

Jonah 07 – Repentance Over Done

Dr. Leon L. Sanders
Jonah 3:6-10

Word Reached the King

- Shows weakness and disarray of Assyrian power elites
 - The nobles and people repented due to Jonah's message
 - The king was the last informed or at least the last to repent until he knew the *will of the people*
 - King of Assyria {not in view} - King {Governor} of Nineveh had limited power; power came from the people {**Tyrant** (During the seventh and sixth centuries BC, tyranny was often looked upon as an intermediate stage between narrow [oligarchy](#) and more democratic forms of [polity](#))}
- Wikipedia: Tyrant

King Issues a Decree of Works

- King issues decree, backed by nobles {power structure}
 - Displays that he was not strong enough to issue a decree in his own name
 - Decree demands that everyone publically display signs of mourning: fasting, sack cloth & ashes for three days
 - Kings binds this upon domestic animals also

Displaying Pagan Ignorance

- Binding his decree upon animals displays both his paganism and ignorance of animal nature
 - Animals have no self-awareness (not made in God's image) and therefore cannot sin (immorality)
 - Making animals fast has no efficacy in pleasing God
 - Displays ignorance of God's teaching while displaying their paganistic beliefs (Animals do offend in paganism)

"Hope For" Repentance

- King and people have no assurance that God will not destroy them; they can only hope He will be impressed by their, and their animals, outward piety
- God does not destroy Nineveh because of the sincerity of their repentance (9: 31-36 17)
- They were repenting from their violence - Agreeing to less violence; not to salvation

Not Repentance of Salvation

- There is no mention in the king's decree, nor in the Scriptures, that people turned from their gods to serve the living God
- Assyrians, as all peoples, viewed their actions as supported by their gods (worldview)
 - Their gods were more powerful and worshiped via the human *sacrifices* the Assyrians conducted (Tortures)

Anthropomorphisms of God

- God *relented* of the disaster He had pronounced and did not destroy them because they repented
- In the Bible God is frequently given *human characteristics* to help us understand Him
- Anthropomorphism is the application of human traits to God who is not human but spiritual

Does God Relent?

- Sovereignty defines God as omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient as well as immutable {Unchangeable}
 - God *knew* the future because He *planned* the future
 - God *knew* the Ninevites would repent for same reason
 - Credible threat: God would destroy Nineveh if they had not repented, like Sodom; but, they would repent as part of His plan for them, Israel and us, the readers

Anthropomorphisms as Emphasis

- God does have emotions {We know this because we have emotions and are made in His image}
 - God's emotions are always in control, unlike ours
 - God's emotions are revealed for emphasis {anger, joy}
- God is immutable: His plan does not change based on our responses (Ep 1:3-10)
 - Pelagianism, Semi-Pelagianism or Arminian worldview

Destruction of Nineveh: *Num Importatis*

- Destruction of Nineveh would have accomplished nothing to further the Kingdom of God or He would have accomplished it
 - Sodom was not given the opportunity to repent
 - Works of the Assyrians worse than those of Sodomites
 - Salvation is not accomplished by fear or intimidation
 - But there was a people God was warning of future wrath

Assyria's Ignorance a Blessing

- Because Assyria was ignorant of the knowledge of God they were given an opportunity to *discover* Him
 - There is no writing of how many people may have learned of the Hebrew's God and converted to Him
- Israel was not ignorant of the knowledge of God and they were given ample time to repent of their ways which they refused as they worshiped Aven (Evilness)

Aven {𐤀𐤍} Evilness (Hosea 10:7ff)

- Regardless of the idol involved, there were many, the essence of all such worship was aven (Lucifer)
 - God sent prophets to Israel warning them of their sin
 - He clearly pronounced death and destruction on them
 - Though there were individuals who repented and believed God, most did not repent
 - This stood in stark contrast to Nineveh's repentance

The Wind and the Whirlwind

- God clearly warned Israel that their rejection of Him would result in their destruction (Jer 5:1-9)
 - They rejected the covenant by which they were saved
 - They cry out to God but do not believe He is God
 - They chose their kings but not through God
- They have sowed the wind of rebellion and will reap the whirlwind [Tornado] of destruction

Israel Warned to Prepare for God

- Because Israel broke their covenant with God whereby they were blessed, God tells them to prepare to meet Him in judgment at His visitation (Am 4:12-13)
 - They were the carriers of His message of salvation; yet, they despised His message wanting worldly power
 - They rejected God who knows men's thoughts in favor of worldly power, perverting His message

Hosea's Children are God's Warning

- God told Hosea to name his children as a warning to Israel of their coming destruction
 - Lo Ruhama - No Mercy
 - Lo Ammi - Not My People
- Their existence was a warning that by rejecting God, God rejected them leaving them defenseless before the Assyrians, people who could hear God

God's Mercy Always Present

- God promises that He shall not totally destroy all of Israel but there shall come a day when they will return to Him and He shall change their names
 - Ammi - My People
 - Ruhama - Reception of His mercy
- A remnant shall return to Him, become *True* Jews and be His people because of His mercy

They Shall Be as Sodom (De 29:16-28)

- God, through Moses, warned the people, Judah and Israel, that when they rebel against their covenant then their land shall be as Sodom and they shall be thrust out of the land
 - Gentiles will wonder why they abandoned God to lose both their land and their freedom
 - Gentiles did not abandon their gods; so, why did Israel reject the only God to worship those who were evilness?

Book of Jonah - Warning to Judah

- The events of the first three chapters of Jonah lead up to the confrontation God will have with Jonah who becomes the metaphor for the hardness of Judah (Je 3:1-5)
 - Israel will not return to God - their fate is settled
 - Judah, like Jonah, believing but hard of heart
 - God is already turning His warning to Judah
 - Judah has no mercy: Lo Ammi

Warning Also to Christians

- God not impressed by our willful ignorance
 - Churches today abound with knowledge of God's word
 - Believers glory in their ignorance promoting pet doctrines to impress man and God
 - Very few people struggle to learn God's truths - exegesis
 - Most are interested in finding their truths - eisegesis
 - Many in church will not endure sound doctrine (2Ti 4:3-4)

Mixing of Worldly Philosophy

- Christendom legitimizes their worldview by combining philosophy with Scripture
 - Augustine mixed Bible with Neo-Platonism
 - Aquinas mixed Bible with Aristotle
 - Many today mix Bible with psychology
- Nihilism - Mixing Lucifer's lie with God's Word (Solomon's "All is vanity")

Believing the Lie (2Ti 2:14-17)

- In these last days (since Christ ascended into Heaven) God has been allowing people to believe Lucifer's lie: You shall be as gods
 - His delusion has grown until it has filled the world
 - Billions have died physically and many also spiritually
- The only defense is to love the truth shown by learning and living the truth