Taken Prisoner

The Brazen Serpent

Zec 9:12 Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee;

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

I Cor. 10:9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

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.

Num. 21:1 And when king Arad the Canaanite, which dwelt in the south, heard tell that Israel came by the way of the spies; then he fought against Israel, and took some of them prisoners.

* What has taken you

Has something taken a hold of you, hindering you, carrying you off?

John 8:3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

Acts 8:7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

27:20 And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

I Cor. 10:13 There hath no temptation **taken you** but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

2Ti 2:26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are **taken captive** by him at his will.

1. Unbelief is the number one cause for defeat
2. Discouragement is right behind it.
3. Complaining is usually the first sign that shows up.

Numbers 21:5 “the people spake against God, and against Moses”

* Take His word seriously
  + Faith cancels unbelief, discouragement and complaining.

II Cor. 1:20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

Gal. 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Heb 6:12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Num. 21:1 And when king Arad the Canaanite, which dwelt in the south, heard tell that Israel came by the way of the spies; then he fought against Israel, and took some of them prisoners.

2 And Israel vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou wilt indeed deliver this people into my hand, then I will utterly destroy their cities.

3 And the LORD hearkened to the voice of Israel, and delivered up the Canaanites; and they utterly destroyed them and their cities: and he called the name of the place Hormah. {Hormah: that is, Utter destruction}

* We don’t know what happened to the prisoners
* Finding prisoners is not fun
* Finding repentance is better

Vowing vows and promising other men rather than keeping the conditions of the promises of God leads to harder times.

Num. 21:4 And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way.

5 And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

6 And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.

7 Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken **against the LORD**, and **against thee**; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

8 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

Num. 21:4 And **they journeyed** from mount Hor by the way of the **Red sea**, to compass the land of Edom: and **the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way**.

1. Christ the Way symbolized in the way of the Red Sea(The Way)
2. Christ the Bread of life, the bread of God and the Bread of Heaven symbolized in the Manna. (The Truth)
3. Christ the Savior and Deliverer lifted up, symbolized in the brazen Serpent.(The Life)

v.7 “We have sinned”

Complaining is a sin

Compassing around is a sin- straight forward is the promise.

You can’t follow with rebellion in your heart.

Dissatisfied leads to discouragement to disobedience to death

1. Their sin was in their mind. “the soul of the people was much discouraged” (heart soul mind)
2. Their sin was in their mouth “we have spoken **against the LORD**” “and against thee”
   1. “Against God”(5) The Lord(7)

Nu 21:5 And the people spake against God, and against Moses

* 1. “Against Moses”
  2. Against the Promises of God

Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?

* 1. Against the Provisions of God

for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread.

II Cor. 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

* 1. Against the means

II Kings18:4 He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.

I Cor. 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

* 1. Against the Mediator

v.7 pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

Moses theProblem causer became intercessor

Moses thePersecuted became Prayer Warrior

* Then they went for Daniel

Daniel 6:11 Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was **taken up out of the den**, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

* Stephen said lay not their sin to their charge Acts 7:60
* Jesus said, Father forgive them; Luke 23:34

Gal. 3:20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Heb 8:6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

Heb 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Heb 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

## "Prisoners of Hope"

### Zech. 9:11-12

1. The Type of the Wretched Condition of the Sinner

Zec 9:11 As for thee also, by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water.

1. In Prison - "Prisoners" Prov. 5:22

John 8:34

Rom. 7:23

(1) Prisoners to sin -

(2) Prisoners to self -

(3) Prisoners to Satan -

2. In a Pit - "The Pit" Psa. 40:2-4

(1) Polluted -

(2) Horrible -

3. No Satisfaction - "Wherein is no

water" John 4:14

(1) No Peace

(2) No Rest

(3) Not Joy

II. The Refuge For The Sinner -

1. There is a place of refuge - "Prisoners of Hope"

2. The blood covenant - vs. 11

"By the blood of thy covenant"

3. The stronghold - Psa. 18:2 Psa. 91:2

Nahum 1:7

The Cross is a refuge.

III. The Blessings of Grace - vs. 12b

1. Salvation - Deliverance - Pardon

Zech. 9:11 "I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit"

2. The promise of a double measure

Isa. 61:7 Rom. 5:15

3. **Joy** - Isa. 12:3 – (Only as we have His Righteousness - II Cor. 5:21)

4. **Peace** - Psa. 119:162-165