

JONAH FEARED GOD

This is some commentary on Jonah, Jonah in the Bible. I didn't prepare a script and use my teleprompter the way I have on my other recent videos. I decided I would just wing it. And now I know why I shouldn't just wing it. And you'll see for yourself in a moment as you look at what I have to say about Jonah. But it's all true. Thanks.

Jonah in the Bible has recently inspired me. I was familiar with the story as you may be also, of Jonah being swallowed by a big fish when he disobeyed God. God wanted him, Jonah, to go to a place called Nineveh and preach to the people there the need to repent of their sins. Jonah knew the Ninevites were an evil people, and he wanted nothing to do with going to preach repentance to them, so he disobeyed God, got on a ship, and went in the opposite direction, away from Nineveh.

Well, the ship came into all kinds of troubles, and the people aboard wondered who had offended God. Not necessarily Jonah's God, but whatever God they believed in, so they went through a process of drawing lots. And Jonah was found to be the likely culprit. They asked him about it and he confessed. Yes, his God had told him to do something, and he hadn't done it. And that's why they were all in so much trouble.

Jonah urged them to throw him overboard. They were reluctant to do so at first, but eventually, as things got worse, they accepted his offer to be thrown overboard. And when

he went overboard, he went down, down, down to the bottom of the sea. And near the bottom a big fish swallowed him. And Jonah came to his senses. He came to his senses in the same way the prodigal son came to his senses, and if you don't know that story, it is similar in its inspiration.

So Jonah came to his senses and he told God that if God would rescue him, he would be faithful right away to do what God had asked him to do. To go and speak to the Ninevites. He didn't want to, but he developed the fear of the Lord through the process. In any case, Jonah did go. He got there in the belly of the fish. The fish spit him up, basically, on the beach near the city of Nineveh.

Nineveh was a large city. Some say a quarter million, some say little less than that, but anyway, quite a large city.

Jonah began to walk the streets of Nineveh, warning people to repent. That they had not very many days to get right with God. God would be coming to deal with them if they didn't repent and the people listened. God helped John, I believe, to speak effectively to the people that he, God, was trying to save, even though. Jonah could not understand why God would want to save these people.

He did see God moving on hearts. He saw people repenting. He saw people humbling themselves before God. And sure enough, God changed his mind and did not kill all the inhabitants of Nineveh, which had been His plan if they didn't repent. And didn't kill them all. God accept their apology, their repentance.

So, the concept of warning people who seem to be in deep trouble with God occurred to me a few months ago. I read a book about a missionary who spoke to our troops, Canadian troops in the First World War had warned them as an evangelist that they may very well die soon, and they better get right with God. He had quite good success. He was called back to help in the Second World War.

It was only 20 years later, between 1918 and 1939 and he said it was not so bad in the First World War because somewhere around 90% of the soldiers had some acquaintance with the things of God. Some acquaintance with the Bible. But that had fallen to something around 50% with this group in the Second World War with Canadian recruits.

His prediction was that would be 10% if there was ever another World War. I fear when I read that, that that is right. That's something less than 10% are keen to serve God, are keen to know who God is, how He is. They understand that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. They understand that the Bible says that God bought us at a price and that we who call ourselves Christians should live for God and not for ourselves.

So. Jonah, even after God saved the people, was still feeling sorry for himself and angry about the nasty people being rescued. But that's just us. We're humans. God was pleased with the people's change of heart.

I prepared a video distinguishing between atheists and Keeners and the ones in between called Christians In Name Only which is the most dangerous place to be because they think they are Christians because they go to church. They kind of go through the motions, but they really don't treat themselves as ones bought at a price to live for God, as owned by God. None of us do that perfectly. None of us live for God perfectly. But if we have our eye on that goal and do the best we can to advance in it, we have better chance. Anyway. Jonah, helped me. And I am helping my friend Bill. Bye.