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Draw Nigh Unto Me Part 76

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Defaced - Week 68

God's Coming Spiritual Revolution - Part 15

So how do spiritual longings retard the growth of Spiritual Desire? (continued)

The Sign of Jonah - Part 5 of 6

By Doug Batchelor [Emphases added]

Ref: <https://www.amazingfacts.org/media-library/book/e/75/the-sign-of-jonah>

The Times of Jonah and Jesus

Many believe that the "sign of Jonah" was the three days and three nights.

But notice how in the parallel passage found in the Gospel of Luke that Jesus never even mentions the time period.

Rather, the emphasis of Christ is on the way His people rejected His ministry, preaching, and prophecy in contrast to the Ninevites, who received and repented at the preaching of Jonah.

Luke 11:29-32 records:

29 And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet.

30 For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.

31 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

32 The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

After Jonah came out of the water, it took him three days to reach Nineveh.

He then entered the city one-half day's journey, or 12 hours,

John 11:9 KJV

9 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world.

and preached that after 40 days, the city would be destroyed.

Jonah 3:3-4 KJV

3 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.

4 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.

This same time sequence of three and one-half followed by 40 is found elsewhere in Scripture.

For example, Elijah hid for three and one-half years during the famine and then fled for 40 days from Jezebel.

Now catch this!

Just like Jonah, Jesus came up from the waters of baptism and preached to the Jews for three and one-half years, warning that in one generation (or 40 years), the city and Temple would be destroyed:

Matthew 12:41 KJV

41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

Because the nation of Israel did not listen and repent, it was destroyed.

Only a small percentage of the Jewish people accepted Him and was ready.

Could this happen again to the Church at the time of His second coming?

Here is another example that Jonah was a sign, or type, of Christ:

Jonah's first message to the Ninevites when he came from the water was one of warning, which called them to repentance.

This was also the first message of Jesus after His baptism.

From that time, Jesus began to preach "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (**Matthew 4:17**).

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (**Luke 13:3**)

Jonah Was Resurrected

Jesus told us that He would be a sign to His generation in the same way that Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites:

Luke 11:30 KJV

30 For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.

The principal sign of Jesus to His people was the resurrection.

John 2:18-21 KJV

18 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

21 But he spake of the temple of his body.

As Jonah went down the streets of Nineveh, he most likely shared with his audience the highlights of his adventure and his virtual resurrection.

No doubt Jonah, like Jesus, bore scars from his ordeal.

As he went preaching, his clothes may still have been covered with bits of dried seaweed, and his skin could very well have been scarred with bleached freckles, raw from the digestive juices of the sea monster.

Let's face it, God had, in effect, raised Jonah from a certain death.

Today, every real Christian has, like Jonah, experienced a type of resurrection and new life.

Romans 6:4 KJV

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

We are each called to go where God sends us—without consulting our fears—and to preach a message of mercy and warning.

Sadly, there are many in the world today, even in the church, who are turning away from these messages of warning.

They will not believe unless they see signs and wonders, healings and miracles.

The sign Jesus gave to His generation is still valid today.

For three days and nights, He took the punishment through suffering and the penalty through death.

Then He rose again from the jaws of the grave.

And most important, Jesus gave us His eternal Word to guide us to the kingdom.

Christ said,

"If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (**Luke 16:31**).

Jonah and the Nation of Israel

This study would not be complete without considering another dimension of Jonah's story.

Many scholars agree that Jonah is also a type of the nation of Israel.

God placed the nation of Israel in the Promised Land and located them at the very crossroads of the continents that they might be a beacon of truth—a nation of priests pointing the pagans that surrounded them to Jehovah.

"And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation" (**Exodus 19:6 KJV**).

Because of their refusal to preach to the heathen, God visited His people with captivity in Babylon.

Jonah became a captive because he refused to preach to the people of Nineveh.

Jonah was given another chance, and Israel was also granted emancipation from Babylon.

It is remarkable how in the story of Jonah, everyone seems to listen to God but Jonah.

To Be Continued

Love,
Mwesigwa

[Defaced - Week 69 follows next week]



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