

Out of Prison

“Out of prison he cometh to reign” (Eccl. 4:14.)

The inspired writer of Ecclesiastes observed that sometimes a person can come directly out of prison to a position of power. Please consider:

- **Joseph** came out of prison to become a ruler in Egypt (Gen. 40 - 41)
- **Moses** came from obscurity to power. Not only was he considered a criminal in Egypt, he was also a shepherd. Every shepherd was considered an abomination to the Egyptians (Gen. 46:34.) Moses, however, came directly from his prison of prejudice and obscurity to challenge the pharaoh and lead the Hebrew nation.
- **David** cried out in Ps. 142:7 for God to deliver him from prison. He was so beset and hounded by King Saul that he considered himself a prisoner. God answered that prayer and David became the king.
- **Jehoiachin** was released from prison and promoted to a seat of honour higher than the other kings who were with him in Babylon. (2 Kings 25:27-30.)
- **Jeremiah** also came from prison to power. He was let down by cords into a dungeon and sank in the mire. The mire was so deep that when he was lifted up they put rotten rags and worn out clothes under his arms. He went directly from that horrible dungeon to the honour of speaking the word of God to King Zedekiah (Jeremiah 38)
- **Ezekiel** received his prophetic visions while in a land of captivity.
- **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego** were promoted from the fiery furnace to positions of power (Dan. 3:30.)
- **Daniel** was delivered from the lion's den to a position of honour and prosperity (Dan. 6)
- The **apostles** were released from prison that they might preach (Acts 5:19-21.)
- **Peter** was released from prison by an angel (Acts 12:3-19.)
- The martyred **Paul** went directly from prison to receive the crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:7-8.)
- **John** received the Revelation while a prisoner on the Isle of Patmos.
- **Jesus** preached to the spirits in prison (1 Peter 3:19.)
- **Millions of Christian martyrs** went to prison rather than deny their faith.
- **William Tyndale** was prisoner when he was burned at the stake for translating the Bible into the English language.
- **Martin Luther** was a prisoner in Wartburg Castle when he translated the Bible into German.
- **John Bunyan** was in prison when he wrote “Pilgrim's Progress.”
- The **pilgrims** came from prison and persecution to colonize America.
- **Anne Frank** wrote her famous diary in prison.
- **Church Colson** came out of prison to become a prominent Christian leader.
- **Alexander Solzhenitsyn** honed his writing genius in a Soviet prison.
- **Nelson Mandela** came out of prison to become the president of South Africa.
- **Vaclav Havel** came out of prison to be the President of the Czech Republic.
- **Frederick Chiluba** came out of prison to become the President of Zambia.
- Jesus pictured Judgement Day as a time when He would say: **“I was in prison and you came unto me” (Matt. 25:36.)**
- The Scriptures teach: **“Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity as being also in the body” (Heb. 13:3.)**
- Isaiah predicted that **Jesus** would be taken from prison and judgment to be cut off out of the land of the living (Is. 53:8.) Jesus is now the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- **Jesus came to proclaim freedom to the prisoners (Luke 4:18-19.)**