

## APPREHENDED FOR CHRIST

“APPREHEND” – to take hold of; to take into custody (as a prisoner); implies being captured or restrained; to seize; “to get hold of” (to take away, to take up)

“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect; but I follow after, if that I may APPREHEND that for which also I AM APPREHENDED of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have APPREHENDED; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind...I press toward the mark for the PRIZE of the HIGH CALLING of God in Christ Jesus”; Philippians 3:12-14

God Has A People Who Are Apprehended For His Purposes:

1. So that God may reveal Himself TO THEM; Psalm 103:7; Philippians 3:10
2. So that God may reveal Himself THROUGH THEM; Galatians 1:16
3. So that they may TESTIFY to the truth; John 21:24
4. So that they may WARN others to flee from the wrath that is to come; Luke 3:7
5. So that they may INTERCEDE in behalf of others; Ezekiel 22:30; Isaiah 59:16
6. So that they may DEMONSTRATE His power and authority; 1 Corinthians 2:4
7. So that by their EXAMPLE His character and nature may be seen; Daniel 5:11-16

There Is A Kingdom Principle Of Divine RESTRAINT And CONFINEMENT:

1. Like the concept of a divine “WISE”, it implies being FIRMLY HELD in God’s grip.
2. Jesus, the Word made flesh, was fully surrendered to His Father’s will; He said “I DO ALWAYS those things that please Him”; John 1:14; 8:28-29
3. It describes one like king David, who said “I am in a great strait; LET US FALL NOW INTO THE HAND OF THE LORD; for His mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man”; 2 Samuel 24:14.
4. We can choose by our own will (or God’s sovereign choice), to be SEIZED UPON by the Lord. The “Prison Gate” reveals the principle of full commitment and REST, of being put into His custody and watched; a “love slave” unto death; Neh. 12:39; Rev. 12:11

Scripture Reveals That Some Are Literally Held As PRISONERS:

1. Joseph - Genesis 37:22-24; 27-28; 39:20-21; 40:3-4
  - a. He had a vision of the throne, which caused him to be “seized”, taken and imprisoned
  - b. Joseph’s life reveals that the obedient SON will come OUT OF PRISON TO REIGN!
2. Certain Jews - Daniel 3:11-12, 20-28
  - a. Three courageous Hebrew men refused to bow before an idolatrous image.
  - b. Being cast into a fiery furnace, they had an encounter with Christ, Who preserved them and freed them from their bonds. “Confinement” brought “Enlargement”: 3 + 1 = 4
3. John the Baptist - Luke 3:4, 20; Matthew 14:3-12
  - a. He was the “voice of one crying in the wilderness”, calling the people to repentance.
  - b. Was imprisoned and beheaded because he reprovved Herod for his adultery.
4. Disciples - Acts 5:18-19; 23:10, 18; Philemon 1:1; John 21:18-19
  - a. Paul and Silas’ imprisonment brought salvation to a household; Acts 16:24-34
  - b. Peter was imprisoned for preaching the Gospel, but an angel freed him; Acts 12:1-12
  - c. Paul was a prisoner on a ship; his presence there saved the others; Acts 27:22-24
5. John - Revelation 1:9
  - a. In a place of exile and isolation, John was “caught up” to the Throne of God.

**b.** He wrote the Apocalypse: “Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter”; Revelation 1:19

YIELDING To God’s RESTRAINT Provides PROTECTION And PRODUCTIVITY:

**1.** Scripture gives an example of two kinds of messengers; 2 Samuel 18:19-33:

**a.** Ahimaaz – rejected “restraint”; he ran in the strength of his own will, outside of God’s timing. He brought an “incomplete message” of generalities to king David.

**b.** Cush – understood “restraint” (Kingdom protocol). He “ran” in obedience to God’s will and timing, with a detailed message which blessed king David.

**2.** Paul, Silas and Timothy were “forbidden of the Holy Ghost” to preach the word in Asia or Bithynia; the Spirit would not allow them to go there at that time. Later Paul received a vision instructing them to go into Macedonia; Acts 16:6-10.

**3.** Jesus said “Take my yoke upon you...My yoke (instrument of restraint) is easy, and my burden is light”; Matthew 11:29-30

God Places CONFINEMENT And BOUNDARIES Around Us:

**1.** “But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as CALVES OF THE STALL”; Malachi 4:2. A “calf in the stall” is confined, hand-fed, under his master’s care; see also Mark 11:2-3

**2.** Abigail, who was wise and beautiful, endured the confinement of living in a difficult marriage to a man named Nabal, whose name means “fool”. But God delivered her when she was obedient and ministered to king David and his men; 1 Samuel 25:32-42

**3.** Lazarus was bound with graveclothes, then resurrected for God’s glory; John 11:1-44

The RESTRICTION OF A PHYSICAL LIMITATION Can Reveal God’s Mercy:

**1.** The mercy and provision of king David was revealed to Mephibosheth, a helpless cripple, who was brought to the table of the king as his own son; 2 Samuel 9:1-11; 21:7

**2.** Zaccheus, who was small in stature, had to climb up into a tree to see Jesus passing by. Jesus called to him, visited his house, and salvation came to his household; Luke 19:2-9

**3.** The man with an infirmity, by the pool of Bethesda, was healed by Jesus; John 5:2-9

WILLING CAPTIVES Of The Lord Jesus Christ Stand In Contrast To:

**1.** Those who are “at ease” (careless, complacent) in Zion; Amos 6:1-6; Psalm 123:4

**2.** The “multitudes” who sit by their “fleshpots”; Exodus 16:3; Matthew 13:10-15

**3.** The prodigal son, who rejects the boundaries and rules of his Father’s house, having wasted his substance with worldly living, has squandered his inheritance; Luke 15:11-32

**4.** The “7 Women” who represent the complete, entire “professing church”, desire to be called by His name, but they want to serve God on their own terms; Isaiah 4:1:

**a.** They include the “many daughters of Jerusalem”, the “virgins without number”; Song of Sol. 5:8; 6:8, and are found within the 7 Churches of Revelation.

**b.** They want to eat their “own bread” (consume, feed upon pleasures, the substance of worldly and religious pursuits); compare with John 4:32, 34

**c.** They want to wear their “own apparel” (Babylonian garments, false coverings, mantles, religious garb); Joshua 7:21; Isaiah 30:1

**d.** They want their “reproach” taken away (the disgrace of being unmarried and barren)

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