, Gideon, according to all the goodness which he had shewed unto Israel." The same kind of fools in ancient Israel as we seem to have here in America today.

Turn with me over to the New Testament again, to First Corinthians chapter 10, a well-known passage by most of our Kingdom people, of Paul quoting the history of Israel in the first verses. Then he says in verse 11, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." And we read Romans 15:4, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Did ancient Israel learn from this? Apparently they did not. Are we supposed to learn from this? Apparently we are. And the question that will be answered in the years to come is whether America will learn from the experiences of the ancient Israel people given here in the Bible.

If this is the end of the age, and we are God's people, as I believe we are, then these things that happened to them are written for our learning, upon whom the ends of the age, or the ends of the world, are come. Let us go back to Judges chapter 10, starting in verse 6. "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroath, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon, and the gods of Moab, and the gods of the children of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines, and forsook the Lord, and served not him." Apparently they had quite a few different denominations there, did they not? Every one of these different tribes had a different religion, and that is what we have in America. They call them Christian religions. And again, as I said before, most of them, if you examine them, you will find much of what they teach is actually Baal worship.

"And the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Philistines, and into the hands of the children of Ammon. And that year they vexed and oppressed the children of Israel: eighteen years." Moreover, the children of Ammon passed over Jordan to fight also against Judah, and against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was sore distressed. "And the children of Israel cried unto the Lord, saying, We have

sinned against thee, both because we have forsaken our God, and also served Baalim." They finally came out of it again, like they had done many times, and realized what they had done and turned to God.

Now there are two specific things that we should learn in the book of Judges, these things which were written for our learning, upon whom the ends of the ages are come. Number one: it is God Almighty who delivers His people into bondage. It is not the power or the cunning of the enemy. It is not really our own stupidity in not knowing about the enemy. The only place stupidity enters into it is our not serving our God. God delivers us into the hands of the enemy. In fact, in chapter 3 and verse 12, which we perhaps should read again, it says here, "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the Lord."

If we do not have enemies who are strong enough to cause us trouble and to take us into captivity when we disobey God, then what does God do? He raises up that enemy. He strengthens that enemy. If it is necessary to take the food from our fields and the produce from our factories and send it over to them, then God sees that it is done. I know some of my conservative friends have blamed Hubert Humphrey and Orville Freeman for making the arrangement some years ago to send most of the grain out of Minnesota and the granaries of North and South Dakota to the Soviet Union and to China. Well, they were at fault to some extent, but I think they were nothing but fools in the hand of God. God sent that grain over there because we, like our fathers in ancient Israel, have sinned against Him.

God is building up and strengthening and providing the military might for those nations to come against us to punish us. Once we get that through our heads and realize it is the sovereignty of God that is involved here, then of course, for the first time, we will begin to see what is happening. We know from the last experience of the last sixty years that communism is an economic failure. Every nation which has been taken over and controlled by the communists ends up with disaster, not only in their farms but in their factory production. How do they get this strength? Where do they get it? They get it from us, and it can only come because God Almighty is allowing it to be taken to them. Even such a little nation as Cuba is now a threat to us. Such a little nation as Vietnam, or North Vietnam, beat us and won a war. Why? Because God strengthened them against us.

And number two, as you should learn, is given over and over in here. I think I will read just the verses. You do not have to turn with me. I want to read just a few that we have already seen. Chapter 2, verse 11: "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim." Verse 13: "And they forsook the Lord, and served Baal and Ashtaroth." Chapter 3 and verse 6: "And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods." Chapter 6 and verse 10: "And I said unto you, I am the Lord your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice." Chapter 8 and verse 33: "And it came to pass, as soon as Gideon was dead, that the children of Israel turned again, and went a whoring after Baalim, and made Baal-berith their god." And in

10:6, "And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim, and Ashtaroth, and the gods of Syria, and the gods of Zidon," and so on.

I repeat again, if we are in truth God's people, and if we are coming under captivity at the hands of those who hate us, it must be because we are doing exactly what God said ancient Israel did. They turned from Him, and they served other gods, and He sent them into captivity.

Let us close by reading Exodus 20 for today, and we are going to continue this next week. This is the giving of the Ten Commandments: "And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

That is pretty plain, would you not think? No other gods except the God of creation, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I want to read one more verse of scripture, which will give you something to think on until we continue next. Read Leviticus 26. God told the Israel people what would happen to them if they disobeyed. Here are two verses of scripture that we use over and over when we go to Washington, D.C., so we can tell these men why these things are happening to us. He said to them, if they would not obey, in verses 16 and 17, "I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you."

We were in Washington just shortly after they made this huge grain purchase several years ago, and a lot of those conservative congressmen were very, very upset about all of this grain going to the Soviet Union. So we read this verse of scripture over and over to these men. We said, Look, it is happening because God has decreed it. He told us, "If we would not obey, ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it." It is not going to our friends. It is going to our enemies. "They that hate you shall reign over you." Our forefathers who founded this nation refused to allow Jews and Catholics to vote or hold office in this land because they knew they were not for this people and this nation. Today, at least one-third of the Congress of the United States is Catholic. At least ninety percent of the men in top offices in the executive branch are Jewish. "They that hate you shall reign over you." It has come to pass in America.

I wonder if we will learn what ancient Israel did not, that it is our fault. We have turned from the God of our fathers. Next week, God willing, we are going to continue and show you the pattern and the prophecy and what will happen. Because, praise God, we will turn. We will be delivered.

Let us stand.

Our Father and our God, we thank Thee for these words that Thou hast provided. We ask for mercy, Lord. We have turned away. We have gone away backwards. We have turned and worshiped other gods, done all these terrible and vicious and ungodly, filthy things that our fathers have done, and we have done their work. We pray in the name of Christ that Thou hast mercy upon us and upon this people, to deliver us, in Jesus' name.

Amen.