

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JONAH

CHAPTER 3:6-10 – Part 2

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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**.

The Message was Loud, Clear and Terrifying

Jonah 3:4

And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

This Wonderful Book of Redemption, Salvation and Deliverance Begins with a Simple Scene

#1

Jonah Received Word from the Lord to go and preach

#2

Jonah Rejected God's Plan and Headed to Joppa

#3

Arriving in Joppa, Jonah found a Ship
and paid the Fare

#4

Once at sea, Jonah was Singled out by God and was Swallowed Alive
by a Great Fish

#5 & #6

As Jonah neared Nineveh & He entered into the city
and preached God's message

The Message was /is Loud, Clear and Terrifying.

It is the Message to Everyone who has yet to ask God for Forgiveness
Through The Lord Jesus Christ

Jonah 3:4

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

What Nineveh was Experiencing was A Massive Change
of Heart and Mind – Real Government

A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT

1.) *Is When God is in Control*

vv. 6

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

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

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

A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT

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

2a.) They Must - See Their Need

2b.) They Must - Forsake Their Way

2c.) They Must - Turn Toward Him

A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT

3.) Is When God Becomes King (Lordship) vv. 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**.

“The Lordship of Jesus Christ”

In The Bible is Clear

Deuteronomy 6:4

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

Regarding Lordship, Jesus Put it This Way...

Revelation 3:20

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

*It's The **Mindful Recognition** of a Greater Rule
It's The **Willful Submission** to that Greater Ruler
It's The **Heartfelt Devotion** of that Greater Rule*

Lordship is a reality

An Example of it...

John 5:22-24

"For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, ²³ "that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. ²⁴ "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Acts 2:36

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

1 Corinthians 8:6

yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and One Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

When God Becomes King (Lordship)

3a.) When His Kingdom is Sought After

Verse 10

Then God saw their works...
(that they **turned** from their evil way;)

The "Power Option"

Of every man or woman, boy and girl in this world
Is to Cast Themselves Before God

***When His Kingdom is Sought After
everything changes, all bets are off – the king is in the equation***

2 Chronicles 16:9a

"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

Let the Pursuit of God Begin

And that man will never be the same

1 Samuel 12:24

"Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart;
for (why or because) consider what great things He has done for you.

An Awesome Example of What My Lord Does

Mark 5:18-20

And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. ¹⁹ However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." ²⁰ And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

Wouldn't You Love to be Like this Man?

Well You can't - until you Seek Out His Kingdom

Find Out Where is Jesus Going?

Then Follow Him

Acts 8:5-8

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. ⁶ And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸ And there was great joy in that city.

Jeremiah 29:13

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

I can Tell you Personally - That This is True –
But will you ever be able to tell me that - - personally?

Verse 10

Then God saw **their works...**
(that they **turned** from their evil way;)

What was their works?

They Sought His Kingdom

everything changes, all bets are off – the king is in the equation

Steps to Spiritual Success

#1

They “**Believed**” God

#2

They “**Humbled**” themselves before God

#3

They “**Cried**” out to God

Psalm 86:5

For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.

#4

They “**Turned Away**” from evil, (Turning Towards God)

#5

and then They “**Trusted**” God

My Personal Experience

Mark 7:31-37

Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee. ³² Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him. ³³ And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴ Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened. ³⁵ Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶ Then He commanded them that they should tell no one; **but the more He commanded them, the more widely they proclaimed it.** ³⁷ And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The Book of Acts is Great,

But there is still a whole lot more going on

Is Jesus Christ and His Lordship Important to You?

Do You Want More of God in Your Life?

Then Let Him Change Your Government to a Kingdom
Let Him be Seated Upon the Throne of Your Heart

No Longer “I want, I need, I must...”

But “Lord not my will be done,
but Thine be done”

So... The Gentile Ninevites are Getting’ Saved

Acts 28:28-31

For I want you to realize that this salvation from God is available to the Gentiles as well, and they will accept it." ³⁰ Then Paul lived for two whole years in his own rented house and he welcomed all who visited him, ³¹ telling them all with great boldness about The Kingdom of God (new government) and about the Lord Jesus Christ; (lordship / kingship) and no one dared tried to stop him.

A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT *When God Becomes King (Lordship)*

3b.) When His Perfect Will is Embraced

Verse 10

and **God relented** from the disaster that He had said
He would bring upon them,

For the life of me. I cannot understand why;

There are people who have gotten angry with God about this verse. Because they say
“God wimped out.” That He was “Weak” because he didn’t
Fry the Ninevites!

A Very Sick Person Rejoices
in Judgment, in Punishment.

Verse 10

and **God relented** from the disaster that He had said
He would bring upon them,

God Cannot Change His Mind
He Didn't Change His Mind
His Mind had Options Present because of His Nature

God Cannot Change His Mind - Immutable
But God Does Relent from the disaster! - Merciful

John 3:17-19

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. – **THAT IS GOD'S NATURE, TO SAVE LIFE**

¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not condemned; – **THAT IS OUR OPTION** but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. – **THAT IS OUR DESTINY WITHOUT CHRIST.**

***God Becomes King (Lordship) Personally -
When His Perfect Will is Embraced***

1 Thessalonians 5:18

in everything give thanks; - **trusting God**
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Because His Nature & Will Cannot be Separated

Ezekiel 18:32

"For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!" – **THAT IS HIS NATURE**

Ezekiel 33:11b

"O that the wicked turn from his way and live.
Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die?"

It's His Nature (Will) to Bless

Ask me to Judge my enemies, I'll judge em'
But ask me to forgive them – Sadly I don't have that kind of power,
Or that option – I must ask God for that power.

It's not my nature!

Understanding The Nature of God Is such a Wonderful Rule to Following God

The Revealed "Attitude" of the God of the Bible Is a Good and Loving and Forgiving God

John 14:6-9

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷ "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." ⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

The Will, Nature and Attitude of God the Father, God the Holy Spirit
And God the Son - - is Seen in Jesus Christ

- How does God deal with a broken-hearted Prostitute?
- How does God deal with a broken-hearted Businessman?
- How does God deal with a broken-hearted Thief or Liar?
- How does God deal with a broken-hearted Housewife?

Exodus 34:1-7

And the LORD said to Moses, "Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke. ² So be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain. ³ And no man shall come up with you, and let no man be seen throughout all the mountain; let neither flocks nor herds feed before that mountain...."

... ⁴ So he cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone. ⁵ Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶ And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷ keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,

Ephesians 4:32

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you.

Colossians 3:12-13

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

Nahum 1:2-3

God is jealous, and the LORD avenges; the LORD avenges and is furious. The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserves wrath for His enemies; ³ The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked. The LORD has His way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet.

Psalms 145:8-9

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.

Psalms 103:7-8

He made known His ways to Moses, his acts to the children of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.

Nehemiah 9:17

So They refused to obey, and they were not mindful of Your wonders that You did among them. But they hardened their necks, and in their rebellion they appointed a leader to return to their bondage. But You are God, ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness, and did not forsake them.

A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT
When God Becomes King (Lordship)

3c.) When His Mercy is the Rule

Verse 10

...and He **did not do it!**

Have you ever been awaiting critical news?
It's the kind of news that could go either way.

And then finally, when the news is in, you sit on pins and needles awaiting the news –
a then good report is given!!!

There is a Release, a Gladness, an Exuberance!

I wonder how many times God exercises His Option
to Relent from bringing Judgment in our lives?

Was there a sin in your life that you turned from
and God has since exercised His Option
to Relent from bringing Judgment upon you?

Release, Gladness, Exuberance!

Acts 3:2-9

And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; ³ who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. ⁴ And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." ⁵ So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. ⁸ So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them-- walking, leaping, and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

And all the people saw us walking and praising God.

I am often, even continually grateful
for what God has done,

what he is doing. But how grateful am I for what God hasn't done, for what
He did not do?

Psalm 7:11-12

God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day. If he does not turn back, God will sharpen His sword; God bends His bow and makes it ready.

Jeremiah 18:7-8

"The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, ⁸ if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.

Jeremiah 26:2-3,13

"Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak to all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, all the words that I command you to speak to them. Do not diminish a word. ³ Perhaps everyone will listen and turn from his evil way, that I may relent concerning the calamity which I purpose to bring on them because of the evil of their doings.' ¹³ Now therefore, amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; then the LORD will relent concerning the doom that He has pronounced against you.

Joel 2:12-14a

"Now, therefore," says the LORD, "Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning." ¹³ So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm. ¹⁴ Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him--

THE PERSONAL APPLICATION

Observations:

That God governs over the nations

That God has the heart of the King in His hand.

Every person is responsible for his or her own sinful actions

That God has decreed judgment against sin and unrighteousness

But God's nature is such, that He delights in extending His goodness

That Jonah 3 teaches us that if we're a sinning believer, there is a way back
If we're lost

Psalm 126:5

Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.

end