

The New Testament Church
Revival #7: Revival under Jonah: Compassion for the Lost
Pastor Paul Jehle – February 13, 2022
Jonah 4; Matthew 12:39-41

I What is Revival and when does it Come?

- A. Revival means to come alive again – meaning we have grown cold and withered
- B. God uses dry hearts and a dark culture to produce desperation for hunger and thirst
 - 1. The revival of Enosh – first in the Bible – *calling on the name of the Lord*
 - 2. The revival of Jacob – *calling on God from a place of brokenness*
 - 3. The revival of Joseph – *God prepared him to preserve life and impact Egypt*
 - 4. The revival of Samuel – *There is always hope for revival begins in the heart and family!*
 - 5. The revival of Asa and Jehoshaphat – *Awakening and Reformation: Stand Still!*
 - 6. The revival of Elijah and Elisha – *Passing the torch in humility*

II The revival under Jonah – The Book of Jonah

- A. Nineveh, capital of Assyria
 - 1. Founded by Asshur (Genesis 10:11) around 2500 BC just after the universal flood
 - 2. Ruled over *Babylonia, Armenia, Media, Palestine, Syria, Phoenicia, Sumeria, Elam, Egypt*
 - 3. One of the longest ruling empires of the ancient world – over 1,000 years
 - a. Peace through forced rule; there was no rule of law (UH, pgs. 62-65)
 - b. Monarchs were symbols of Satan - snakes or dragons (UH, pgs. 365-66)
 - c. Economic system was controlled by the State
 - d. Government was top-down and centralized, the state was god (self-praise)
 - e. Assyrian kings often ruled by terror with no mercy
- B. Israel – the northern kingdom – Jeroboam II (793-753) – an evil king, yet prosperous
 - 1. God’s people were gripped in a prosperity mind-set – the love of money, luxury and ease
 - 2. Yet, God sends a prophet to the most wicked city on earth to demonstrate His mercy!
- C. Jonah – 760 BC – God calls Jonah to prophesy repentance to Nineveh, the capitol of Assyria
 - 1. He is the son of Amittai, from a town called Gath-hepher, near Nazareth (later Galilee)
 - 2. As a prophet of God, he is used to declaring God’s message of repentance to Israel
 - 3. Prophesying during prosperity – people must repent of entitlement (take mercy for granted)
 - 4. God calls him to go to Nineveh (northeast of his home) but he goes far west (to Tarshish)
- D. How does God prepare Jonah to have a heart of compassion and mercy for those who are lost?
 - 1. Chp 1 - Jonah runs from his call to share the gospel – *he writes off the Ninevites as too wicked*
 - 2. But **mercy** (not getting what we deserve; is the fuel of compassion, “forward forgiveness”; its choosing not to be offended, seeing a hurting heart behind the angry rhetoric and evil actions)
 - 3. **God prepares us to share the gospel with the lost with a heart of mercy** (even a fish)
(The whale can represent situations that God allows for us so that we appreciate His mercy)
 - 4. Chp 2 - Jonah **repents**, and cries for mercy (2:8) – idolizes self; forsaking the mercy of God
 - 4. Chp 3 – Jonah, looking quite interesting after three days in a whale, **preaches repentance**
 - a. 120,000 people – from leaders to the people – repent of their sin – a massive revival
 - b. *God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them*
 - 5. Chp 4 - **Jonah is angered at God’s kindness**, for he wanted to see judgment (vengeance)
 - a. God shows Jonah mercy with a plant that gives shade – though he didn’t deserve it
 - b. *You have had pity on the plant... more than... those who can’t discern right from left*
- E. So what is the “sign of Jonah”? – Matthew 12:39-41
 - 1. The sign of miracles vs. the sign of compassion, mercy and repentance... - the gospel
 - 2. As Jonah was in the belly of the fish (whale), so Christ took the sin of the world (mercy)