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## Draw Nigh Unto Me .... Part 91

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### Defaced - Week 83

God's Coming Spiritual Revolution - Part 30

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

Once again we find ourselves returning to look at what might have possibly been the cause of Jonah's anger as described in the final chapter of the Book of Jonah.

Firstly, I would contend that Jonah's anger, just as is often the case with all of us, was in fact, more than anything, directed toward & internalised within himself.

I believe that in light of all the prevailing circumstances that led to this moment, Jonah's anger was birthed out of deep personal bewilderment that was overwhelming him at the time.

#### Meaning of Bewilderment

*be-wil-der-ment* noun. 1. The condition of being confused or disoriented. 2. A situation of perplexity or confusion; a tangle:

a bewilderment of lies and half-truths.

A condition most of us, in truth, may silently dread or even fear could possibly befall us should we avail ourselves into a truly close encounter with God, such as Jonah obviously had.

Verse one begins by telling us that Jonah was exceedingly displeased with God's Will enacted toward Nineveh, the manifestation of which now made him very angry.

In the prayer of verse two, Jonah says he fled to Tarshish in the first place because as was his saying before leaving his country, God is fully capable of relenting & repenting of the evil by way of the Divine Graciousness now made manifest in his midst.

This was not a case of Jonah trying to enact the classic 'I told you so', for what true Man of God could ever do such a thing?

Rather, I see it as a desperate plea from a bewildered & tortured mind desperately seeking for some true understanding of what had just happened.

More especially in light of any future ramifications to his world as he might at that point in time have been perceiving it.

Let us be reminded that to be human is to be self-oriented & any touch of God's Truth assures conflict with its very foundation.

In fact, it was such agony for Jonah that he earnestly asked the Lord to take his life as he was now seeing it better to die than to live.

Honestly, how many times have you 'known' something of God, by way of Spirit Revelation & yet found yourself agonising or being bewildered by a manifestation of it far exceeding the boundaries of your limited understanding of its fullness.

I believe we need to take a wider perspective of the prevailing circumstances at the time that Jonah was Called of God to deliver His Message to Nineveh.

So let us digress for a time to look at some points that may have had a lot to do with Jonah's present circumstance revealed to us, the reader, in that final chapter.

Most pertinent was the fact that Jonah was a Prophet of God, an individual recognised as being in contact with God & ordained to speak on behalf of God.

#### 2 Kings 14:25 KJV

25 He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the Lord God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher.

Furthermore, the mark or sign of a True Prophet was that the Prophecy he gave as coming from God would need to follow or come to pass.

#### Deuteronomy 18:21-22 KJV

21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken?

22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

Now, in light of the preceding let us see ourselves standing in the shoes of Jonah for just a moment.

Imagine as a Prophet of God you were being asked by God to go to Nineveh to tell them that in forty days their city would be overthrown.

While in your heart of knowing God, you knew that the Divine Graciousness was more than capable of relenting from what was intended.

#### Jonah 4:2b KJV

2b 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.

As seen in the scripture above Jonah revealed this as his reasoning for fleeing to Tarshish instead of going to Nineveh as God Called him to.

I cannot speak on behalf of anyone else, but for me, I find it hard to personally reconcile the fact that this alone could have possibly been Jonah's only reason for fleeing to Tarshish.

If this were to be the only factor involved, would it not, therefore, substantiate any & all accusation that Jonah was, in fact, a disobedient servant having his mind & affection more centred upon himself rather than God.

One more interested in maintaining an image than Serving Truth at any cost.

Throughout our study of Jonah, any such belief has been shown to be contrary to the Truth of the matter.

I do not dismiss the fact that in human terms it may well have been an associated factor to some degree.

However, throughout my pondering on this subject I could never see it as a major factor, let alone the singular one.

Some small research then enlightened me to previously unknown facts in regard to Jonah & the prevailing circumstances surrounding him in the times in which he lived.

Nineveh was the centre of the Assyrian Empire & the largest city in his known world, having as the scripture tells us, a population of one hundred & twenty thousand souls.

Also at that time, it was the focal point of the Gentile world.

It was situated in what is now Northern Iraq along the eastern bank of the Tigris River & its ruins can be found near the modern-day city of Mosul which is located on the western bank directly opposite.

Mosul, known to many nowadays through the terrorism & war in Iraq, is situated some 400km north of Baghdad.

So Jonah was not only being uniquely Called to go far from home to deliver God's Word but also to deliver it to the world's largest gentile city sitting atop the Assyrian Empire, the ruling power of the Gentile World at the time.

Therefore, one would assume Nineveh to be the most powerful city in the world as well as being so engrossed in evil it had God's Attention.

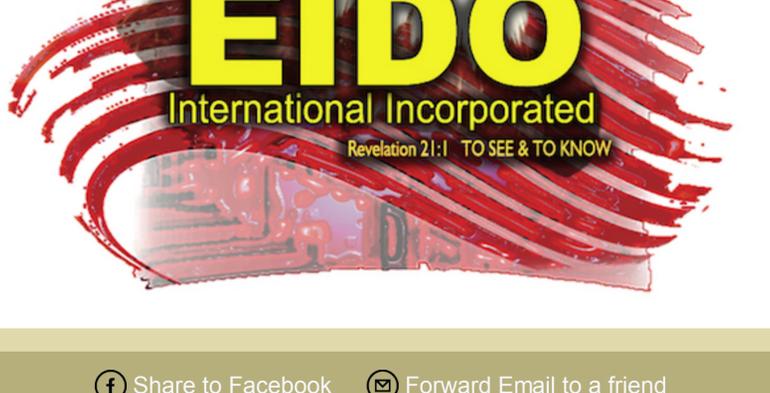
In discovering these facts my spirit still could not find appeasement in them alone, I felt there had to be something more.

Last week, as I continued on, I happened upon an article which put forward a suggestion that in my spirit I found peace with, more of which I will share next issue.

Love,  
Mwesigwa

[Defaced - Week 84 follows next week]

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



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