

Jonah 4

Jesus

Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown!
Ninevah Repents/People are Saved/Heaven Rejoices

I. Jonah Exposed

1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry.

Jonah is angry: God did not do what Jonah wanted God to do

Blessed are those who are not offended because of Me
IOWs Happy are those who trust My ways above their own

- Angry those he hated were being saved
- Shown mercy/Did not extend the same mercy

IOWs God's desire to save bad people displeased Jonah
Jonah was delusional w/regard to his place in the universe

Romans 12:3 [...Let no one] **think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly...**

- **David** knew who he was

Psalm 51:1 **Have mercy upon me**, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender **mercies**, Blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.

- **Paul** knew who he was

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to **save sinners, of whom I am chief.**

Men/Woman w/a heart after God know who they are before God
Jonah was delusional w/regard to his place in the universe/before God

Jonah's anger toward God's...revealed Jonah's heart toward God
IOWs If Jonah believes he is right/He must believe God is wrong

Genesis 18:23 [God tells Abraham He is going to destroy Sodom] And Abraham came near and said, "**Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked?** 24 Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? 25 Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! **Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?**" [God removed the righteous]

Abraham knew His God/God cannot do wrong
Universal Law: If God and I disagree...I'm wrong

1 John 1:5b ...God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

James 1:13b ...God cannot be tempted by evil

Psalm 18:30 His way is perfect...

Blessed are those who are not offended because of My Ways/My Timing
IOWs Happy are those who completely trust Me

Isaiah 55:8 ...My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

God's mercy to Nineveh displeased Jonah exceedingly
rt. *gādal* Grew in intensity. Jonah speaks to God as his anger grows hot...

2 So [Jonah] prayed to the Lord, and said, "Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish

That's why I rebelled against You God...
Because I disagree w/the way You do things!

- **When I was still in my country?** National/Pride/Entitlement?

We are God's chosen few, All others will be damned. There is no place in heaven for you, We can't have heaven crammed. [Swift]

Jonah himself called on the mercy of God and enjoyed the mercy of God when it was extended to Jonah. Now he resents it when it is extended to others. What if God treated Jonah the way Jonah wanted God to treat the people of Nineveh? [Guzik]

Entirety of the Law: Love your neighbor as yourself. Period
IOWs Love God by loving others the way Jesus loves you

2b ...for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.

Moses knew God

Exodus 34:6 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth..."

David knew God

Psalm 86:5 For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You ...**15** But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

Joel knew God

Joel 2:13 He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm.

Did Jonah know God?
He at least quoted Joel...who knew God...

v2 You are a gracious and merciful God. Slow to anger
Abundant in lovingkindness...One who relents from doing harm...

3 Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!"

Take my life...

- Job
- Moses
- Jonah
- David
- Jeremiah
- Rebekah
- Solomon
- **Elijah...**

Elijah takes out the prophets of Baal/Ashtoreth
Ahab is humiliated and Jezebel is angry...

1 Kings 19:1 And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, also how he had executed all the prophets with the sword. **2** Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time." **3** And when he saw that, he arose and **ran for his life**, and went to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. **4** But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he **prayed that he might die**, and said, "**It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life**, for I am no better than my fathers!" [**Delf-Pity**] **5** Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an angel touched him, and said to him, "Arise and eat." **6** Then he looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. **7** And the angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you." **8** So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God. **9** And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said to him, "**What are you doing here, Elijah?**" **10** So he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. **I alone am left**; and they seek to take my life." **11** Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; **12** and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. **13** So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, "**What are you doing here, Elijah?**" **14** And he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. **I alone am left**; and they seek to take my life." **15** Then the Lord said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and **when you**

arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. 16 Also you shall **anoint Jehu** the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha...you shall anoint as prophet **in your place ...18** Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Elijah never did anoint Hazael or Jehu...Elisha did in his place
God took Elijah before he could finish his ministry

Though he left in a fiery chariot it was not a triumphal exit
The great Elijah was taken in a state of self-pity

- **Flesh:** Self-Pity
- **Devil:** Do it. Curse God/Die
- **World System:** The lie: The pain will cease

v3 Please take my life from me
It is better for me to die than to live!

4 Then the Lord said, "**Is it right for you to be angry** [lit. *hot*] ?" 5 So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city.

No answer. Absolute Hissy Fit
Jonah gets up and leaves

4b ...There [Jonah] made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city.

An atheist scientist boasts to God, "We can now create life just like You did." "Is that so?" says God. "Alright, let's have a man-making contest." The scientist confidently bends down to scoop up some dirt. God interrupts him, "Whoa, whoa, whoa. Get your own dirt."

Whatever Jonah used to build the shelter
Sticks/Trees/Rocks belonged to the God he was trying to avoid

- Jonah used the legs God prepared to flee from Him
- Jonah used the eyes God prepared to see. See what?

To see if God would still destroy the city in 40 Days
Maybe Jonah's anger convinced God Jonah was right?

Jonah sits under the shade of his DIY shelter
Getting hotter as the Assyrian sun beats down...Shelter not fully covering his head

6 And the Lord **God prepared a plant** and made it **come up over Jonah**, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So **Jonah was very grateful for the plant.**

This is the first time we find Jonah happy. "Jonah was pleased because at last, after all the compassion of God for other people, God was finally doing something for Jonah... [Boice]"

Jonah was *very angry* when God did what displeased Jonah
Jonah is now *very grateful* God us doing what pleases Jonah

1 Thessalonians 5:17 ... in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

We give thanks *in everything* not *for everything*
In everything because God has allowed it/For our growth

Job 1:21 [Job knew this] "Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; **Blessed be the name of the Lord.**"

Jonah was grateful for the plant and its shade

7 But as morning dawned the next day **God prepared a worm**, and it so damaged the **plant** that it **withered**. 8 And it happened, when the sun arose, that **God prepared a** vehement east **wind**; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then **he wished death for himself**, and said, **"It is better for me to die than to live."**

- **God prepared a worm:** Plant withered
- **God prepared a wind:** Jonah is now fully exposed...

It is better **for ME** to die than live 2X
Jonah wants what is best for Jonah. God/others do not matter

- The LORD prepared a fish
- The LORD prepared a plant
- The LORD prepared a worm
- The LORD prepared a wind
- The LORD is preparing a Jonah. Lit dove

LORD incrementally pressing in to expose motives
Now the LORD prepares a revealing question that exposes Jonah even more so...

9 Then God said to Jonah, **"Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"**

Isaiah 29:16 Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; For shall the thing made say of him who made it, "He did not make me"? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?

9b ...And [Jonah] said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!"

Jonah's last recorded words: It is right for me to be angry

Jonah is exposed. Naked. In complete rebellion against His Creator
Revelation? Jonah deserves the same judgment he sought for Ninevah

10 But the Lord said, "**You have had pity on the plant** for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night.

Jonah had grown fond of the plant
Vegetation that comes/goes. No Emotion/No Consciousness/No Eternal Soul

Exposed: You cared about a plant because it was a benefit to you

11 And **should I not pity Nineveh**, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?"

- 600,000 total
- 120,000 Children

Your compassion is misplaced! You have more feelings for
Plants/Animals than you do for human beings made in My image

You don't comprehend how precious human life is/Your and others

Jewish tradition says that after God said the words of Jonah 4:11, Jonah then fell on his face and said: "Govern your world according to the measure of mercy, as it is said, To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness." [Dan 9:9] We can only hope that Jonah did, and we would, have such a humble response. [Guzik]

We alone have an Eternal Soul in need of Redemption
God's Heart is to see all men redeemed

1 Timothy 2:3 [Pray for the Salvation of all people] For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who **desires all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

God saves bad men even as...
Bad men continue to persecute God's people

2 Timothy 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus **will suffer persecution.**

Adamic default: Allowing our hearts to grow cold when persecuted

Matthew 24:12 ...because lawlessness will abound, the **love of many will grow cold.**

Jesus promised to deal w/our enemies...

Luke 18:7 ...shall God not **avenge His own elect** who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. **Nevertheless**, when the Son of Man comes, **will He really find faith on the earth?"**

Jesus promised He would deal w/our enemies

In the meantime, will we stay faithful *to Him* by continuing to *love them*?

Saul [Apostle Paul] was slaughtering Christian men, women and children.
Jesus asked *why are you persecuting Me, Saul?* **Then Jesus saved him.**

The faith Jesus desires to find in us when He returns is a faith that continues to love/save those who hate/hurt us; a faith that leaves vengeance to God alone. People we seek to save will continue to hurt us as they did Jesus...Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth? A faith in Jesus that compels us to persevere in His love? [NJC]

RIP Charlie