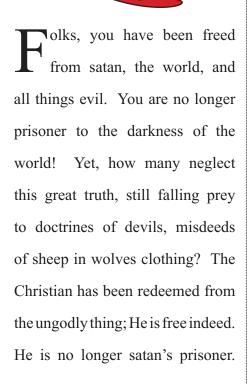
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No Longer Prisoner



For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth; To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death: Psalms 102: 19-20



ago, wherein you groaned within your prison. were enslaved to the god of this world and couldn't free vourself. God heard yours, and yes, the groaning of all mankind.

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children

also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. Ephesians 2: 1-3

Let's face it. You were stuck in a situation that really stunk, and you knew it. You knew that things were bad, you wanted release, but it seemed as if it would never come. But God heard your groaning.

Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners: Psalms 146:7

He heard you and then you heard Him. You were loosed. Man. that is really tremendous. There

There was a day, possibly long of disobedience: Among whom Published by the Richards www.brbooks.org

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is a spiritual realm just as there is a physical realm. You can see the physical realm, so, therefore, you believe in it. You can't see the spiritual realm, yet you are expected to believe in it. It is there: just as sure as there is day and night, as sure as there is hot and cold, and as sure as there is good and evil. You were prisoner in the evil spiritual realm, the one from which God freed you from.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places [the test reads, "from on high."]. Ephesians 6:12

How did this really happen? How did you really become released from the evil realm?

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with

corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 1 Peter 1: 17-18

You were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ. This redemption was a perfect redemption and it was certainly something that you yourself could not do. God allowed His son to pay the ransom price and, as a result, you became free.

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6:20

Who imprisoned you?
Who was responsible for your groaning?
Who pained you?
Who was to blame for the terrible, spiritual

state into which you were born?

How art thou fallen from heaven. O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble. that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness. and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? Isaiah 17: 12-17

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Lucifer was responsible for the troubles into which you came. You had no choice with coming into this world, but you did have a choice with going into the next! Believe it or not, something with the nature of a maggoty worm caused your troubles. You did not cause your problems. You were simply a victim of circumstances. Many people think they are the source of their own evil. Yes, certainly man can become evil, even after he is born again. But, man cannot cause the pain and suffering that Lucifer brought upon all mankind. That's in a different realm, a different category. The binding one will, one day, be bound, and ultimately destroyed. He built the spiritual prisons and he is the one who fills them today.

But then, along came the man Jesus Christ, born of a woman.

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Titus 2:14

So stop blaming yourself for all of your troubles. If you are making spiritually wrong decisions, change. Stop making them. But, realize who the ultimate cause is, and also who caused your freedom!

To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house. Isaiah 42:7

Something was given to you when you became a Christian. It's called "eyesight." Before then, you were blind. Oh sure, you could see the chicken dinner on the table, and a lot of other things. But you couldn't see anything spiritual, only the results of it's presence. You could only guess about spiritual things, and most of the time, you were wrong. Heck,

if you don't rightly divide God's Word, you're probably still wrong. But you were given eyesight. Now, start using it.

And another thing. You were in prison, but when you became a Christian, you were led out, by the hand, into the light. This first prison had no lights. It was completely dark, just like it was for satan when it was kicked out of heaven. Now, you have light, are in the light, and can give that light to others — all because you are no longer in that dark, dank prison. You are free!

As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. 1 Peter 2:16

Today, as a Christian son of God, you are free, but, believe it or not, you are a servant. Now, don't

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get me wrong. This is a really good thing. Your new spiritual realm is full of light, in which you are completely taken care of. You became a servant by choice, because of the goodness in your heart. You asked to be a servant - for the right cause. Yes, you are no longer a prisoner of satan. And, yes, you have a newfound spiritual relationship, one called being a "servant of God."

For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. 1 Corinthians 7:22

Service with a twist! That's right.

As a born again son of God, you are
a free servant. Who would have
ever thought? Even satan wouldn't
have offered this to his subjects.

But God pulled out this "ace up
the sleeve." He knew what he was
doing through Jesus Christ. Call
yourself a servant or call yourself

"the Lord's freeman." It's your choice, but the end result is the same: You are no longer a prisoner of satan! It you're no longer a prisoner, you need to start acting like it. For instance, stop acting so sick all the time. Stop acting so poor all the time. Stop acting so religious all the time. Stop groaning so much. Instead, start acting healed. Start acting rich in Christ. Start acting godly, according to His Word and not man's. Start shouting with joy. Become God's man or woman. Show the world who you really are as a freeman in the Lord. Wouldn't it be really stupid if you kept acting like satan's prisoner even though you were freed?

Much love in Christ,

Jerry D. Brown