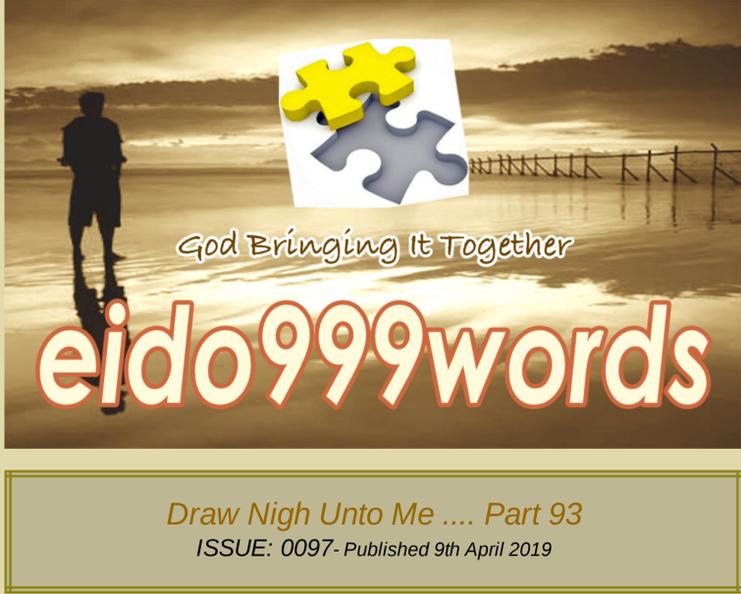


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## Draw Nigh Unto Me .... Part 93

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### Defaced - Week 85

God's Coming Spiritual Revolution - Part 32

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

So now let us continue on by presuming that Jonah was in fact consumed by the political & patriotic fervour that must have been rife in the Kingdom of Israel at that time.

For surely he was seeing the power base restoring & expanding in his country & most likely would have greatly desired that it would remain so doing, without any great threat to its security for the foreseeable future.

In the political climate prevailing at the time, he must have been well aware that its greatest threat was from the Assyrian Empire centred in Nineveh.

It was here, in the very midst of this, that God came upon Jonah to Call him to go to Nineveh with a message that in forty days it would be overthrown, for its wickedness had come to His attention.

I think that under such circumstances any of us would reasonably assume that the Graciousness of God being poured out upon Israel was now possibly going to continue on to protect its immediate future through the overthrowing of the greatest threat to its security & continuing progress?

Jonah would have most likely desired such an outcome himself, for the sake of his nation, however, we need to understand that as a Prophet of God he now knew something that the King & nation were unaware of.

That was that the Divine Graciousness now pouring out upon the Northern Kingdom of Israel was totally unwarranted due to its continuing sinfulness.

In fact, the Bible tells us that it was being bestowed because of the very bitter affliction that was upon it was under circumstances so dire as to threaten its very existence.

So the Lord God in being Faithful to His Word mercifully saved them through the hand of their King, even though in the Lord's Sight he was seen as being evil.

**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.

For the Prophetic Word that Jonah delivered to his people was that God would restore the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, an act that would both strengthen & restore the nation.

**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.

The nation was living under the evil of King Jeroboam II just as it had under previous Kings, yet the Prophet Jonah was sent forth carrying no call to repentance, just a message of blessed restoration to the Kingdom of Israel.

Therefore all remained blissfully unaware of their sinfulness, joyfully accepting God's unwarranted favour through the restoring of land & power to their nation through knowing victory on the battlefield again, all as had been prophesied of by the Prophet Jonah.

No doubt, in all that was unfolding before their eyes, they were just as oblivious to the powerful manifestation of The Truth that God Stands Upon His Word Forever!

Jonah, however, was the only one to be fully aware at the time, as is made known to us in The Book of Jonah Chapter 4.

**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.

Revealed here, is not only what Jonah had seen of God's Mercifulness in that time before he fled to Tarshish, but also that it was cause for his fleeing.

So what other integral thoughts may have been in the mind of Jonah that helped form his intention to flee from his Call from God to go to Nineveh?

Let us continue to search more deeply for any probable cause that may have justly consisted in the mind of Jonah & his decision to head for Tarshish rather than Nineveh as Commanded.

In being Called by God to tell Nineveh that in forty days it shall be overthrown, Jonah the man would have been acutely aware that such an event would be highly beneficial to the future security & a key to further expansion of his homeland.

All of this certainly would have fuelled a rapidly deepening love & pride for his beloved nation, as one would expect to be the case within any patriotic heart.

For indeed, had he not been the one used of God to deliver God's Word of Divine Deliverance & Restoration to the Northern Kingdom of Israel which, as it ought, was now coming to pass before the eyes of the nation.

However, in being a 'proven' Prophet of God & privy to sensing the very Heart of God, surely he must have now found himself in a somewhat bewildering state of uncertainty.

For in being a Man of God he also would have been acutely aware that he delivered it to a sinful nation, one which in the sight of the Lord was being led by an evil King.

For following the reign of Jeroboam the son of Nebat who made Israel to sin, it was now being ruled by King Jeroboam II who was not returning his people to the Worship of the God of the Bible.

So, therefore, he would have instinctively known that the blessed situation in which his beloved nation now found itself, was purely the consequence of Divine Graciousness visiting upon a sinful people.

Yet in now having a personal witness to such an aspect of God's Mercy, Jonah's mind must have now wondered just what might become of the renewed Israel & the newly germinated hope in his heart for an assured secure future for his homeland.

If God could impart such Divine Mercy upon a sinning Israel, then surely such Mercy could be also be imparted by the Divine Graciousness of God upon a sinning Assyria!

Surely, as a man & a patriotic son of Israel, Jonah may have found himself in a deep quandary.

He would have known in his heart that if God was to see that Nineveh is overthrown it would be valuable to his beloved homeland as well as his own heart.

However, what if God were to repent of the evil through the same Divine Graciousness he was presently witnessing being poured out upon Israel, what might then be the future of his nation?

In Jonah 4 Verse 2 above, it reveals that he actually spoke about his apprehensions of what God may do in Nineveh when he was still in his country.

So we know that Jonah did not just flee to Tarshish out of pure disobedience fuelled by simple fear.

But rather, I believe, out of making a personal decision after some fervent meditation upon all aspects of the options available & their repercussions.

At least as far as he could perceive in his mind & heart.

I can hear the roar of those watching on from the other side of the picket fence, that he just needed to Hear, Believe & Obey.

Are we not, even today in this modern world, with all we have available to us, both spiritually & physically, still seeking The Truth that would simply cause us to Hear, Believe & Obey!

Jonah, as I now see him, was just a man the same as us, but one who came to See&Know A Truth that personally became a huge challenge to him, his heart & his thinking because of the repercussions to his nation that he perceived could eventuate should it again become A Truth in Nineveh.

Could it be that his fleeing was, in fact, the result of his meditating upon all aspects of the situation that brought him to a decision to flee despite its ramifications to him personally?

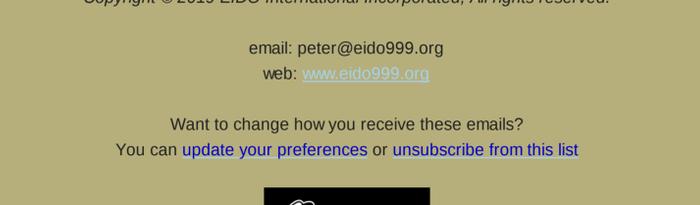
**When Jonah embarked on his journey to Tarshish might he have, in fact, been already resigned to the sacrificing of his life for the good of Israel's future?**

To be Continued

Love,  
Mwesigwa

[Defaced - Week 86 follows next week]

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



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