

“AND AS FOR ME,...”

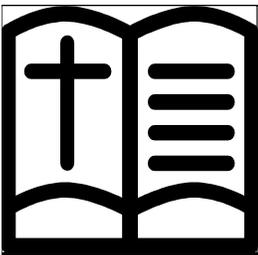
Part 9: “Should I not Spare Nineveh?”

JONAH 4:1-11

I. WHEN GOD DOESN'T DO WHAT YOU ARE SURE HE SHOULD DO -THE PEOPLE OF NINEVEH

A. They knew they deserved to be destroyed! How?

1. The post-flood laws given to Noah
2. About 100 years later, the Tower of Babel
3. The division of the nations under the guidance of the Sons of God or the divine council
Deut 32:7-8; Gen 11:8,9; Acts 17:26-27
4. Revelation law; natural law; common law; positive law. Examples:
 - a. Discovery of various law codes that predate Moses: Ur-Nammu; Hammurabi; Egyptian law that Joseph was under
 - b. The understanding of the patriarchs: Job, Abraham Gen 18:17-21
 - c. The manner in which God speaks of His judgment of people Ezek 16:48-50
 - d. The manner in which He judges the divine council Psalm 82:1-4
5. Election of Israel and the giving of the law - the marriage covenant for living in the land
Deut 32:9; Rom 9:4-5; Eph 2:11-18
6. God judges people according to the law or revelation they have Rom 2:12-16;
Rom 1:18-21; Acts 17:23-31
7. Gentiles do not become Israel to be spared



B. God saw their works: turned from their evil way; humbled themselves; turned from their violence; cried mightily unto God; they were judged by the law they knew and repented according to that

C. These are some people happy to be alive!

II. WHEN GOD DOES DO WHAT YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO DO

A. The Mad Messenger - the bigger sinner!

1. He believes in Israeli exceptionalism - they are the covenant people and these are the evil ones

2. He knew what God would do if these repented and He did it. Jonah had already lodged a complaint!

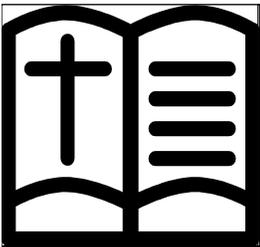
3. Had he carried out his responsibility hoping they would not repent? Or that they would and God would destroy them anyway because he had done what God wanted done?

B. But He does not stop praying! Prays to die!

(Sometimes when we want to prove our sincerity our memories get short and we use hyperbole to manipulate others)

C. Moody, sullen, disappointed and depressed he waits for God to change His mind and totally misses the point (wants to die for the third time!)

D. These people belonged to God and they had been on the wrong side of God and of life. Should they not have opportunity to repent and live? The prophet was more concerned about his comforts than he was people. How's your vision?



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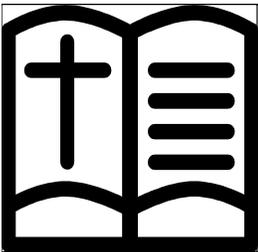
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