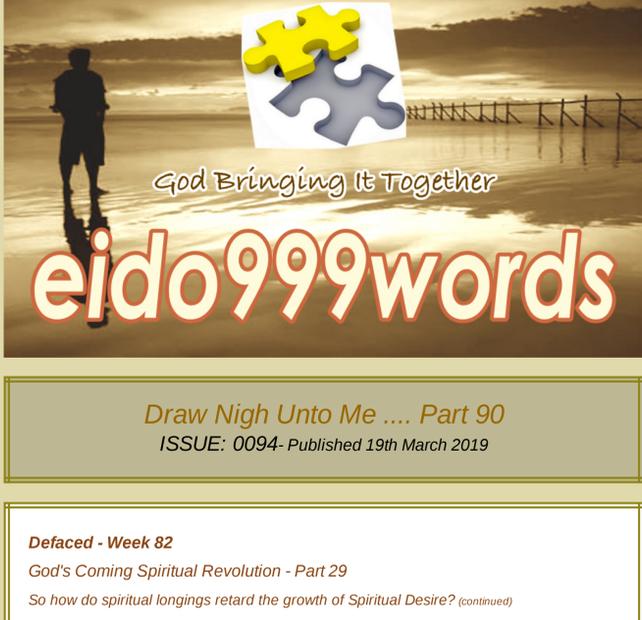


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Draw Nigh Unto Me Part 90

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Defaced - Week 82

God's Coming Spiritual Revolution - Part 29

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

Though unwittingly being led into this already lengthy close look at the Story of Jonah the Minor Prophet, much has & is continually being revealed to me.

And hopefully it's the same for you, or at the very least, my hope is that it is providing you with food for deeper thought.

Open yourself to the Spirit of God & let him teach you, for these writings are but a journey that I See&Know God ordained for us to travel together as the Spirit of God educates, motivates & inspires each one of us toward realising a deeper surrender to His Love.

Last week our journey together entered its third year of existence, and due to a lack thereof, I feel to invite questions, comments, thoughts or encouragement in regard to what is being put forth here.

I know in my heart that these messages have been issued only by & through Grace, the Power of God.

Glory to God, as for the most part, for two years now these messages have been issued in a regular & timely manner.

This He achieved despite the fact that early last year we entered into a most difficult personal & family circumstance which continues to create tight time restrictions in which to write & produce the email.

Nevertheless, throughout this experience, I have again found God Forever Faithful to what He Calls & founds in us.

2 Timothy 2:13 ESV

If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

So I leave you with an open invitation to question, comment or share what God may have done in you, or enlightened to you, through the receiving of these messages.

Direct contact can be made anytime by sending an email to: peter@eido999

Also, I would point out to anyone who should feel not to continue the journey with me, that there is an unsubscribe link at the very bottom of this email to accommodate your desire.

Now, let us continue down the path now opening to us.

Personally, in continuing the journey I am finding not just a great deal more about Jonah's actions & possible motives, but about the Divine Purpose that ensured the very existence of the Book of Jonah.

I confess that before this journey began, I had a very simple & rather naive understanding of Jonah's actions, seeing him simply as the Prophet who disobeyed God & ended up demonstrating a seemingly very bad disposition.

In fact, if I were to ask any of you to name an Old Testament Prophet who disobeyed God & went on to display a bout of anger, I know that Jonah would be the overwhelming choice for most, if not all of you.

However, I personally have a whole new appreciation of Jonah & gained a new perspective on what warranted the inclusion of the Book of Jonah in the Holy Bible.

I remember at one stage along this journey I questioned why it was even included in the Holy Scriptures.

Mainly because any quick reading of it appears only to be showcasing one man's disobedience to God, yet we all know such reasoning could never be accredited to the Divine Character or Purpose.

Now, if I were to pose another question, I know that the answer again would have to be Jonah.

The question being, which Old Testament Prophet did Jesus Christ himself choose to draw a parallel to his role of Messiah?

Matthew 12:38-41 KJV

The Sign of Jonah

38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

So now, here through the very words of Jesus, a seeming paradox or contradiction is raised as to what we may have previously thought of the Story of Jonah.

As Jesus is seen here declaring that the Sign of Jonah is the only sign that the evil & adulterous would ever receive.

Imagine, no sign other than the Sign of Jonah shall be given, a sign that bore a Divine Prophetic foretaste of the coming Messiah Jesus' certain actions prefigured through those of Jonah.

Dictionary Meaning:

foretaste, n.

prelibation, handsef, first taste, Archaic. antepast; anticipation, intuition, foreknowledge, presentiment, premonition.

The Sign of Jonah, as we looked at in detail through an article shared from Issue 74 through to Issue 79 & more briefly of late was, a prelibation, a taste beforehand, a Sign from God.

Note, we need to See&Know that though it bears his name this was not a sign of Jonah's making for he knew nothing of what was really being done through him as a Vessel of God.

It was of God's Making, a Divinely Ordained Sign that Jesus referred to as being "of the prophet Jonas:".

In Matthew 12:39 above, Jesus in answer to the certain scribes & Pharisee's request for a sign was telling them that the only sign to be given was already there for them in the Sign of Jonah.

At this point, let us take another look at how Jonah's actions & experience prefigured Jesus to become the only sign to be given to the evil & adulterous:

1. The whale and the descent to hell.
2. Jonah sacrifices himself.
3. The cross and the ship.
4. The retching whale and the resurrection.
5. Forty days in Nineveh.
6. Preaching to the Gentiles.
7. Calming of the storm.
8. The withering of tradition.
9. The godly worm in the gourd.

Indeed, the Minor Prophet was used by God to deliver Major Prophecy by way of a Sign, not through word but rather through, I believe, Spirit Led behaviour & happenings.

Conduct & experiences that together formed a sign, a Prophecy of Jesus the Messiah to come, all enacted from the Will of God & made manifest through the Power of God.

Just as we so often do, Jonah thought he was doing what he felt he had to do & thought his spiritual longings well justified.

Jonah 1 KJV

1 Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

3 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.

Yet I believe, he was in truth being led under an Anointing of the Spirit of God at that time.

Proverbs 16:9

The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

Psalm 139:4 NLT

You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Just yesterday, I sat in Church as one of our Pastor's shared a story from almost twenty years ago of his time in a local Christian Tertiary College here in Adelaide.

He told us about how one of his favourite Teacher's once posed the following question to all his students:

'What do you think God's Will is for your life'.

The Pastor shared that being young at the time they were all so very eager to share their fervent ideas of what they were seeing God might desire for their lives.

Pen & paper had been handed to each participant & they exuberantly wrote their answers.

After reading the Teacher shared with them his one answer for all:

'The Will of God for your life is that you would allow Him to Love You!'

Wow! In itself, I believe this one thought deserves so much of our attention.

Surely, any meditation upon it with Holy Spirit starts to reveal the Truth & Simplicity of the True Love of God for He Selflessly Loves Us & just wants us to receive His Love Freely Given.

Even in the most wondrous reflection of selfless love that we might see between humans in this life has to, in Truth, be relegated to stand in the shadows of God's Great Love for us!

At this very moment, I am brought to the memory of how I loved my biological father dearly & still do some 46 years after his passing.

Yet I am now also brought to ponder the question of how much did I enact or even give depth of thought to, truly allowing him to love me?

Was it in truth a love more about what he meant to me & what he provided to & for me.

In Truth is not our lives without Christ, and at times even within, predominated in & by self-interest?

We cannot & should not beat ourselves up too much because the reality is that we in ourselves are impure & therefore incapable of anything like the Purity of the Selfless Love of God.

However, it should really make us ask ourselves a question in the Light of it.

How much am I truly allowing God to Love me & upon what am I basing my love for Him?

And would the outworking of the faith given me be found hindered or enhanced by its truthful answer?

I believe that Jonah's surrender to God's Love touching him was sufficient to see him become the chosen vessel for & within The Divine Call to bring a foreshadowing of the Coming Messiah.

A Sign destined to be, as Jesus spoke of, the only Sign to be given an evil & adulterous generation.

Not a sign that Jonah's disobedient actions produced, but rather a Divine Sign that Jonah's receiving of God's Love provided the vessel to carry it to manifestation.

By way of subliminal obedience to the Call of God & deep Spiritual Desire embedded within his heart for the Divine Purpose of God.

In truth, Jonah unknowingly delivered his greatest prophetic message within the steps of each event contained in his story, as recorded in the Book of Jonah.

Being Born Again, the Spirit of God, Emmanuel, God With Us, indwells through Jesus Now Alive in us.

Yet at given times Holy Spirit also visits upon us as we 'feel' his presence surrounding us with Anointing or to bring enlightening of revelation by way of witnessing to the self-same spirit dwelling within us.

Whereas, it is my belief, that in the Old Testament Times in which Jonah lived, at given times the Spirit of God visited upon people of Faith as required to fulfil the Will of God in & or through them.

In allowing God's Love to touch their hearts & lives God's Spiritual Anointing visited upon them in order to fulfil His Will through them at specific times & for specific reasons.

Such a love for God subliminally allowed Jonah to enter & carry on through the journey that unknown to him, manifested the Divine Purpose to produce a prefiguring or foretaste of the Messiah to Come, that Jesus Christ himself described as being the Sign of Jonah.

Love,

Mwesigwa

[Defaced - Week 83 follows next week]

Your prayers of unity with us for God's Provision are most welcome.



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