Nineveh Repented at the Preaching of Jonas! The disobedient prophet & the penitent king Tonight, I would like to look at a Biblical example of a nation and its king that were moved to repentance at the preaching of Jonah! They had sinned against God, and consequently found themselves on the receiving end of God's wrath, who was ready to draw His sword of judgment against their city!

But after hearing the preaching of God's prophet, God convicted both King and people, who humbled themselves in repentance toward God.

In was in that amazing time that God turned from the fierceness of His anger against that nation. Beloved, there is no doubt the God has determined to get the attention of our nation, but also all of humanity in this Coronavirus Pandemic.

This ought to be a wakeup call to our church and to Christians everywhere. While leaders and doctors all over the world are scrambling to try and stop the spread of this virus, to lower the curve of the number of people infected, and develop a vaccine; WHAT ARE WE, Church of the Lord Jesus Christ doing? YES, we should be following the guidelines from our government!

But are we falling on our faces before God in repentance for the sins of our people and nation? And for the churches? *Romans 9:3, 10:1*

This pandemic is a wakeup call to the churches! It is a call to the church to repent of her unfaithfulness, and her ease and prosperity and worldliness! God is calling the church to repent of the pandemic of sin that has infected her assemblies!

I believe the Lord is speaking to us I the same way that He spoke to the seven (7) churches in Revelation 2 & 3? The Lord telling us: "I have somewhat against thee?" *Revelation 2:2-5, 12-16*

Brethren, has God gotten our attention? Are we listening to God? Or are we going to just go on living our quarantined lives as if God's judgment hasn't fallen upon our nation and the world? It's time for the church to wake up? Romans 13:11

a. O for ONE LEADER, one senator, one member of congress, our governor or our President to call a news conference, to call our nation and our leaders to repentance before God! To call for national prayer and fasting and confession of our sins before God!!

Let us learn from the examples in the Holy Scriptures of HOW God MOVED in the midst of great judgments when kings and the people and preachers humbled themselves in repentance before God!

Jonah 1:1-3

"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me". Just the thought of that should move us to shudder with fear!

The Lord called Jonah to preach against the wickedness and sins of the great city of Nineveh; and since we know the end of the story, we know that, just as God had determined that Jonah would preach to that city; God also determined to be merciful to the people of Nineveh. He forewarned them of coming judgment against their city for their wickedness!

After Jonah's disobeyed God tried to "flee from the presence of the LORD"; God hunted him down with a great storm and transported him back to Nineveh in the stomach of a whale. The whale was then commanded by God to spew Jonah out of his mouth. That is where we find ourselves: *Jonah 3:1-4:11*

But it was different in Sodom and Gomorrah, and the other two cities of the plain, (Admah and Zeboim); notice that the same infamy of sin went up before God from these cities, but there was no preaching, but only judgment. Genesis 18:20-22

That's a terrible end to a nation and to its people when they are left to themselves; when there are no preachers sent by God call sinners to repentance; no preachers to preach the

gospel of Jesus Christ!

And even worse than even that is when the Lord removes the candlestick from a church because of their unfaithfulness and continued sin and wickedness against Him? For Nineveh, God determined to be merciful, and to not destroy that great city; but that was not the case for Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim.

i. <u>Matthew 11:20-24, 12:38-41</u>

When Solomon had finished the House of the Lord, and after Solomon had dedicated the House of the Lord and offered sacrifices unto the Lord; the LORD appeared to Solomon and spoke these words: 2 Chronicles 7:12-14