

SESSION ONE

BECOMING CAPTIVE BY THE WORLD

Daniel 1:1-7

I. Introduction

- A. The alarm system for the lives of the people of our churches today has been disabled.
- B. Instead of Christians turning the world upside down, the world is turning the churches upside down.
- C. Ministries are basing their ministries on what is _____ instead of what is _____.



II. Captive - vs. 1-4

- A. Notice the devil goes after the _____ seed. That is you!
- B. He wants to remove you from where you worship – from the place of God's presence in your life.
 - 1. Our battle is spiritual and not carnal.
 - a. He wants to remove you from the place where you walk with God.
 - b. Stay close to God.
 - 2. The next step to capturing us is to take away or change the place we worship – _____.
 - a. He is changing the church so it is no longer a place of true worship.

III. Change

- A. Babylon gave Persian names to its captives.
1. He wants things removed that identify you with God and replaced with things that identify with this world.
 2. This gets you comfortable with the things of this world.
 3. We all have a desire to fit in.



IV. Conform - vs 4

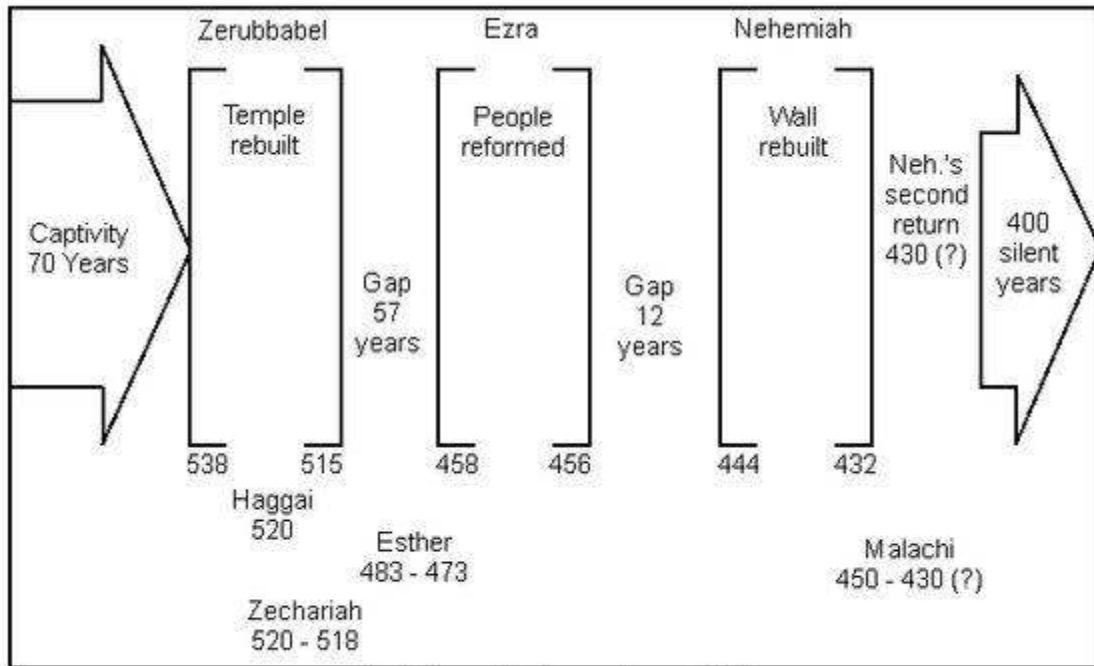
- A. He wants to change your convictions.
- B. He wants you to see how great the world is.
- C. He wants you to learn the _____ of the world.
- D. The danger for us is our flesh will want this.
- E. We are not to be conformed to this world. Rom 12:1,2

V. Comfortable - vs. 5

- A. He gave the Hebrews the king's meat and drink!
- B. He wanted them to learn their lifestyle!
- C. He wanted them comfortable in _____.
1. He does not want you to seek to get out.
 2. He does not want you to think you are even in captivity.
- D. When you get to this point, your heart is now corrupted.

VI. The key to Daniel surviving was purposing in his heart to do right.





The Three Returns from Exile

The Kings of Persia

During the period covered by the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther.

Cyrus (559-530 BC) [Foretold by Isaiah]

Cyrus reigned in the latter part of Daniel's life. During Cyrus's rule, Zerubbabel led the exiles back to Jerusalem to rebuild the altar and temple foundations (Ezra 3:2-3,10).

Cambyzes (530-522 BC) [Not mentioned in the Bible]

No rebuilding work was able to be done in this period (Ezra 4:25).

Darius (522-486 BC) [Not the earlier Darius the Mede]

In the reign of Darius, the temple was rebuilt. Haggai and Zechariah were prophets.

Xerxes (486-465 BC) [Also known as Ahasuerus]

This was the time of Esther and Mordecai.

Artaxerxes (464-423 BC) [Also known as Longimanus]

More return and rebuilding led by Ezra and Nehemiah. This was the time of Malachi the prophet and the building of the wall.