

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JONAH

CHAPTER 3:6-10

TAPE NUMBER SM-366 DECEMBER 8, 2002

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT”

SERMON SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED KEYWORD:

SOVEREIGNTY, SALVATION, REVIVAL, EVANGELISM

INTRODUCTION

to the text

Jonah 3:6-10

Jonah 3:6-10

Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he **arose** from his throne and **laid aside** his robe, **covered** himself with sackcloth and **sat** in ashes. ⁷ And **he caused** it to be **proclaimed** and **published** throughout Nineveh by the **decree** of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, **taste anything**; do not let them **eat**, or **drink** water. ⁸ But let man and beast be **covered with sackcloth**, and **cry mightily** to God; yes, let every one **turn from his evil way** and **from the violence** that is in his hands. ⁹ Who can tell if God will **turn** and **relent**, and **turn away** from His fierce anger, so that we may **not perish**. ¹⁰ **Then** God saw **their works**, that they **turned** from their evil way; and **God relented** from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He **did not do it**.

It goes like this...

“I pledge allegiance
to the flag of the United States of America,
and to the republic for which it stands,
One Nation Under God
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all

A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT

1.) *Is When God is in Control*

vv. 6

The Bible Commands us to Pray for Our Presidents, Kings and Rulers. *We're to be Praying for Our Leaders...*

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

***“Wouldn't it be Great
if Our President Requested Prayer?***

That was it – right there!!!

*It's a Humble Thing to Ask for Prayer
– it's also the smartest thing you can do!*

A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT

Is When God is in Control

1a.) *What we hear – the power of a witness influences us*

Verse 6

Then word came to the king of Nineveh;

This is a Remarkable Moment

The King hears that a man is inside the city walls. He's got yellow skin, He's hairless,
He's got an Attitude and a Message...and He's walked 500 miles
Just to say...

Jonah 3:4

..."Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

What the King Hears – Changes His Life forever!

(Nineveh will enjoy 150 years of peace and righteousness)

“What We Hear...”

Produces a “Must Choose” Situation

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

What we hear – the power of a witness influences us

Joshua 24:15

"And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT

Is When God is in Control

1b.) What we do – the humbling of self is a change of heart

Verse 6

and he **arose** from his throne and **laid aside** his robe,

These Two Acts of Humiliation - *Speaks Volumes*

In That Culture,

The King Never Departed from His Throne - Publicly
Yet - He Steps off His Throne

In That Culture,

The King Never Took off His Robe - Publicly
Yet - And Lays Aside His Robe

What We Do...

In What Way are We Humbling Ourselves?

In What Way are We Humbling Ourselves?

As a Mother are you so Proud...
As a Father, are you so Authoritative...

As a Teenager are to Cool...
As a Man or Woman are so Important...

**As a People,
are we so busy that our time
has no time for God?**

What We Do...

The King of an Empire Humbled Himself

Pride was no longer important
Authority no longer mattered
Clothes couldn't make Him Cool

He Made the Time for God

He is God – Period / But is He Lord?

Is When God is in Control

1c.) What we say – our actions speak the truth about who we are

Verse 6

covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes.

When People do these kind of things –
There will be no time nor desire to sin against God
What we say – our actions speak the truth about who we are

He is leading now by Personal Example.

All those in authority lead by example – *it's native to an Office of Authority*

But what kind of leadership is it?

Churches

“Church member are either pillars or caterpillars. The pillars build up and hold up the church. The caterpillars talk down and tear down the church.”

In Your Church
You are either a Might or a Termite

????? The Meaning of Sackcloth and Ashes ??????

It wasn't for looking good

This ain't Nordstrom's / Tommy Bahama's

Come to Jonah's we've got the latest in Repentant Apparel
That age old favorite – Sackcloth!
In Mournful black, Humble Camel and Contrite Brown

More like Pick and Save / T.G & Y / Zody's

A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT

2.) *Is When the People Seek After God* vv. 7-9

2a.) *They Must See Their Need*

Verse 7

And **he caused** it to be **proclaimed** and **published** throughout Nineveh by the **decree** of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither **man** nor **beast**, **herd** nor **flock**, **taste anything**; do not let them **eat**, or **drink** water.

- They Personally – abstained from pleasures
- They Personally – abstained from the world provisions
- They Personally – abstained from self independence

2b.) *They Must Forsake Their Way*

Verse 8

But let man and beast be **covered with sackcloth**, and **cry mightily** to God; yes, let every one **turn from his evil way** and **from the violence** that is in his hands.

Notice Here the “Orchestra of Action”

They Must Forsake Their Way – to go His way!!!!

- 1- They Publicly - Covered themselves with sackcloth
- 2- They Publicly - Cried Mightily to God
- 3- They Publicly – Turned from their evil ways
- 4- They Publicly – Stopped the Violence

To cry mightily to God;

2394 chozqah (khoz-kaw');

to cry vehemently (in a negative sense) to yell with desperation.

They’re in Desperation for God

Psalm 69:3

I am weary with my **crying**; my throat is dry;
my eyes fail while I wait for my God.

Revelation 7:9-10

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and **crying out with a loud voice**, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Ps 42:3

My tears have been my food day and night, while they continually say to me, "Where is your God?"

Matthew 20:30-34

And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" ³¹ Then the multitude warned them that they should be quiet; but they cried out all the more, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" ³² So Jesus stood still and called them, and said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" ³³ They said to Him, "Lord, that our eyes may be opened." ³⁴ So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.

Is When the People Seek After God

2c.) They Must Turn to Him

Verse 9

Who can tell if God will **turn** and **relent**,
and **turn away** from His fierce anger, so that we may **not perish**.

Who can tell HEB 3045 yada` (yaw-dah');
Perhaps we can acknowledge, come to comprehend, discover!!!

Turn and repent

Jonah 3:9 KJV

Who can tell if God will turn and **repent**,

Relent / Repent HEB 5162 nacham (naw-kham');
to exercise the option. To take a route.

God is Immutable

Meaning – He is **Unchanging** and **Unchangeable**

Numbers 23:19

"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent.

It's in the Positive

Keep that in Mind When You Pray

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

The Will (Mind) of God
is Like a Chicago Wind off Lake Michigan

Going against it is tuff. It will buffet you...
But if you change your mind and turn around that same wind,
Changes and Becomes a Great Help in Getting you Along

Verse 9

and **turn away** from His fierce anger,
so that we may **not perish**.

Malachi 3:6

"For I am the LORD, I do not change;
therefore (that's why) you are not consumed..."

We Not Perish HEB 6 'abad (aw-bad');

A collective wandering away from, for a group to get lost. Having no place to escape. People who have **no way** to flee.

There is a Place – It's God
But There is Only One Way – That's Jesus Christ!

John 14:1-6

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

² In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And **where** I go you know, and **the way** you know." ⁵ Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and **how can we know the way?**" (LISTEN – IN ONE,

ETERNAL AND GLORIOUS REVELATION JESUS ANSWERS BOTH QUESTIONS) ⁶ HE said to Thomas, "I am **the way**, (is the how) the truth, and the life. No one comes **to the Father** (is the where) except through Me.

A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT *Is When the People Seek After God*

2 Chronicles 7:13-14

"For When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or I command the locusts to devour fields, or when I send pestilence among My people, ¹⁴ "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

End of round 1