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## Draw Nigh Unto Me .... Part 92

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### Defaced - Week 84

#### God's Coming Spiritual Revolution - Part 31

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

Our journey continues in pursuit of receiving a deeper revelation from the short Book of Jonah & what God might reveal to us through it.

Jonah's story in simplicity is one of disobedience, yet adds the mystery of sea creatures swallowing & then vomiting a man alive from its belly, then ends as abruptly as it began, only to have Jesus later liken himself to Jonah!

For those who speak, plead or argue in favour of moderation, or adhere to a conservative approach along with critics of the Bible do not believe the Story of Jonah actually happened as is recorded in Scripture.

However, for us who believe that the Bible is the infallible Word of God we accept all to be an accurate & true description of events just as they happened.

We also know that with scripture we mostly do not understand until spiritual revelation is personally imparted to us.

We can also be held back greatly by trying to apply our logic, a practice that can only lead to misunderstandings at varying levels.

My dictionary tells me that a synonym (similar word or phrase) for misunderstanding is, to see through a glass darkly.

#### 1 Corinthians 13:12 KJV

**12** For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

**Hallelujah! For then when we are finally home with Christ All shall be revealed, face to face with God, knowing Him just as He Knows us now.**

So now let us continue the journey of awakening to what the Spirit of God desires to reveal to enlighten the glass a little for us, as He lifts us from our slumber.

The Truth that I have seen, through weeks of pondering upon the Book of Jonah, is that no clue can be found there as to why Jonah did what he did.

Unless as alluded to last week, you can simply accept Jonah's statement that he knew what Divine Graciousness was capable of doing, in which case if it did, his Prophetic Integrity would then be ruined.

However, unknown to many just as it had been to me, Jonah the Prophet, the son of Amittai was previously mentioned in 2 Kings which I now quote once again.

#### 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.

For apart from where Jesus likened himself to Jonah in **Matthew 12:38-41 & Luke 11:29-32**, this is the only other scripture to mention Jonah.

It is from this scripture, that the article I spoke of last week suggested something that gave peace within my spirit.

It also furnishes to us the only other facts we know about Jonah.

For in 2 Kings we find a seemingly different Jonah, living in Northern Israel, a Prophet who obeyed & spoke the Word of God given him.

This scripture places Jonah under the reign of King Jeroboam II who the Bible describes as an evil ruler of Israel, just as King Jeroboam was before him.

He did not see himself as being evil, but the Bible says he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, for he did not return the nation to the worship of the God of the Bible.

#### 2 Kings 14:23-24 KJV

**23** In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, and reigned forty and one years.  
**24** And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

Despite the wickedness of the King, God gave mercy to the Kingdom of Israel & strengthened it under Jeroboam II's reign.

For God spoke unto Jonah the Prophet & he prophesied that the Kingdom of Israel would see victory in its wars & be re-strengthened through the regaining of lost territory.

#### 2 Kings 14:26-27 KJV

**26** For the LORD saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel.  
**27** And the LORD said not that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven: but he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash.

Indeed it came to pass that they were being victorious in war again & land once lost was returned to the Northern Kingdom of Israel, gaining with it the Syrian cities of Hamath & Damascus.

Jonah would have likely found himself very much accepted in the King's Court after delivering such a welcomed prophecy, especially as it was now being proven true.

Being central to it all, Jonah would have been standing in a position from which he would have felt a real part of the invigorating arising again & renewing of the Kingdom of Israel.

For the Kingdom he loved so much was now winning again in its wars, retaking lands once lost & regaining power in the region.

In such a moment as Jonah found himself, any one of us could easily imagine that he would have felt a heightened sense of love & patriotism for his country.

For he was witnessing it gaining, through God's Blessing upon a sinful nation, a vitality that could easily bring about a steady increase of widening strength throughout the region.

It was to be there in the midst of such fervour & optimism God Called upon Jonah to go to Nineveh & preach against it for its sins were so great that God Himself had taken note of it.

Just try to imagine what thoughts might have been invading Jonah's mind after witnessing the great resurgence of strength arising in his own country.

And now being called to the greatest threat to it, Nineveh, the very centre point of the Assyrian Empire & its most powerful enemy.

Having a heart anxious to see the power & strength of the Kingdom of Israel expanding ever the more, Jonah's first thoughts should have been positive.

For if God were to destroy Nineveh then surely Israel's greatest danger would have been dealt with, thus increasing Israel's power & strength.

On the surface, it should have painted a perfect picture in Jonah's mind.

However, in light of his recent experience of the Divine Graciousness, he found no canvas upon which to paint it.

#### Jonah 4:2 KJV

**2** 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.

With the great warmth & intensity of emotion evoked through what was prevailing in the Kingdom of Israel at that time, I could well imagine that faith's exact opposite, fear, may have made an appearance.

Something we are all well acquainted with, whether recognised or not.

So what could Jonah possibly fear from telling Nineveh that it was to be destroyed in forty days?

There was no repentance in Israel, God simply poured out Mercy upon them for the reasons stated above in **2 Kings 14:26-27 KJV**.

Neither King Jeroboam II, nor his people were ever aware of the Great Mercy God had shown them for they never saw or acknowledged their own wickedness before God.

Jonah, on the other hand, would had to have come to the realisation that if God could be so merciful toward Israel in its sinning, He just might be as merciful toward Assyria in its sinning.

**The question the article put forth was:**

**For the betterment of his beloved Israel did Jonah determine that if the warning he was meant to deliver was never to be heard in Nineveh they would not repent & God would be unable to show mercy toward Assyria & have to destroy it?**

**Thus eliminating Israel's greatest threat, giving promise to a burgeoning power base to assure a secure future for his beloved nation.**

Love,  
Mwesigwa

[Defaced - Week 85 follows next week]

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



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