



THE COMING OF THE LORD'S DAY: THE GRACIOUS APOCALYPSE AS THE END TIMES

THE UNUSUAL PROPHET JONAH – MORE THAN JUST A FISH STORY

Who is Jonah?

Jonah is a prophet whose name means 'dove'. A dove, in most cultures and in the Hebrew sense, represents peace, love, and forgiveness. You may recall that God sent a dove during the days of Noah to be the first symbol of peace between God and humanity, as well as faithfulness in bringing the good news that the water had subsided.

We see Jonah being sent by God and not getting to the destination. Instead of going to Nineveh, Jonah chooses to go to Tarshish, making him the main character of the Book of Jonah.

A Genuine Concern by Jonah

This book shows us that God is faithful. The children of Israel are under the Assyrian threat in the 8th Century BC when Jonah is called by God to go to Nineveh. Nineveh is a city in Assyria, and therefore, for an Israelite to be sent to a foreign land that is a threat to Israel is waging war with an already powerful nation. In fact, it could even lead to a death sentence for Jonah. Jonah is in a very uncomfortable position. It goes against logic, so no wonder he runs away. The concern is genuine for Jonah – he does not understand this Gracious Apocalypse of the Ninevites being loved by God so much.

Jonah's concern is quite costly



He is sent from Joppa (Israel) to Nineveh (Iraq), which is a distance of 805 km. He chooses, though, to go to Tarshish (Spain), a distance of 4024 km. This is almost five times the distance he could have travelled to deliver the good news that God wants to be at peace with Nineveh.

He would have covered the distance on a camel and yet chose to look for a ship. He must have owned camels, but instead chose a mode of transport he did not own. He even paid for it "Jonah 1:3. "

Participatory work

Read through the book of Jonah this week. Just familiarize yourself with the 4 Chapters that we will be reflecting on over the next 5 weeks. You don't have to understand the Book, but for you to be familiar with what is happening in the Book of Jonah. Some sections might not make sense, do not stress over them. Just read through for this week.

PRAYER:
Make me aware
of your will about
my life God.
Amen



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