

**WHEN SAYS GOD SAYS**



**GO...**

**AND**



**YOU SAY NO**

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# **Jonah, the reluctant prophet**

- **we know almost nothing of his life before his call**
- **we know almost nothing about his life after his mission was completed**
- **a very interesting character to focus on**

## **Jonah 1:1-3**

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**Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.**

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**God's sovereignty over all the Earth is evident here Nineveh was an Assyrian city**

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## **Jonah was already serving as a prophet in Israel (2 Kings 14:23-29)**

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- **prophesied King Jeroboam II would regain territory that was previously lost**
- **he lived and ministered during a time when Israel was strong economically and militarily**
- **Amos and Hosea were his contemporaries**

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**Nineveh was a truly evil place**

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## Nahum 3:1-3

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**Woe to the bloody city! it is all full of lies and robbery; the prey departeth not; the noise of a whip, and the noise of the rattling of the wheels, and of the pransing horses, and of the jumping chariots. The horseman lifteth up both the bright sword and the glittering spear: and there is a multitude of slain, and a great number of carcases; and there is none end of their corpses; they stumble upon their corpses:**

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**THIS IS THE KIND OF PLACE GOD  
MIGHT SEND YOU!!!!**

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## **2 Tim 4:2**

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**preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.**

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# Luke 24:47

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**and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

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**GOD TELLS JONAH TO GO!!!!**

**AND HE SAYS NO!!!!**

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# **His rebellious heart refuses the command**

- **we aren't told why he feels this way.....at least not yet**
- **he finds a ship to go in the complete opposite direction of God's command**

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**GOD HAD MORE TROUBLE GETTING  
HIS SERVANT TO GO**

**THAN GETTING NINEVAH TO  
REPENT!!!**

**IT IS THE SAME WITH CHURCH  
PEOPLE TODAY!!!!**

# Jonah's rebellion makes him leave town and country

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- **WHEN YOU ARE IN OPEN REBELLION AGAINST GOD,**
- **YOU WILL GO TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH THINKING YOU CAN ESCAPE!!!**

## Jonah 1:4-9

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**But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken. Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.**

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**So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not. And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.**

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**Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou? And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.**

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**YOUR DISOBEDIENCE  
TO GOD WILL ENDANGER**

**THE LIVES OF EVERYONE AROUND YOU!!!**

# **This was no time to sleep**

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- **the sailors immediately focus on Jonah because their “gods” won’t answer them**
- **look at the questions that they ask him:  
Why haven’t you prayed to God?**
- **Who are you?**

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# **Very important detail in this story is the fact that the sailors were foreigners**

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- **Jonah's response "I am an Hebrew" is how Israelites identified themselves to foreigners**

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**Jonah's disobedience destroyed his testimony  
for the Lord to these non-believers**

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## **Jonah 1:10-17**

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**Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.**

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**And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you. Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them. Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee.**

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**So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging. Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows. Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.**

# **“Why hast thou done this?”**

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- **the sailors realize Jonah’s God is the one true God**
- **the storm was getting more violent, they ask him for a solution**

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**LET'S GIVE CREDIT TO JONAH FOR  
ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY**

**LET'S GIVE CREDIT TO THE SAILORS  
FOR TRYING THEIR BEST TO SAVE  
JONAH'S LIFE**

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**They pray to God to have mercy on them  
for what they are about to do: throw Jonah  
overboard**

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- **the sea immediately calms**

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**THE SAILORS BECOME CONVERTS TO  
THE LORD!!!!**

**THEY OFFER SACRIFICES AND MAKE  
VOWS TO GOD!!!!**

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## Psalms 103:17

**But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, And his righteousness unto children's children.**

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## **Deut 11:28**

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**And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.**

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## **1 Samuel 12:15**

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**but if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD,  
but rebel against the commandment of the  
LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be  
against you, as it was against your fathers.**

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## **Note what the Bible says in verse 17**

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- **“Lord had prepared a great fish....”**

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**WHEN GOD HAS CALLED YOU  
TO DO A JOB....**

**HE WILL GO TO ANY LENGTH TO  
MAKE SURE IT GETS DONE!!!!**

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**And now, we see Jonah's prayer  
and cry for repentance**

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## **Jonah 2:1-10**

Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, and said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, And he heard me; Out of the belly of hell cried I, And thou heardest my voice. For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; And the floods compassed me about: All thy billows and thy waves passed over me.

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Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; Yet I will look  
again toward thy holy temple. The waters  
compassed me about, even to the soul: The depth  
closed me round about, The weeds were wrapped  
about my head. I went down to the bottoms of the  
mountains; The earth with her bars was about me  
for ever: Yet hast thou brought up my life from  
corruption, O LORD my God.

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When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: And my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. They that observe lying vanities Forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD. And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

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**WHERE DID JONAH PRAY?**

**LITERALLY IN THE BELLY OF THE  
BEAST!!!**

**WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU  
PRAYED TO GOD IN THE CENTER OF  
YOUR PROBLEMS??**

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**WHY DID JONAH PRAY?**  
**“BY REASON OF MY AFFLICTION”**  
**FLEEING FROM GOD**  
**NEGLECTING SPIRITUAL**  
**RESPONSIBILITIES**  
**SLEEPING DURING THE STORM**

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**WHEN DID JONAH PRAY?**

**“WHEN MY SOUL FAINTED”**

**LIFE OR DEATH SITUATION**

**HE REMEMBERED THE LORD AND  
RECOMMITTED HIMSELF TO HIM**

**VERSE 8 IS REFERENCE TO THE SAILORS  
AND THEIR “gods”**

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## **Psalm 51:17**

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**The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.**

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## Isaiah 66:2

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**For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.**

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## **Ezekiel 18:31**

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**Cast away from you all your transgressions,  
whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a  
new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die,  
O house of Israel?**

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# **Jonah confesses that salvation comes only from the Lord**

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- **this foreshadows his message to Nineveh that he will deliver**

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**GOD HAS MOVED JONAH FROM  
DISOBEDIENCE TO REPENTANCE**

**GOD IS ABOUT TO MOVE NINEVEH FROM  
IDOLATRY TO FAITH**

**HE CAN DO THE SAME FOR YOU TODAY!!!**

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## Jonah 3:1-3

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And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

# The word of God comes to Jonah a 2nd time

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- notice this time “he arose” because he has learned his lesson
- notice the specific instructions to “preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee”

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**PREACHERS ARE SUPPOSED TO  
PREACH THE WORD OF GOD....**

**NOT THEIR PERSONAL FEELINGS!!!!**

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## **Col 1:25**

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**whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God.**

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## **1 Thes 2:4-5**

But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness:

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## **Deut 4:2**

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**Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.**

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**Nineveh was apparently a physically large city that took about 3 days to see in its entirety**

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- **this is where God has sent Jonah**

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## **Jonah 3:4-6**

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**And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. 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. For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.**

# **Jonah's judgment message that 40 days from now this great city will be destroyed**

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- **who was a better witness to this than Jonah?**
- **just as God turned Jonah's heart around, he would use the prophet to do the same for Nineveh**

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# **THE REVIVAL IN NINEVEH HAS BEGUN!!!**

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**citywide belief in God and repentance**

**even the king humbles himself before God**

**he exchanges his royal robes for sackcloth**

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**HOW HARD IT IS FOR THE  
PRIVILEGED TO BE PENITENT!!!!**

**REPENTANCE IS UNUSUAL FOR THE  
RICH AND POWERFUL!!!!**

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## **The king realized that:**

- **riches weren't enough, he needed righteousness**
- **power wasn't enough, he needed peace**
- **servants wasn't enough, he needed salvation**

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## **Jonah 3:7-10**

**And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.**

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**Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.**

# **The king issues a special decree calling for praying, fasting and mourning rites**

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- **verse 8 shows the royal admissions of the worst of Nineveh' sins (physical violence was a trademark of the Assyrian empire)**

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**GOD SEES NINEVEH'S  
REPENTANCE AS TRUE...  
AND  
HE SPARES THEM**

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## **Psalms 19:7**

**The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.**

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## **Acts 3:19**

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**Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.**

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**NINEVEH'S REPENTANCE  
IS COMPLETE.....**

**AND JONAH'S WORST FEARS  
HAVE BEEN REALIZED**

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## **Jonah 4:1-3**

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**But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry. And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil. Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live.**

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**“displeased Jonah exceedingly and he was very angry”**

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- the Hebrew here says “it was evil to Jonah as a great wrong”
- WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME GOD MADE YOU EXCEEDINGLY ANGRY?

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**NOW WE FINALLY KNOW WHY JONAH  
REFUSED GOD'S INITIAL CALL...**

**HIS GREATEST FEAR BEFORE GOING  
TO NINEVEH WAS THAT  
GOD WOULD SAVE THEM!!!**

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## **In his mind, the Ninevites were a cruel and violent people who deserved death**

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- like Elijah before him, he asks God to kill him
- **HOW SAD AFTER EVERYTHING JONAH HAD DONE!!!**

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## **Jonah 4:4**

**Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?**

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## **Ecc 7:9**

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**Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger  
resteth in the bosom of fools.**

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## Eph 4:26-27

**Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither give place to the devil.**

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## **Proverbs 19:11**

**The discretion of a man deferreth his anger;  
And it is his glory to pass over a transgression.**

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## **Jonah 4:5**

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**So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city.**

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# **Don't be fooled, Jonah refuses to accept the Ninevites fate**

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- **he wants a front-row seat to their destruction**
- **he awaits in his booth**

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**GOD WILL NOT ALLOW JONAH TO  
CONTINUE WITH THIS ATTITUDE**

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## **Jonah 4:6-11**

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**And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd. But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered.**

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**And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live. And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death.**

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**Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: and should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?**

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## **What these verses tell us:**

- **Jonah was more concerned for his pleasure/comfort (gourd) than the people of Nineveh**
- **his petty concern for the plant is nothing compared to God's care for his creation**

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## **Joel 2:13**

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**and rend your heart, and not your garments,  
and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is  
gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of  
great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.**

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## **Micah 7:18**

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**Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.**

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**WHEN GOD SAYS GO!!!**

**AND YOU SAY NO!!!!**

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**NOW WE SEE HOW THAT REBELLIOUS ATTITUDE  
ENDANGERS THE LIVES OF SO MANY PEOPLE!!!**

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**NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU TRY TO RUN AND HIDE....**

**WHEN GOD HAS A JOB FOR  
YOU TO DO YOU CANT ESCAPE!!!**

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THE BOOK OF JONAH ENDS WITHOUT HIS  
RESPONSE TO GOD'S QUESTIONS!!!

WHAT DID HE SAY? WAS HE STILL ANGRY??

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**ARE YOU STILL MAD AT GOD?**

**DOEST THOU WELL TO BE ANGRY?**

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**HEAR GOD PLEADING WITH YOU TODAY!!**

**BE LIKE NINEVEH AND REPENT!!!**

**THIS IS YOUR TIME FOR REVIVAL!!!!**

**WHEN SAYS GOD SAYS**



**GO...**



**AND**

**YOU SAY NO**

**Elder: Chadwick Sadaphal**