

Sackcloth or Brimstone? – 04/19/20

TEXT- **Jonah 3:1-10** ... esp. vs. 5 *So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.*

INTRO – Before the Northern Kingdom was taken into captivity the neighboring country of Assyria had become a powerful military force. God called Jonah to preach to them a message of repentance. Nineveh repented and turned to God. Even the king put on sackcloth and ashes and mourned over the country's sins.

Gen 18:16-33 esp. vs. 19-23 *And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?*

24 *Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city:*

And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.

29 *And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake.*

30 *And he said unto him, shall thirty be found there.*

31 *Peradventure there shall be twenty found there.*

32 *And he said, Peradventure ten shall be found there.*

And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.

Lot was not only a believer in the true and living God, the Holy Spirit records that he was distressed daily by the decadent, crumbling moral conditions around him. However not even ten righteous souls could be found in the entire city that it might be spared from the judgment of God.

What will America do? Will people begin to mourn over their sin and turn to God or will people continue in a humanist way forgetting God? There is a window of opportunity for the people of America to seek revival.

I. The Condition We Are In

A. Interest in spiritual things continues to wane. People have no time for God.

Psa 9:17 *The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*

- Church attendance is down
- Immorality is more accepted
- The family unit is in trouble
- Suicide and drug use is increasing
- Education is more secular
- Animosity toward Christianity is growing

B. Christians are weak

Rev 3:14-16 *And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; 15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

Who is faithful to church? Who is faithful to read their Bible? Who is a faithful witness? Who is living a separated life?

C. The preaching is weak

Jer 23:1-2 *Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. 2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.*

2 Ti 4:3-4 *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

Eze 22:30 *And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.*

Calamity came to turn people back to Him

35 times Ezekiel says “they shall know that I *am* the LORD”

Eze 5:13 His anger - *they shall know that I the LORD have spoken it*

Eze 6:10 Do evil to them - *they shall know that I am the LORD*

Eze 6:14 Make the land desolate - *they shall know that I am the LORD.*

Eze 7:27 I will do unto them after their way - *they shall know that I am the LORD.*

Eze 12:15-16 I shall scatter them among the nations - *they shall know that I am the LORD*

II. The Opportunity Before Us

There is an opportunity before us to turn to God

Ecc 3:1-13 *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*

A. Recognition of our sins

Ezra 9:1-10:1

Psa 32:5 *I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.*

B. Contrition of our sins

Mat 5:4 *Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*

Mat 5:6 *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

1 John 1:9

C. Confession of our sins

2 Co 6:2 *(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*

D. Boldness to Obey God

Dan 6:10 *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.*

Joh 4:23 *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

Mat 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

CONCL-

HEBRIDES REVIVAL _ Hehbirdees

Early 1900's two elderly women, off the coast of Scotland in the Isle of Lewis in the Hebrides Islands, began praying for revival – Peggy and Christine Smith. Peggy was 84 and blind and Christine was 82 and bent over by arthritis

They prayed and soon revival came and seven men were saved and began to pray for revival.

A young teen was saved named Donald Smith. He became a fervent Christian and prayer warrior.

In 1936 a niece to the elderly women immigrated to the United States named Mary Anne Smith MacCleod. She married a man named Fred and they began having their family. Her Aunts sent her a gift of a Bible used in the Hebrides revival that had special meaning and she passed it on to her fourth child whom she named Donald in memory of Donald Smith. On January 20 2017 the Bible was by used her son as he took the oath to become the 45th president of the United States. Donald J Trump