

THE FRUITS OF THE FEAR OF GOD

Turn in your Bibles to *Deuteronomy 17:18-20*:

¹⁸ And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites:

¹⁹ And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: ²⁰ That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.

Deuteronomy 17:18-20

By the time of King Josiah in *2 Kings 22*, the kings in Israel and Judah were ignoring the commandment that “he shall read therein all the days of his life” because verse 8 of *2 Kings 22* said “I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD”. What a sad commentary upon the kings of Israel and Judah. It drives home the truth of *Hosea 4:6*:

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. *Hosea 4:6*

Let us continue our reading in *Deuteronomy 31:12-13* and *Exodus 20:20*:

¹² Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: ¹³ And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it. *Deuteronomy 31:12-13*

²⁰ And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not. *Exodus 20:20*

One of the things I want to emphasize from these two passages of scripture is that the fear of the LORD is a learned behaviour. It is something that must be taught to us, to our children, to our church members, and to our leaders. The main source for that teaching is our Bibles. In America, we now have two Biblically illiterate generations that not only do not fear God, they hate God. Even Satan knows the productive nature of the fear of the LORD. Satan stated in *Job 1:9-11*:

⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? ¹⁰ Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. ¹¹ But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will

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curse thee to thy face. *Job 1:9-11*

Turn in your Bibles to *Psalms 36* and let's read verses 1-4:

¹ The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes. ² For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful. ³ The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, and to do good. ⁴ He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil. *Psalms 36:1-4*

The phrase the “fear of the LORD” occurs 30 times in our King James Bibles. The phrase “fear the LORD (Lord) occurs 75 times in our King James Bibles. The phrase “the fear of God” occurs 7 times in our King James Bibles. There are many other combinations of words that make up phrases that teach us to fear the LORD.

Now, I want you to listen carefully as I read the following verses:

²⁸ And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding. *Job 28:28*

⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. *Psalms 19:9*

¹¹ Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD. *Psalms 34:11*

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever. *Psalms 111:10*

⁷ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. *Proverbs 1:7*

²⁹ For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: *Proverbs 1:29*

⁵ Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. *Proverbs 2:5*

¹³ The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. *Proverbs 8:13*

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy

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is understanding. *Proverbs 9:10*

²⁷ The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened. *Proverbs 10:27*

²⁶ In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. ²⁷ The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. *Proverbs 14:26-27*

¹⁶ Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith. *Proverbs 15:16*

³³ The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility. *Proverbs 15:33*

⁶ By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil. *Proverbs 16:6*

²³ The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil. *Proverbs 19:23*

⁴ By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life. *Proverbs 22:4*

¹⁷ Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long. *Proverbs 23:17*

The absence of the fear of the LORD produces that which is written in *Romans 1:18-32* and in *Romans 3:10-18* which state:

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; ¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. ²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³ And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. ²⁴ Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: ²⁵ Who changed the truth

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of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. ²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; ²⁹ Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, ³⁰ Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: ³² Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. *Romans 1:18-32*

¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. ¹² They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. ¹³ Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: ¹⁴ Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: ¹⁵ Their feet are swift to shed blood: ¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their ways: ¹⁷ And the way of peace have they not known: ¹⁸ There is no fear of God before their eyes. *Romans 3:10-18*

All of this comes about because there is no fear of God in the American people and in the overwhelming majority of American churches. Our people have become as the mockers, scoffers, and devils of *2 Peter 3:3-4* and *Jude 8-19* where it is written:

³ Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, ⁴ And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. *2 Peter 3:3-4*

⁴ For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities. ⁹ Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. ¹⁰ But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. ¹¹ Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. ¹² These are spots in your feasts of charity,

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when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; ¹³ Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. ¹⁴ And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, ¹⁵ To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. ¹⁶ These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. ¹⁷ But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; ¹⁸ How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. ¹⁹ These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. *Jude 4, 8-19*

The whole book of Jude is a warning to genuine Bible believing Christians about what the church will look like before the Lord Jesus Christ returns. *Jude 19* is the key verse to the interpretation of the book of Jude. The book of Jude describes church members that are "Christian" in name only. *Jude 19* says that they have not the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ in them. What that means is that they are unsaved, hell bound church members. **THEY DO NOT FEAR GOD.** In fact our people and most of our churches mock and scorn God. They do , in fact, hate God. That hatred manifests itself in the fact that they love death. *Proverbs 8:36* says that all that hate God love death. If you want proof of American hatred for God look no further than America's abortion clinics. The great American Holocaust perpetrated upon God's unborn babies is worse than the atrocities committed by Mao-tse-tung, Joseph Stalin, and Adolf Hitler. We even have people who claim to be born again Christians advocating for and participating in abortions. The reason that anyone participates in infanticide, or the murder of babies, is that they do not fear God and they hate God. The reason mass murderers and serial murderers murder is because they have no fear of God. One of the major reasons the murders in our cities have skyrocketed in our cities is because the American conscience has been totally seared and totally desensitized by legalizing the state sanctioned murder of over 70 million babies in America by hit men and hit women falsely called doctors who work in the baby slaughter houses that they euphemistically refer to as abortion clinics. [Of course those baby murders are not recorded in the murder statistics of any local, state, or federal government entity.] Yet another reason the murder rates are skyrocketing in America is because young minds are being totally corrupted and desensitized by the murder, mayhem, and Satanism that is promoted through the carnage of vile video games. Another huge reason that crime is becoming more and more frequent and more and more violent in America is because if crime is punished at all, that punishment comes after much unjust and ungodly delay. Most of the time those delays are used to commit more crimes and many of them much more violent than the crimes for which the criminals were originally arrested for. Then we have the no cash bails and early paroles of violent criminals that pervert and subvert our whole system of injustice that is falsely called a system of justice. The victims become further victims of the injustice of a justice system that will not carry out just punishment for the

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criminals that they coddle. God's commentary on this wicked and vile system of injustice is given in *Ecclesiastes 8:11-13* where he states the following:

¹¹ Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. ¹² Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: ¹³ But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God. *Ecclesiastes 8:11-13*

The root problem is identified in verse 13 as being "because he feareth not before God". All that being said, what follows is some of the things that the fear of the LORD will accomplish in mankind.

I. THE FEAR OF GOD IS A GREAT RESTRAINER OF EVIL.

According to *Proverbs 16:6* the fear of the LORD is a great restrainer of evil. This verse reads:

⁶ By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil. *Proverbs 16:6*

The only way America can experience a national revival is for the fear of God to be restored to the hearts of our citizens. If we fear God, we will eschew evil as Job did. If we fear God, we will regard God's authority as expressed in his holy word. We will fear his displeasure. If we fear the LORD, our hearts will be kept right by that fear.

II. THE FEAR OF GOD WILL BRING PEOPLE TO CHRIST FOR SALVATION

Psalms 85 :9 says: ⁹ Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.

III. THE FEAR OF GOD WILL CAUSE MEN TO DEPART FROM EVIL.

Again *Proverbs 16:6* says: ⁶ By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

IV. THE FEAR OF GOD WILL MOVE US TO SEEK THE SALVATION OF OTHERS.

If we had more of the FEAR OF GOD in our churches, we would have more saved. God gave the following warning to the prophet Ezekiel in *Ezekiel 3:17-18*:

¹⁷ Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. ¹⁸ When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his

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life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. *Ezekiel 3:17-18*

⁷ By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. *Hebrews 11:7*

²² And of some have compassion, making a difference: ²³ And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. *Jude 22-23*

V. THE FEAR OF GOD WILL PRODUCE PURITY

Psalm 19:9 says: The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

1. The FEAR OF GOD will keep us clean when LOVE will not.
2. Unless we have the FEAR OF GOD in our hearts, we will not shun sin and hate it. *Psalm 119:104* and *Psalm 119:128* put it this way:

¹⁰⁴ Through thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. *Psalm 119:104*

¹²⁸ Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way. *Psalm 119:128*

3. The FEAR OF GOD in our hearts will make us what we ought to be.

VI. THE FEAR OF GOD WILL AFFECT EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES!

1. **It will affect our marriage** (*Ephesians 5:21*)

²¹ Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. *Ephesians 5:21*

2. **It will affect our relations with our employers** (*Colossians 3:22*)

²² Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: ²³ And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; *Colossians 3:22-23*

3. **It will affect our happiness and holiness.** In *2 Corinthians 6:14-18*, after having

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given the admonishment to believers to be separate, the Holy Ghost said through the apostle Paul in *2 Corinthians 7:1*:

¹ Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. *2 Corinthians 7:1*

VII. THE FEAR OF GOD WILL PURIFY OUR WORSHIP AND DOCTRINE

There is much strange fire being offered up in our churches as worship unto God. That is very dangerous as Nadab and Abihu learned in *Leviticus 10*. *Ezekiel 22:25-26* had this to say about those who corrupt holy things:

²⁵ There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof.

²⁶ Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. *Ezekiel 22:25-26*

The Lord Jesus Christ was very concerned about our doctrine as it relates to true worship because he said in *Matthew 15:8-9*:

⁸ This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. ⁹ But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. *Matthew 15:8-9*

Most of what goes on in American churches is vain worship. It is a bunch of man pleasing, politically correct spiritual garbage that offends God and grieves God the Holy Ghost. That especially applies to music.

¹ Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals: and the number of the workmen according to their service was: *1 Chronicles 25:1*

¹⁹ Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; *Ephesians 5:19*

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. *Colossians 3:16*

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Salvation will give you a new song to sing. *Revelation 5:9-10* identifies one of those new songs. It states:

⁹ And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; ¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. *Revelation 5:9–10*

The phrase “sing unto” is used 27 times in our King James Bibles. It is always used in relation to God and never man. *Psalms 149:1* tells us, “Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints”.

Next up, I have to forthrightly deal with what the Bible says should be our greatest fear next to our fear of God. That fear is a Godly fear of the eternally burning lake of fire. Scripturally, our fears listed in order must be: (1) God; (2) Hell itself; and then (3) death. The Lord Jesus Christ issued this dire warning to hell bound lost sinners in *Luke 12:5*:

⁵ But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him. *Luke 12:5*

The Lord Jesus Christ bluntly warned us that we are to fear hell itself more than we are to fear death. Think about the full implications of that statement! Think! Think! Think! Because we are not preaching on hell in our churches, hell is enlarging itself by leaps and bounds every second. *Isaiah 5:14* says:

¹⁴ Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it. *Isaiah 5:14*

The word “fire” is used in connection with the very first occurrences of the word “hell” in both the Old Testament and the New Testament in *Deuteronomy 32:22* and *Matthew 5:22*. In both cases, it is God himself speaking of the fires of hell. In *Deuteronomy 32:22* it is Jehovah speaking and in *Matthew 5:22* it is Jehovah manifested in the flesh speaking: that is, the Lord Jesus Christ. The two longest passages in the New Testament that testify to the burning reality of hell are *Luke 16:19-31* and *Revelation 20:11-15*. We are going to read those two passages along with *Deuteronomy 32:22* and *Matthew 5:22*. Those passages read as follows:

²² For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains. *Deuteronomy 32:22*

²² But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be

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in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. *Matthew 5:22*

¹⁹ There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: ²⁰ And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, ²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; ²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. ²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. ²⁶ And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence. ²⁷ Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: ²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. ²⁹ Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. ³⁰ And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. ³¹ And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. *Luke 16:19-31*

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. *Revelation 20:11-15*

A Godly fear of hell and the lake of fire can be the greatest of motivators for holy living for the saved and for the salvation of lost friends and loved ones.

In closing, there are forms of fear that hinder our relationship with God. Fourteen different times God's people are told to fear not their circumstances nor even be dismayed at them. God said this in *Proverbs 29:25*, *2 Timothy 1:7*, and *Romans 8:14-16*:

²⁵ The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be

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safe. *Proverbs 29:25*

⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. *2 Timothy 1:7*

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: *Romans 8:14-16*

Perhaps our greatest living fear is the fear of man. When we fear men, we will compromise on Bible doctrine especially doctrine related to hell fire. The fear of men bringeth the snare of the Devil. Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit ye like men, be strong lest ye be caught in the snare of the Devil and be held captive at his will.