

Jonah 04 – Man’s Search for Truth

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Jonah 1:7-17

Man’s Search for Truth

- Ancient man sought spiritual understanding by casting lots; search for truth [Science began with ideal of discovering absolute truth but quit in failure]
 - Based on belief that physical reveals the metaphysical - interconnectedness [Rejected by rational man]
 - High Priest used Urim & Thummin to discover God’s will in specific circumstances (Unknown how used)
 - Apostles cast lots to determine Judas’ replacement-Failed

Ancient Man’s View of Jose

- Gods’ blessing preventing Hurricane Jose from land just ravaged by Irma
- Ancient man viewed life via lens of interaction with god(s) - Correlation depended on God’s truth not the gods’ truth



Modern Man's View of Jose

- Placement of high & low pressure areas determined path of Hurricane Jose
- Development of high & low areas could be direct intervention of God or allowed by Him for Satan to test man - Unknown



Reasonableness of Ancient Man

- Ancient man just did not arbitrarily pick Jonah and toss him overboard to *appease* the gods
 - They *reasonably* searched for truth consistent with their worldview (Belief of how the world functioned)
 - Sovereign God (gods to them) could make His will known through measurable phenomenon (Lots); but, prophets were the main source of revelation of God's specific will: stopped with canonization of His word

SOS – Save Our Souls

- Sailors cast lots to determine who onboard caused their calamity (Better translation of Hebrew than word evil)
 - Modern man scoffs at their belief though he would have attributed the storm to *chance* (Another name for gods)
 - Ancient man correctly deduced storm direct result of Jonah rejecting God's will (given over to Lucifer)
(Gen. 3:5)
 - Jonah's confessed his complicity revealed by the casting of the *lots*

Inquisition – Search for Truth

- Sailors inquired to obtain facts to ascertain the veracity of their situation to guide their next actions
 - They ask Jonah about himself in order to understand his worldview and how it could affect them
 - Their belief in the intervention of gods required that they understand Jonah's God to ascertain the reason for their current plight (Defined as reasonable men)

Only God is God

- Jonah truthfully describes himself as Hebrew and his God as **The God** who created the land and the seas
 - Gives God dominion over the storm in their eyes
 - Jonah had already told them he was from his God (probably when he paid for passage)
- Jonah put their plight into context - Facts are of little value until they are put into a meaningful context

Context: Disobedience to God

- Great evil in ancient man's worldview: know will of god(s) and disobey - Wrath expressed in physical realm
 - No evidence that these men actually understood Jonah's God as The God
 - Fact that Jonah did this to the true God makes his decision even more fearful than they realize

How to Appease God

- Since it was Jonah's God, the sailors ask how they can appease his God and survive His wrath (The Storm)
 - Jonah picks his own fate, again; throw him into the sea
 - Jonah picked forces of Lucifer over obedience to God
 - He choses to sacrifice himself to demonic forces to save the sailors knowing God can save him
 - Now, the sailors disobey God to save him

Rowing into Oblivion

- Rather than abandon Jonah to the seas the sailors decide to row out of the storm (Ro 6:23, Jo 6:17)
 - Without sun, stars or landmarks they were directionless; where were they rowing? (Dead works leading to death)
 - Knowing the will of God, and rejecting it, they are as guilty of disobedience as Jonah - Deserving of death
 - They would not willingly abandon him (Peter)

Abandoning Jonah to God

- Faced with the choice of life (obedience) or death (disobedience); the sailors chose life
 - Sailors pray that they not be held guilty for the death of Jonah; not evidence of belief in true God or salvation
 - They did not want Jonah's God drowning them for throwing His prophet into the seas, drowning him and transferring God's wrath from Jonah onto them

Obedience is Life

- Sailors obey Jonah, and thus God, when they throw Jonah into the raging seas
 - Almost immediately the storm abates, saving them
 - Confirms they chose wisely, obeying God
- This sacrifice of Jonah to save themselves was not made rashly nor was it their decision: It was Jonah's sacrifice to save them [Though he chose to not save Assyrians]

Why Save the Sailors?

- The sailors were personal; he was with them watching their fear, their search for truth, and their attempt to save him - Their deaths were result of his disobedience
- The Assyrians were impersonal; distant enemies who were not seen as real - Their deaths would be result of their terror warfare, which they deserved [Shortsighted: Destroying a city would not save Israel, Assyria existed]

God Appoints Fish for Jonah

- The text: God guides a fish to swallow Jonah; not create one on the spot
 - The fish acts consistent with its nature - Yet, its natural inclination is according to God's will for Jonah's good
 - The type of fish is not relevant except as it does God's will to transport Jonah back to his land for his mission
 - Merger of natural and supernatural forces harmoniously at work in these events; just as in the storm

Jonah Dies in the Sea

- I believe Jonah dies when thrown into the stormy seas
 - He does not need air, he is dead
 - Nor does he take in corrosive digestive juices; he is dead
 - Any corrosive effects are outward on his clothes and skin which will underscore his message to Assyria
- God is able to raise him from the dead, reversing the effects of death and corrosion according to His will

Death – Cessation of the Body

- Physical death is nothing more than
 - Separation of the spirit from the body
 - Spirit goes where destined {Nabu} {Paradise or Sheol}
 - The spirit remains self-aware of itself and surroundings
 - Body returns to physical creation - Ceases to exist
- Jonah prays to God after death in expectation of His mercy and resurrection {Christ} (Mt. 12:38-45)

Modern Man Trapped in Worldview

- Modern man rejects any belief of God at work in current events
 - All events, natural or man caused, are the result of knowable, measurable or explainable causations
 - Supernatural causations are rejected as ignorance
 - There is no search for God or His will {Rationalism}
 - Man seeks protection from government against events

Christian's Worldview Similar

- Raised in the modern world, Christians have the same worldview of events and retains this after salvation
 - Christians seek government intervention as protection
 - Christians do not seek to merge ancient and modern worldviews into a coherent truth that views God at work
 - Instead, Christians make same mistake as pagan ancient man - Blindly attributes events to God ignorantly

Who is at Work in Events?

- The Bible clearly states when God is at work and why
 - The role of prophet, to give people this understanding
 - These instances were rare (only seem common in Bible)
- We are not given this insight because we have God's direct revelation in our hands (Bible)
 - We are to govern our lives according to His word, not by determining spiritual author of specific events

We are to do the Good God Reveals

- Unless God directly tells who is at work behind the scenes, one is only guessing (Modern man)
 - Result of God's work brings forth Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)
 - Result of Lucifer's work brings works of death (Gal 5:19-21)
- Rather than worry about who is doing what; we need to do God's Good revealed in His Word