

Communion Meditation – Jonah

Jonah 3.4-10 (read chapter 3)

“Nineveh Repents”

Sep 22nd, 2013

Recap

- Jonah disobeyed God and ran away towards Tarshish
- God went after Jonah for his own good, because He loved him
- The sailors demonstrated more fear of God & respect for life than did Jonah
- They reluctantly sacrifice Jonah & are amazed at great fish & sudden calm
- God preserved Jonah in the fish ~ then saved him from it in **2.10** (*spoke*)
- Jonah is given a 2nd chance ~ “*the message that I tell you*” ~ he obeys

Message Proclaimed & Believed

- We finally hear the prophetic message God has for Nineveh
 - **v4b** ~ “*Yet 40 days , and Nineveh shall be overthrown*”
 - Jonah’s message spread fast ~ “*Jonah began to enter the city on the 1st day*”
- **v5** ~ Repentance & revival begins with people & spreads to the king (**v6**)
 - **v6** ~ The king dons sackcloth and sits in ashes
 - **v7** ~ He proclaims a total fast (*food or drink*) for all living (*men & animals*)
 - **v8** ~ They are to abandon sinful ways and call upon God
 - **v9** ~ They do this in the hopes that God will relent

God Relents

- **v10** ~ “*Then God saw their works .. God relented from the disaster ..*”
 - “Does **God relenting mean that He did not fulfill His Word?**”
- There was no caveat placed in the prophecy of destruction (**reread v4b**)
 - Yet God’s Word states this ~ “*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 ..*” (**Jer 18.7-8**)
 - God reserves the right to relent on all prophecies of destruction
 - David interceding for his first son w/Bathsheba was based upon this
- Jesus regarded their repentance as true (**Mat 12.41** ~ “*.. will rise up ..*”

God is merciful .. He extends grace and mercy even to these evil Assyrians
No one deserves God’s mercy ~ God extends mercy to whomever He wishes
But we know this table represents mercy & grace, forgiveness & acceptance