

# Captivity: What happens when we disobey God?

*The Grand Story of God*  
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**Main Idea:** Disobeying God leads to captivity but obeying God leads to freedom.

## **1. Realize that captivity arises when we neglect who God is and what he has done.**

Tell them that this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says:  
'Cursed is the one who does not obey the terms of this covenant—  
<sup>4</sup> the terms I commanded your ancestors when I brought them out of Egypt, out of the iron-smelting furnace.' I said, 'Obey me and do everything I command you, and you will be my people, and I will be your God. <sup>5</sup> Then I will fulfill the oath I swore to your ancestors, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey'—the land you possess today." I answered, "Amen, Lord." <sup>6</sup> The Lord said to me, "Proclaim all these words in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem: 'Listen to the terms of this covenant and follow them. <sup>7</sup> From the time I brought your ancestors up from Egypt until today, I warned them again and again, saying, "Obey me."<sup>8</sup> But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubbornness of their evil hearts. **Jeremiah 11:3-8a**

See John 8:36

## **What is captivity for the believer?**

- Captivity is not God's wrath.
- Captivity is not a dry season.
- Captivity is the slow fade of fellowship with God due to disobedience.

## **2. In God's grace, He uses captivity to help us grow.**

*So I brought on them all the curses of the covenant I had commanded them to follow but that they did not keep.'"* <sup>9</sup>Then the Lord said to me, "There is a conspiracy among the people of Judah and those who live in Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup> They have returned to the sins of their ancestors, who refused to listen to my words. They have followed other gods to serve them. Both Israel and Judah have broken the covenant I made with their ancestors. <sup>11</sup> Therefore this is what the Lord says: 'I will bring on them a disaster they cannot escape. **Jeremiah 11:8b-11a**

*God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. **Hebrews 12:10b-11***

See Titus 2:11-12