

INTERCESSION

Volume 2

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Intercession – volume 2

by Maurice Barratt

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available from
the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-904592-66-0

First Published & Printed November 2015

by Barratt Ministries Publications

E-mail: info@barrattministries.org.uk

www.barrattministries.org.uk

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By Maurice Barratt



Barratt Ministries Publications
Manchester. UK

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Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places, if you can find a man, if there are any that executes judgment, that seeks the truth; and I will pardon it.

Jeremiah 5:1

INTERCESSION

Introduction

We Don't Have Much Time!

Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

Proverbs 14:34

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.

2 Thessalonians 2:3

If ever, in world history, there was a need for God's people to turn from their carnality and backslidden ways it is surely now. We are on the brink of the return of Christ to judge this world and reign in righteousness for 1,000 years. Before he returns, God will judge Babylon (the counterfeit church) and the bride will make herself ready (see revelation 18:1-7). Intercession is the key to getting God's people out of Babylon before she is judged and also to preparing the bride – building the New Jerusalem.

In volume 1 of this series. I showed that God listens to a person and not just the person's prayer, and so our priority should be to progress in our character and lifestyle to become a person that God counts as his friend and is willing to share his secrets with. However, there are many more aspects that we need to look at if we are to have a rounded and comprehensive understanding of this vast subject of intercession.

Timing is Vital

Timing, of course, is so very important because God has a detailed plan and we will never know it if he does not share it with us. This means we can pray the correct prayer, even with a good motive, but may just be praying against the will of God if we do not understand firstly how God works, and secondly that it is not the right time to pray. How many prayers, through the ages, have been

good prayers yet counter productive because they were not aligned with the plan and will of God in that particular incident and at that particular time? Only God can give the specific burden at the time it is needed and we cannot use our own intuition or wisdom to decide on the time to press in and intercede.

Battle Trained

It would be foolish to send a novice soldier to war on the battlefield without training and experience. So it is in this spiritual warfare. God will never burden a novice to intercede in the spiritual realm if they have not been trained and battle hardened for the task. Intercession is 'man's work' and not for the faint-hearted or fearful.

There are conditions for revival in God's people, for God always wants to restore his people to holiness and righteousness so that the land can be healed. It is righteousness that exalts a nation and unless the time for restoration has passed, and judgement therefore inevitable, God will always respond to his people if they meet the conditions. Footnote 1

This is what I will consider in part 1 – the condition for God to heal our land. In part 2 I will use a rather strange example of intercession to show the principles and conditions as acted out in the story of Jonah. It is amazing that the intercession of Jonah, in the belly of a whale, caused the conditions to be met in the wicked city of Nineveh – the capital

of the Assyrian empire. God changed his plans of judgement and showed mercy on this city when they met the conditions set out in 1 Chronicles 7:14.

This scripture in Chronicles is used widely by Christians as a way for God to heal their land, be it the UK, USA, or some country in Europe or Australasia, that are backslidden. Therefore, I need to point out that this was spoken specifically to Israel and pertained to the land where God chose to put his name. I cannot apply it to my own country of England because God did not choose a Gentile nation to put his chosen seed in. Under the New Covenant we have no physical land that God chose, for he dwells in people and we are the land that must be conquered – for the kingdom is now within a man and not an outside territory. The giants are in me, and the walled cities are in my heart, not in some physical city that I may live in.

There is no mandate in the New Covenant to take 'Cities for Jesus'; it is a misplaced and false doctrine to state so. However, we can certainly use the scripture in Chronicles as an example of how to entreat God to heal ourselves, or our Church, and we can apply the principle in our own situations.

Footnote 1

I realise many Christians believe that if we repent with a true heart God will always respond and forgive, but this is not true. His mercy and forgiveness do have an end, for they will not be present in the lake of fire. Even in this

time we have examples of God coming to the end of his forgiveness (Jesus told us to forgive 70 times 7 which is a fixed number and does not imply infinity). The following scriptures are of God speaking to the prophet about his own redeemed people.

Therefore don't pray for this people, neither lift up a cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: **for I will not hear thee.**

Jeremiah 7:16

Therefore don't pray for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: **for I will not hear them** in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble.

Jeremiah 11:14

Then said the LORD unto me, don't pray not for this people for their good. **When they fast, I will not hear their cry**; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.

Jeremiah 14:11

A pair of hands is clasped in prayer, with fingers interlaced and palms facing each other. The hands are positioned centrally, with the text overlaid on them. The background is a plain, light color.

Part 1

Meeting the Conditions to Avert God's Judgement

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

Chapter 1

The Conditions

Revival is a renewed conviction of sin and repentance, followed by an intense desire to live in obedience to God. It is giving up one's will to God in deep humility.

Charles Finney

A baptism of holiness, a demonstration of godly living is the crying need of our day.

Duncan Campbell

I well remember an American named Jimmy Owens writing a musical entitled 'Come

together' in the 1970s. I was part of the team that travelled around England putting the musical on in Churches, universities, and halls, and was one of the musicians who played the bass guitar. Joanna, now my wife, was one of the singers. It was very popular at the time and a breakthrough in Christian standards of presentation. Jimmy Owens came over from the States to personally coach us so that it was to the standard that had been set in America.

A couple of years later God burdened him about the state of the Churches in the West and he was moved to write another musical entitled 'If my people'. My wife and I were also a part of this presentation. His first musical was a very joyous and lively musical, but this second one was a serious subject which songs and music reflected. It included prayers of confession, repentance, and encouraged a response from the audience. It was not so popular, for Christians did not want to repent and turn from their wicked ways when they had come to be entertained.

Not the Best Method

On hindsight, I think a musical is not the best way to tackle such a serious subject. Of course, we went through the motions – there were prayers of repentance in the presentation – but it was not what the audience really wanted in their hearts and it seemed to me to die a slow death. Jimmy Owens wanted to bring about the repentance and actions

that would bring our nations back to God, but sadly it did not have the desired effect.

A Steady Decline

It should be obvious to any honest Christian that the western nations are more ungodly than they were at the end of the last century, and have rapidly declined since the 1960s. The churches in the west are now more carnal and blind to the holiness that God requires. I have seen a steady decline in my own lifetime. The Church in general has ignored the pleadings of the 'voices in the wilderness', over the last 100 years by such men of God as A. W. Tozer, Leonard Ravenhill, and David Wilkerson, and have been slowly seduced by the false prophets and voices of the TV superstar men of God, who are leading Christians into the new age of apostasy, and One World Church, at an alarming rate.

The Conditions

I think the most well known verses for the restoration of God's people and intercession are those that God spoke to King Solomon in 2 Chronicles 7 verse 14.

If my people, which are called by my name,
shall humble themselves, pray, seek my face,
and turn from their wicked ways; then I will

hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

This seems a simple list of 4 conditions to fulfil, but I am convinced that it is not as simple as it first appears, and that most Christians do not understand these conditions; even though they seem self evident. We need to look at each one carefully and find out what the bible says about them and not jump to our own conclusions, or the traditions of our denominations. I will do this in the following chapters. The order is very important and we cannot fulfil them any other way than listed. The order is:

1. Humble ourselves

2. Pray

3. Seek God's face

4 Turn from our wicked ways

To pray before we have humbled ourselves will not meet the requirements, and to try and seek God's face without humility and prayer will mean that we will never get past our repetitious, which are to God, boring prayers (a clanging gong or a tinkling cymbal as Paul puts it).

What is very important to us, before we look at the conditions in more detail, is to look at the context in

which the bible records them, for unless we understand this we will not even have the correct motive when we try to meet the conditions – and motive is always 'king' with God. If we pray the correct prayer with the wrong motive we will not get our answer; and this principle of 'right motive' and understanding of the situation applies to all 4 conditions.

The Context

We need to go back to chapter 5 to understand why this verse is in 2 Chronicles 7:14, because it is God who is speaking. Why would God tell us these conditions?

King Solomon, David's son, had finished building the tabernacle – a permanent place for God to dwell on this earth. Up to this time in history God did not have a permanent place to dwell on planet earth. He visited Adam in the garden, but had no dwelling place. The tent in the wilderness moved with the children of Israel and it was not until King David took the fort of the Jebusites, and God told him he had chosen this place for himself, that David received instructions on how to build a solid and permanent place for God to dwell. God gave the blueprint to David by automatic writing; and David in turn instructed Solomon to build to this design.

All this, said David, the LORD made me understand in writing by his hand upon me, even all the works of this pattern.

1 Chronicles 28:19

It was really David's temple and not Solomon's. Solomon was only the builder, for it was David who had the desire to built the temple for God to dwell in. It was the place God had chosen before creation (remember Melchizedek the priest of God was king of Jerusalem in the days of Abraham).

When Solomon had finished the building and brought all the silver, gold and instruments into the temple, Israel had a feast and they brought the ark of the covenant into the building. God was to meet with the High Priest once a year above this ark between the cherubim. I don't know what happened to the shew bread or Aaron' rod that budded, which had been placed in the ark at the time of Moses, but the only thing remaining in the ark were the 2 tables of stone with the law of God on them.

There was nothing in the ark save the two tables which Moses put therein at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.

2 Chronicles 5:10

When they praised God, the temple was filled with the glory of God and the ministers could not officiate any more. I believe this was the point in history where the spiritual consummation of the marriage between Israel and God took place for the birth of their son hundreds of years later. (for a detailed explanation of why I believe this, read my books on Israel the Church and the Kingdom of

God.) ^{Footnote 1} This was a pivotal time in history and we should consider this very seriously.

Solomon's prayer

Then Solomon started to pray a prayer that seems unnecessary. It was not a passing, dutiful prayer or benediction; this was very serious for he built a special scaffold to pray from.

And he stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands: For Solomon had made a brass scaffold, of five cubits long, and five cubits broad, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court: and upon it he stood, and kneeled down upon his knees before all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven,

2 Chronicles 6:12-13

I cannot print all his prayer here or go through it verse by verse, but after he had thanked God he pleaded with God to hear his request.

Have respect therefore to the prayer of your servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and the prayer which your servant prays before you: that your eyes may be open upon this house day and night, upon the place whereof you have said that you would put your

name there; to hearken unto the prayer which your servant prays toward this place. Hearken therefore unto the supplications of your servant, and of your people Israel, which they shall make toward this place: hear from your dwelling place, even from heaven; and when you hear, forgive.

2 Chronicles 6:19-21

His request is vital to our understanding of the conditions that we are going to address in following chapters. He asked God that if a man, or the whole of Israel, or a stranger who dwelt in Israel, went away from God, or sinned in any way and calamities came upon them; or if God sent their enemies to overtake them or he sent famine and plagues upon them, if Israel turned toward the temple that he had just erected and confess their sins and returned with all their hearts to him would he forgive them.

God must have been pleased with this prayer because fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifices and Gods glory filled the house.

Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

2 Chronicles 7:1

King Solomon then made more sacrifices to God which in quantity are almost unbelievable if you consider it literally.

And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of 22,000 oxen, and an 120,000 sheep: so the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.

2 Chronicles 7:5

How long would it have taken the priests to kill all these animals by hand? The blood alone would be in the region of 360,000 gallons. (I computed 242,000 gallons of blood for the oxen and 120,000 gallons of blood for the sheep).

God's Reply

It is God's answer that I find so revealing. He did not answer straight away, for the feast went on for 7 days and on the 8th day Solomon made a solemn assembly before he sent the people back to their homes.

Then, God appeared to Solomon by night. It does not say it was a dream or a vision, so we will have to speculate how he received the answer, but God told him he had heard his prayer and confirmed what Solomon had stated. This answer to Solomon's request is most important. God said, "If I shut up heaven so there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send a plague among my people". Think of that! God doing all this evil to his own people. We are living in a deluded Church environment where Pastors tell their congregations that God just wants to bless and prosper them because they are his children. He just wants to make

them happy and indulge them. This is not scriptural but is a complete travesty of the character of God.

Don't Blame the Devil

It is never the devil that plagues God's people, or puts them in bondage, or causes illness, it is always God's judgement on disobedience, rebellion and sin. This is a principle throughout the bible under the old covenant and continues under the new and present one. Why would God's character change? Why would a just God reward his children with blessings for sin and carnality? How blind are the modern church and how deceived are its pastors (modern teacher like Joyce Meyer says she is not a sinner since she accepted Jesus, so it is no wonder she expects only blessing)?

God then gives the conditions and order of things we need to do for him to listen to our prayers and change his heart from Judgement to mercy. It seems as if his eyes are closed to us, and his ears are shut to us, until we meet the conditions. Read what God said.

**Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears
attend unto the prayer that is made in this place.**

2 Chronicles 6:15

The last thing I want to draw attention to in God's answer is that he will heal the land and not his people. His people will be healed when they obey the

4 conditions, and then God will heal the land. When a people are backslidden and cold in heart they will never bring a people or nation back to God. All the evangelism, outreach, and friendship with the world will never achieve a revival. Only God can bring this about. God promised if they met the 4 conditions then he would do 3 things.

1. Hear their prayer

2. Forgive their sins

3. Heal their land

.....then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

Let us now look at the 4 conditions God has set for him to listen to our prayers for restoration.

Footnote 1

'Israel, the Church, and the Kingdom of God' series

Volume 1 Chapter 8

ISBN 978-904592-41-9



A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land. The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will you do in the end thereof?

Jeremiah 5:30-31

Chapter 2

If My People Humble Themselves

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3

Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real.

Thomas Merton

The first requirement in the process to fulfil what God demands, if he is to heal our land, is to humble ourselves. This is easier said than done, because it implies we are proud and that is a problem. Proud people do not want to be considered as such. I remember challenging one man about his pride and he said 'I am not proud I am just full of character'. We do not know our own heart and so unless we are exposed we will never be able to deal with this common characteristic.

To pray the words 'We humbly beseech you Lord' is worthless if we are not humble. The words do not make us humble if we have pride in our hearts. I have attended many intercession meetings where after one hour's singing, dancing, and praising God, the prayers start, but they are anything but humble. Many times they are addressed to the devil; commanding him to leave our cities and churches and actually they are arrogant in the extreme. I have not been to one of them where humility was exercised or encouraged. I am not saying there have not been good meetings of intercession, I am only relating my own experience over many years.

I Allow God to Humble Me

It is good to note that the instructions do not say 'allow yourself to be humbled'. I have heard Christians say, after hearing sermons on humility. Well, I accept that I need to be humbled and I am willing to give God permission to humble me. This

seems like a good attitude, but it is actually a very arrogant statement, for the bible tells us to 'humble ourselves'.

Matthew chapter 18 is very revealing if we read it carefully. Jesus tells his disciples to humble themselves as a little child.

And said, Verily I say unto you, Except you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:3-4

Vulnerability

Are little children humble? Certainly not, for you only have to observe a 2 year old seeking attention and showing off when they receive it. Little children are as proud as grown ups. Jesus was not saying children are humble he was saying we must humble ourselves **as a little child**. Therefore, we need to ask the question, 'What is it that a little child has that a grown up has not?' The answer is simple. A little child is vulnerable. I can kill a little child with my bare hands and it would be powerless to stop me. I could seduce a little child with a few sweets and do a despicable sexual act because they would believe me when I took their hand and led them astray. This is why we do not want to humble ourselves – it

makes us vulnerable and pride does not want to be in this position of vulnerability. Pride wants to be in control of events and in a position to defend itself. It fights against the very nature of Adam that we were born with.

**To humble yourself is simply
to become vulnerable.**

With all the new age thinking that has crept into God's people, of 'self esteem and feeling good about oneself', it really is hard for modern day Christians to come to terms with vulnerability. The world is screaming at us to avail ourselves of all our rights and look after number one – which is ourselves of course – and the Church is telling us that God wants to give us status and self esteem; no wonder we are in a backslidden condition.

Please note that this statement from God does not say 'act in a humble manner'. This, of course would be easy; for most Christians know how to act in a humble way. For example when we are praised we say, 'I give all the glory to God'. However, the very phrase implies that we have glory to give. If all the glory belongs to God we must have stolen it to be able to give it back to him. The statement sounds good, but it is pompous and condescending and can easily come out of a proud heart. A humble action can actually make us feel proud. Humility is never in the action and always in the attitude.

It is so easy to be proud of our humble actions, yet believe we are humble.

How We Think

Humility is not what we do but how we think. Paul, in his letter to the Church at Rome, tells us that we have to renew our mind, which simply means that we have to change our attitude to align with the mind of Christ.

Don't be conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:2

The rest of this chapter in Romans gives many examples of how we should think, but the very first one is about humility. We must not **think** of ourselves more highly than we ought.

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Romans 12:3

Humility is a true assessment of oneself. Pride is a wrong or distorted view of oneself. A proud man does not know what he is like, but a humble man

knows himself. A humble man will not mind being accused of being proud, but a proud man will be offended to be thought of as being proud.

Paul exhorts us in his letter to the Philippians to think like Christ.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:5

He also gives us details of how Jesus thought.

But **made himself** of no reputation, and took upon himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself**, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:7-8

Notice it says 'he humbled himself'. It does not say he allowed God to humble him. If we wait for God to humble us it will be a very painful experience, it is much better to humble ourselves – become vulnerable – and far less painful in the long run.

The First Requirement

Poverty of spirit – humility – is the first beatitude in Jesus' list in Matthew 5, where he is showing his disciples the character of his father in heaven.

Without this quality we will never attain the fullness of the stature of Christ that Paul talks about in Ephesians. The ministries God sets in the church are to build us up to this perfection as the bride of Christ and it all starts with knowing ourselves – humility.

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: until we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-13

History shows us that a move of humility and honesty precedes a real move of God. Exposure and confession follow on and make way for the true spirit of God to manifest and bring about what the carnal man can never do with his organisation, finance, and pride.

God listens to self humbled people – people who know themselves. Humility and honesty are inseparable, just as pride and deceit go together.

There is a wonderful example that Jesus gives, and it is recorded in Luke's gospel. It shows us the difference between pride and humility when praying. Read it slowly.

Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood **and prayed thus with himself**, God, I thank you, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

Luke 18:10-13

The Pharisee's prayer is, to me, a typical Sunday morning prayer from one of the congregation just before the communion. "Thank you Lord that I have been lifted out of the miry clay. I used to be a drug dealer, gangster, and womaniser, but now I am a child of God and I have given you my life". These things may all be true, but the problem is that this person will not feel the need to confess his sins of the last week, his selfishness to his wife, or bad attitude towards his boss at work, or his dirty mind that no one knows about.

The Pharisee, in Jesus' example, was a good man and I am sure he was saying everything that was true. I am sure he did fast, give tithes, and live an exemplary life outwardly. The problem was his pride and self-righteousness was covering up his secret life. He wanted the praise and respect for the things he had done for God. In short it was the prayer of a proud man. Luke makes an important point. The

man thought he was praying to God, but God was not listening. He was actually praying to himself and for his own ears and the ears of those that heard him. Read the above account again and you will note it says; 'And he prayed thus **with himself**' – so revealing. I wonder how many prayers in our prayer meeting fall under this category. Well, if the prayers are not answered we should at least consider this could be the reason.

The sinner asked God to be merciful to him and confessed he was a sinner. I am not suggesting we should bring out all our dirty washing in public, but the attitude and confession of us being weak and unable to attain the standard that is required of God will surely adhere ourselves to God

This is what Jesus said after his illustration, and it needs no comment from me.

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalts himself shall be abased; and he that humbles himself shall be exalted.

Luke 18:14

The Church in Laodicia, that John talks about in the book of Revelation, is a proud Church because it does not know itself. It thought itself rich and in need of nothing. A completely wrong and distorted view of ones own situation is always a sign of pride. They were blind, poor, and naked in God's eyes and they needed to humble themselves.

Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and don't know that you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel you to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich; and white raiment, that you may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness does not appear; and anoint your eyes with eyesalve, that you may see.

Revelation 3:17-18

It was their attitude that was wrong – the way they saw themselves. Pride is always in the heart, just as humility is in the heart attitude, and not the actions.

**Pride always exposes a man,
but humility covers him**

Peter, in his letter, gives us a wonderful picture of what we need to do with this characteristic. He says we should clothe ourselves with it. This means we cover up our nakedness and pride with this garment of humility. We wrap it around our proud and arrogant self and show the vulnerability and attitude of Christ. We must never show that old Adamic nature. The cloak of humility will cover all our pride and self righteousness if we will only avail ourselves of this garment.

Yes, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resists the proud, and gives grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

1 Peter 5:5-6

There are some wonderful examples in the bible of people who were under God's judgement, but averted the disasters promised them by humbling themselves and entreating God.

Josiah, the young king of Judah had read the law of Moses after the priest had found it in the temple when they were rebuilding it. God's people had ignored God's laws and were backslidden in heart and actions. But Josiah repented and humbled himself and this is what God had to say to him.

I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the words of the book which the king of Judah has read: because they have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be kindled against this place, and shall not be quenched. But to the king of Judah which sent you to enquire of the LORD, this shall you say to him, This is what the LORD God of Israel says, As touching the words which you have heard; Because your heart was tender, and **you have**

humbled yourself before the LORD, when you heard what I spoke against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and have rent your clothes, and wept before me; **I also have heard you, says the LORD.**

2 Chronicles 22:16-20

He met the conditions of humility and prayer – which is the requirement after humility. What an example for us today when we are surrounded by the leaders of God's people who have left off from preaching holiness and separation from the world and are teaching their members covetousness and carnality. God will surely judge the church first if we do not repent and humble ourselves.

Rehoboam

Rehoboam is another king, this time of Israel, who averted God's wrath with his change of heart. Notice how, when the kingdom was established, his pride thought he could rule God's people without God's laws.

And it came to pass, **when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself**, he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him.

From 2 Chronicles 12:1

The prophet **Shemaiah** came to the king and told him he had forsaken God. Oh, that we had those with the spirit of Elijah to turn the hearts of God's people back to God in these last day when we are already sitting under the shadow of God's judgement. Surely we need some modern day 'John the Baptists' to prepare the way of the Lord and command God's people to make his paths straight, repent, and bring fruit fit for repentance?

...Then came Shemaiah the prophet to Rehoboam, and to the princes of Judah, that were gathered together to Jerusalem because of Shishak, and said unto them, This is what the LORD says. You have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak. Whereupon **the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves**; and they said, The LORD is righteous. And when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, **They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them**, but I will grant them some deliverance; and my wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak.

From 2 Chronicles 12:5-7

Manasseh

My last illustration is of Manasseh, a king of Judah, who caused God's people to sin against God.

Although God spoke to him and to Judah through the prophets they would not listen. How true and familiar is this in God's people today. They do not want the truth because they will have to meet the conditions and turn from their wicked ways. Sometimes, only God's judgement on his people will get the desired results of humility and repentance. Thank God, that when this wicked king was in distress because of the chastisement of God, he humbled himself.

So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. And the LORD spoke to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken. Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon. **And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly** before the God of his fathers, and prayed unto him: and he was entreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he was God.


2 Chronicles 33:9-13

To end on a practical note before I look at the next requirement, what can we do to start the process of

truth in our hearts, and humility in our attitude? I believe the first step is to ask God to expose us and reveal what is in our hearts. We cannot repent if we do not see the sins and deceit in our hearts. I can assure you it will be painful and embarrassing when God shines his light into the dark recesses of our heart but it is necessary for we will never have a correct attitude until this happens.

Remember that the conditions for God to heal our land are in perfect order and humbling ourselves is the first one. The next requirement in the conditions for restoration is prayer. An arrogant person or Church can only pray arrogant self seeking prayers but

.....if my people which are called by my name will humble themselves!



For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one deals falsely. They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

Jeremiah 6:13-14

Chapter 3

IF

My People

Pray

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

James 5:16

And he spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

Luke 18:1

When we pray for the restoration of God's backslidden people we must not demand from God, neither can we pray in faith, because our faith cannot bring about what we desire, that is, for God to set aside his just punishment, change his mind, and have mercy on us and heal our land. All the faith in the world will not change God's mind from judgement to mercy.

I will explain the difference between faith and hope because we can only pray in hope for God to change his mind when he is set on judgement.

Faith is what we achieve and manifest – it is the evidence of what we believed. Faith is not believing, it is the evidence **that we did believe**. Faith without manifestation is not faith at all according to James in his letter to the churches – the devils believe but they have no faith.

Yes, a man may say, you have faith, and I have works: show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

James 2:18

But will you know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

James 2:20

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

James 2:26

Read the definition of faith in Hebrews. It is not about believing but about evidence and substance. Evidence is material and not in the mind, and substance is again material and not the power of our belief. Believing is in the mind, but faith is in the action and physical manifestation. When we believe in the mind, as most Christians do, we are merely day dreaming, and it does not come to fruition.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

We cannot bring about restoration by our faith, we can only meet the condition God demands of us. Therefore, we must pray in hope because hope is what we believe for, when we have no means to bring a promise to fruition, or demonstrate any physical manifestation, by our faith.

Promises and Hope

Hope in the bible is all to do with the promises of God to us which only he can bring about when we meet the conditions. Hope has no evidence – it's what we believe without any means of bringing it about.

Paul uses our salvation as an example of hope because we have no power to keep ourselves until the day we face God. We commit the salvation of our souls to God because we have not reached the

end of our journey yet, and we need to endure to the end to be saved. As Paul says to the Romans:

For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man sees, why does he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Romans 8:24-25

And you shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endures to the end shall be saved.

Matthew 10:22

When we have this hope we endure hardship and persecution, because we have a hope that is sure. Our reward will be great in heaven. This hope is a very strong quality for it will gender endurance and steadfastness which is missing from modern Christians with their pseudo faith, power of the mind thinking, and positive mental attitudes; which is not faith at all.

Pray Without Ceasing

When Jesus said that men should always pray and not to faint it is in the context of God avenging his own elect. We have no power to bring this about so we pray, not in faith but in hope of the sure word and promise of God that he will keep his word sometime in the future.

We do not have to pray without ceasing if we have faith because we will have the evidence. To keep on praying in one sense is to lack faith. Hope is entirely different and we need to pray fervently for God to bring about what he has promised.

And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Luke 18:7

We cannot restore the Church, but we can meet the conditions and we can pray fervently that God will do what he promised when we meet the conditions.

Hope is not weak – it is stronger than faith. In fact in the list in 1 Corinthians – the importance is in reverse order. It lists love as number 1, hope as number 2 and faith as number 3

And now abides faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

It has been confirmed in surveys over and over again that God's people pray very little. Even men in full time ministry do not pray much at all. Why is this when it is so fundamental to a holy life and the instruction of Jesus and the apostles? I think one reason is because people do not understand the fundamentals of prayer and it is not within the scope of this book to go any deeper, but I can say that

because it is the hardest thing a Christian has to do it follows that it is the most resisted by the powers of darkness. Again, it follows that the reason they fear it more than any other activity that a child of God may do is because it is the most effectual in preparing the bride for Christ.

For a person to communicate with the creator of the universe is mind blowing to say the least. Of course vain repetition will get no further than the ceiling of the room we are praying in.

It is acknowledged that the prayer meeting is the lowest attended of any meeting, so it is no wonder that Christians are backslidden in heart. The prayer meeting is the size of the real church. Sunday attendances only provide statistics of the religious who are doing their duty.

In Your Closet

Prayer is communication and needs to be two way. If, in our closet, we do all the talking it is not good communication. I can talk for an hour to a wall, but it will never answer me back because it will not hear me. The only proof that God is listening is if he speaks. Prayer needs to be a two way communication. I think when Jesus went into a mountain to pray he was listening to his father as much as he was speaking, for he said he only did what the father told him. His instructions and motivations came from his time in prayer. Going through our shopping list of things we want God to

do is not the kind of prayer that breeds relationship. We could do all that to an idol. That's what religious people do – they tell the idol what to do for them. That's why they put St. Christopher in their cars, to protect them. That is why a Christian would put a cross on their dashboard – as a talisman; not that they would realise that is what they are doing. God should be in our hearts and minds at all times and we do not need religious artefacts to protect and help us petition him for our needs. God wants a personal relationship with each one of his children. Jesus told us to pray to our father in heaven. Many Christians have a relationship with Jesus as their saviour, but not with God as their father.

Nothing, but in Answer to Prayer

John Wesley said that God does nothing but in answer to prayer and I believe this to be true. God does not want to do things in isolation, for he has chosen to work with us. When we have a secret prayer life and become a friend of God he will share his secrets and we will know how to pray to bring about what God already wants. This is intercession, but it takes years of getting to know the real God in a real way, on our own, in secret. Can I recommend the books of E.M. Bounds on prayer if you have not read them (most can be downloaded free as a PDF).

**But you, when you pray, enter into your closet,
and when you have shut your door, pray to your**

Father which is in secret; and your Father which sees in secret shall reward you openly.

Matthew 6:6

Intercession is not shouting at the devil – the accuser – but appealing to the Judge of all the earth – God. I will cover this in another volume, but I recommend that the readers of this book concentrate on a personal relationship with God in the closet so that God can use them to pray his prayers for what he really desires. This will only happen when he can trust us and we have become more than a spoilt child who is always asking for their supposed needs. This takes many years, for a child does not grow up overnight and we should not expect to be mature immediately.

In closing this chapter, please remember that an intercessor is a person who stands in-between judgement and mercy, God and the dire situation, and we need to know both the accused – those we are interceding for ,and the judge – God of course.

Habakuk, an Example

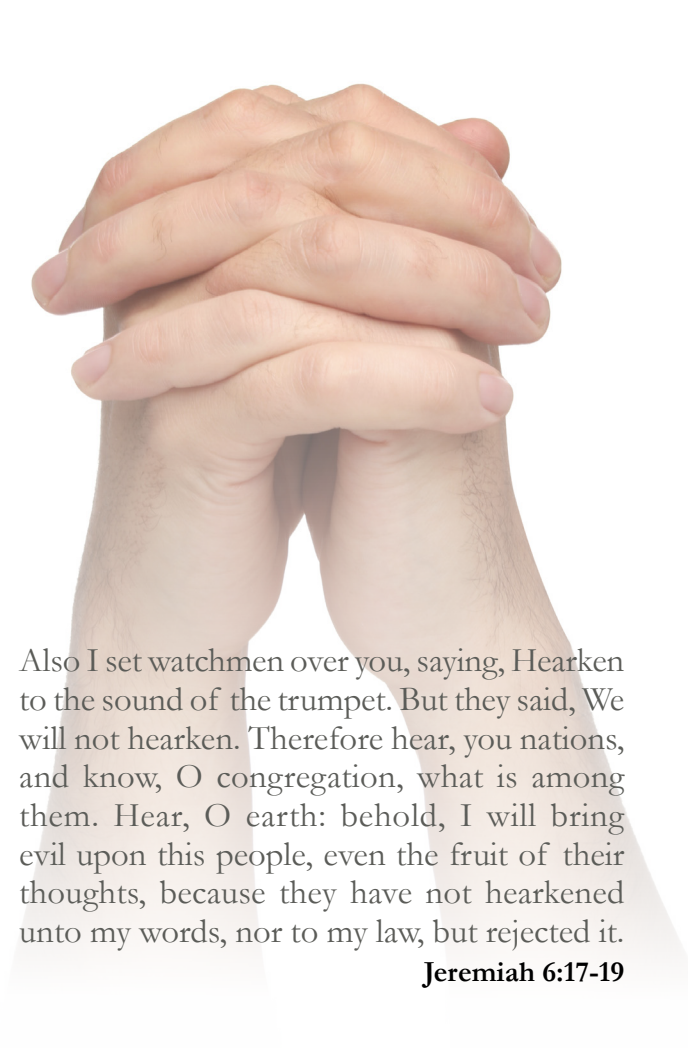
The book of Habakkuk is a wonderful example of Intercession. Read it for yourself in the light of what I have said; it is only 3 chapters. It starts with the burden that God put upon him and after he shares it he says in Chapter 3:

O LORD, I have heard your speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive your work in the midst

of the years, in the midst of the years make
known; **in wrath remember mercy.**

Habakkuk :1-2

As all relationships emanate from the heart and not only in words I will look at this aspect further in the next chapter.



Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. Therefore hear, you nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

Jeremiah 6:17-19

Chapter 4

House of Prayer – Den of Thieves?

And Jesus said unto them, It is written, my house shall be called the house of prayer; but you have made it a den of thieves.

Matthew 21:13

I have looked at the prayer of Solomon when he dedicated the temple in Jerusalem in a previous chapter, but it was to be a house of prayer. Even

when God's people were backslidden and put out of Israel for their sins if they looked towards this house of prayer God said he would hear them.

Now, my God, let, I beseech you, let your eyes be open, and let your ears be attentive unto the prayer that is made in this place.

I Chronicles 6:40

A House of Prayer

Whenever Gods people make a temple it is predominately for prayer. In the book of Isaiah when the prophet is talking about the restoration of Israel and the millennial reign of Christ he says the temple will be a house of prayer for all nations.

Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people.

Isaiah 56:7

When Jesus was on earth he was under the Old Covenant and he cast them out of the temple because they had turned the house of prayer into a den of thieves. It was the only act of violence that Jesus did, but it was premeditated because he had observed it the day before. He was prophesying of his second coming, when he will again enter his

temple suddenly and purge it of the counterfeit Jews who will have turned it into a synagogue of Satan. I am talking about the temple that is yet to be built in Jerusalem before Jesus returns.

I know your works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but you art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Revelation 2:9

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom you seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom you delight in: behold, he shall come, says the LORD of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming, and who shall stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

Malachi 3:1-2

Evangelism Should be Outside the Church

Therefore, our Churches should be predominantly a place of prayer. Evangelism is for outside the church and we should not be inviting sinners to come in – we are supposed to go out of the church and into the world with the gospel. The Church should be the place for those who are children of God to be built up, and for fellowship, prayer, communion

and teaching. These were the 4 things that the early church did when they met together. Evangelism was not one of them. They went out to evangelise and did not try to bring the world into their fellowship.

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:42

Evangelism should be in the pubs, clubs, the streets, and in the supermarkets. Of course you need the signs and wonders to follow the preaching for real evangelism and that is sadly missing from many of our modern evangelists, even in buildings, never mind out in the world.

If We had a Visit from Jesus?

If Jesus came to your church would he find it a place of prayer, or a den of thieves? If Jesus were to enter your home would he find it a place of prayer or a den of thieves? If God looked into your heart would he find a place of prayer or a den of thieves? These are the questions we should be asking and coming to terms with in our present situation. Every Church and person is moving in one direction or another for we cannot stand still in this area. We only have 2 choices, or directions, we can go to. If we are not actively and consciousness moving in our Church, home, or in our heart towards a house of

prayer, then by default, we must be moving towards a den of thieves. Is this the agenda of your church, your home, or yourself – to become a house of prayer? If we are not gravitating toward this then we are gravitating to become a den of thieves whether we realise it or not.

Jeremiah gave a damning report of the situation of Israel in his time, but we can apply it today to many of our assemblies. Read slowly and apply it to our present situation.

Do you trust in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these ...Behold, you trust in lying words, that cannot profit. Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom you don't know; and come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations? Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, says the LORD.

From Jeremiah 7:4-11

A Backslidden Christian Culture

Christians think they can watch occult Hollywood films, cheat the tax man, enjoy all the pleasure of the world, and then come to Church and praise God, feel

righteous and pray the Pharisees prayer. How deluded are modern Christians. The house of God is now a business centre and entertainment hall. We now call the platform a stage just like the world and we have smoke and strobe lights and choreographed dances in inappropriate dress. Clapping a speaker is now common place. All these have been imported from the world and the house of God is made worldly with these practices. A house of prayer is a place to meet God, a place of communication and reconciliation, not a place to be entertained or to socialise.

The Old or the New Covenant?

Peter and John went to the temple at the hour of prayer.

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

Acts 3:1

A problem with many Christians is that they do not know the differences that the New Covenant made to God's people. The change from the Old to the New covenant did not happen in one moment, it was over a period of time as is often the case with the things of God. There is a changeover period. I will need to explain what I mean by this.

When Jesus gave the disciples the communion meal he said it was the meal of the New Covenant

in his blood, but of course he had not died and shed his blood at that time. He was telling them that **it would become the meal of the new covenant**, and not that it was at that present time in the upper room.

When Jesus died, the veil of the temple was rent in two – not for us to have access, for we now approach the throne of grace in heaven not on earth, it was a sign that God was coming out of his dwelling place in a building. It was a sign that the Old Covenant was being torn from top to bottom. However, the temple was still in its normal place and the sacrifices continued until the temple was destroyed in AD 70 when Titus raised Jerusalem to the ground and the prophesy of Jesus was fulfilled that 'not one stone would be left upon another'.

A Transitional Period

I believe the New Covenant was not fully established until the old temple was destroyed. I will give you my reasons. Jesus told a parable of the fig tree that did not bear fruit for 3 years and the husbandman was going to have it destroyed (parable in Luke 13:6-9). As bible students know, the fig tree speaks of Israel and we know that Jesus preached for 3 years to his own people, whom God has chosen out of the world (Egypt), without seeing any fruit. In the parable the gardener pleaded with the owner to leave it another year and then if it did not bear fruit he would destroy it. I believe Israel

had another generation, 40 years after Jesus died, to repent and show fruit. Alas they did not and the tree was hewn down and cast into the fire. That was the end of the Old Covenant and the establishing of the new.

No Temple – No Sacrifices

When the veil in the temple was rent, God had already left the temple and he would now inhabit temples not made with stones, but temples of flesh and blood – our own bodies – but the old temple was still standing, showing the mercy and compassion of God towards his people. While ever the temple was standing they could have the blood sacrifices for sin and there was a chance that God could come and inhabit it if there was repentance and fruit. Even when God proves we don't want to change or do his will, he extends the time for us to repent, but only for a limited period and then he is severe. Josephus claims 1,100,000 people were killed during the siege, of which a majority were Jewish, and that 97,000 were captured and enslaved.

That is why Peter, John, and Paul still went to the temple and also kept some of the Old Covenant ordinances. The new had been initiated, but the old had not faded away yet. After the temple was destroyed in AD70 the blood sacrifices stopped and have never been reinstated to this day. This was then the end of special buildings to worship God, they were finished, and the New Covenant

was finally established. Paul talks about the Old Covenant **fading away** – this is a process and not an immediate action.

In that he said, A new covenant, he has made the first old. Now that which decays and waxes old is ready to vanish away.

Hebrews 8:13

Most Christians miss the fact and do not realise that the early disciples did not replace the temple in Jerusalem with new buildings – Churches – there were no buildings for 400 years until Rome replaced the temple of God with pagan temples. Traditional Churches are pagan temples for they have occult symbols in them and they bury the dead in the grounds, or if it is important and big enough, actually in the building. God must be amazed at how Christians think this is a good thing.

We are Now the Building

We, that is people, are now the New Covenant equivalent of the building. It is not a Church or organisation. Our body is now the temple of God and all the details of the temple in Jerusalem have a parallel in our own bodies. It is the study of a lifetime, but just as a basis I can say that our flesh and blood are the outer court, our mind the holy place, and our heart is the holiest of holies. It is now in the heart where God wants to dwell or tabernacle with

House of Prayer – Den of Thieves?

us. We now glorify God in our hearts. A building can no longer glorify God, however beautiful.

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody **in your heart** to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:19

Here is a scripture to show we are now the temple of God:

Don't you know that **you are the temple of God**, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

I Corinthians 3:16

Here is one to Show that Christ dwells in our mortal body.

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:27

Notice it does not say 'Christ with you'. This is Old Covenant talk. God went with the children of Israel, but he does not go with us, he is in us and we take him wherever we go – or should do. The problem is that whenever we ask God to go before us or with us, we show we do not believe he is in us.

We are the body of Christ, but to most Christians this statement is more a mystical statement than a literal one.

Temples of the Holy Ghost

We are also temples of the Holy Ghost, but whenever we welcome the Holy Spirit into our meetings we show that he is not really in us and we need him to come so we can feel his presence. This is more like a spiritualist meeting where they all wait for the spirit to come. A Christian full of the Holy Ghost takes him to the meeting and lets him out. It says Peter stood up being **full** of the Holy Ghost. Under the Old Covenant the Holy Ghost came **upon** the prophets, but Jesus said out of our bellies the spirit would come forth.

This clearly shows that we do not need the Holy Ghost to come upon us to exercise the Gifts of the Spirit, or cast out devils, for we already have the power inside of us and it needs us to exercise faith and minister from what we have. Of course if we have very little inside of us, then there is little to manifest and we need to wait for 'some anointing' before we minister. This is not New Covenant thinking and is not scriptural at all.

He that believes on me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water (but this he spoke about the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the

Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified).

John 7:38-39

What? Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own?

I Corinthians 6:19

Although a Christian when challenged would say that of course the church is not a building or organisation, in the next breath would ask if you are 'going to Church on Sunday' showing in reality they do not believe they are the Church, the temple, the dwelling place of the Almighty God. As the faith preachers keep telling us 'we are what we confess'.

If I am not actively making my own body a temple of the Holy Ghost, Jesus, and God, then what am I making it into? The answer is simple – I am inadvertently making it into a den of thieves.

What did Jesus mean by that statement? What is a den of thieves like and how can I apply it my own body and life?

A Den of Thieves

I worked with gangsters for 14 years so I believe I have some insight into what a den of thieves is. I knew of many clubs in my city of Manchester where gangsters met. They all knew where there would be people of the same mind and vocation.

However, although some of them were thieves they did not steal in these places. Others did not do acts of violence or confidence tricks. They did talk about their exploits, and they did plan what they would do in the future, but it was a place of safety for them and a place for entertainment. They often had strippers or escorts for hire. They also did deals and business with one another. Is this a picture of many of the modern Churches?

Under the Old Covenant God describes what he considers to be a den of thieves. What else could it be when he describes the leaders of God's people as he does in the following passage – asleep and lazy, blind and dumb, ignorant, greedy, bad shepherds, selfish, with no notion of the times they are in?

His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yes, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter. Come you, say they, I will fetch wine, and we will fill ourselves with strong drink; and to morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundant.

Isaiah 56:10-12

Surely, God's people worship in a den of thieves when the Church is an organisation that has brought business into it, when it relies on entertainment to

attract the people and to keep them, when they bring politics into their systems and when pastors are paid hirelings who have not been set by God.

Birds of the Air

After a meeting people do not talk about the sermon and how God has challenged them, for they have 'switched off' and the birds of the air have stolen the seed before they have even entered the coffee room. So, they talk about the weather, or the family, or their coming holidays, or work in the Church, but it is very rare for people to talk about God himself after a service.

Why should we think that God's people under the New Covenant should be any different than those under the Old Covenant. God has not changed, Satan has not changed, and human nature has not changed, so these things are bound to invade God's people in any age. That is why we need intercession to ask God not to judge us according to our wilful ways but to have mercy and restore us. That is why we need to pray fervently for God to raise up people with the spirit of John the Baptist and Elijah to turn the hearts of God's people back to God again.

As I finish this chapter on prayer let me challenge you to look at your own fellowship. Is it a place of peace and conducive to prayer and meditation, or is it more like an entertainment centre, full of noise and activity? Is your home a place of rest and solitude and conducive to prayer and meditation, or is it a

place of tension and unrest? And most important, is your heart a place of peace and is it always praying without ceasing? Do you go to sleep in an attitude of prayer, and what are your thoughts as you wake – the cares of this life or the life of Christ? The answer will be very revealing I am sure for all of us who will take an honest look at these 3 areas.

When the temple becomes a den of thieves there is no more intercession. Read again these words.


Behold, you trust in lying words, that cannot profit. Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom you know not; and come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations? Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, says the LORD. But go now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel. And now, because you have done all these works, says the LORD, and I spoke unto you, rising up early and speaking, but you didn't hear; and I called you, but you didn't answer; therefore I will do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein you trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh. And I will cast you out of my sight, as I

have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim. **Therefore don't pray for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear you.**

Jeremiah 7:8-16

The last sentence is one of the saddest verses in the whole word of God. God asked the prophet not to pray for his people or intercede for them. It is a serious business and we are in the middle of apostasy at this very time. Pray that God will open Christians' eyes to the real situation before it is too late, so they can humble themselves, and pray. To humble ourselves and pray is a move in the right direction, but it is still not enough.

But, if we humble ourselves and pray and seek God's face....



A revival almost always begins among the laity. The ecclesiastical leaders seldom welcome reformation. History repeats itself. The present leaders are too comfortably situated as a rule to desire innovation that might require sacrifice on their part. And God's fire only falls on sacrifice. An empty altar receives no fire!

Frank Bartleman

Chapter 5

If My People Seek My Face

The days come, says the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. ...they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

From Amos 8:11-12

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in his wonderful face

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace

I will now consider the 3rd condition that God's people need to fulfil for God to restore and heal an individual, a group, or a nation. Remember, these conditions can only apply to God's chosen people who have backslidden because they have to turn again to God. The heathen have never served God so they cannot return to him

The order, of course, is perfect. We can seek God's face as much as we want but we will not entreat him if we have not first humbled ourselves and then formed a relationship with him through our prayer closet.

God's Hand or God's Face?

What does it mean to seek God's face? I think to make a distinction between seeking God's face and God's hand will give us some idea, for we can hold out our hands to God for our needs, or our greeds, without looking at him, just as a spoilt child can hold out his hand without any respect for the one who is granting their request. So many Christians are seeking God's hand of provision for wealth, status, and well-being, but have, along with the modern Church, forgotten how to seek God for himself. We should not just seek the gifts, but the giver of the gifts – God himself.

I have seen many a man kiss his wife as he goes to work and not even bother to really look at her, and clearly has other things on his mind. When we look

into someone's face we see the soul of that person – whether they are happy or sad, lonely or grieving. A man who has just committed adultery does not want to look into his wife's face for fear she will see something in his heart, and this is the reason many Christians do not want to seek God's face – he may see what he does not like in their hearts.

When we seek God's face – God for himself – then we need to be transparent. A proud heart can never touch the heart of God, so humility and simplicity are obvious prerequisites for seeking his face.

The Real God

Isaiah was a great prophet, but he had not seen God as he really was. When he saw God in all his glory he was exposed to his own sinfulness and cried out. 'I am undone' (better translated as 'cut off'). A person can feel righteous and conscience free until he seeks God's face, and then he will always say, 'Woe is me, I am undone'; for we cannot see God without seeing ourselves under the spotlight of perfection, and we always fall short under its glaring light.

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphim: each one had six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he did fly. And one

cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. ...Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

From Isaiah 6:1-5

As soon as Isaiah admitted his true state, the seraphim touched his lips with a coal from the altar and he was purged of his sin. It seems it was an easy job for him to be cleansed once he saw and admitted his true state, and it is the same for us. God cannot deal with anything in our lives until we accept that we have the sin or the problem – then it is a simple job for him to deal with it, and us.

No Demands in Intercession

Remember that intercession is entreating God and not demanding or pressurising him to do our will. We never deserve mercy so we have to touch God's heart if we want him to change his mind and set aside judgement. Intercession is crying out to God and not just praying the right prayers. I am meaning prayers and tears from the heart and not just the mouth. Many times a deep heart cry that is silent is louder than any self-indulgent, shallow and emotional prayer full of tears. King David, a man after God's heart knew how to cry out to God.

Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.
From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee,
when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the
rock that is higher than I.

Psalm 61:1

So did Daniel when he really sought God. He did not even presume God would hear him so he asked God to incline his ear and open his eyes. He wanted to get God's attention and not just pray empty petitions. This desperation and urgency is what God requires and this is seeking his face. Daniel even uses some of the language that is in God's answer to Solomon.

O my God, incline your ear, and hear; open your eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by your name: for we do not present our supplications before you for our righteousness's, but for your great mercies. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for your own sake, O my God: for your city and your people are called by your name.

Daniel 9:18-19

Seeking is a Process

Seeking is an active process. A person cannot claim they are seeking when they are sitting. If they are diligently looking, then movement and action is

required and the seeking cannot stop until whatever they had lost is found again.

We Seek for What We Don't Have!

No one seeks for what they have, they seek for what they have lost or do not have, and to seek God's face implies that we have lost his favour and need to regain it.

It is obvious, if we know our bible, that God does not hear every prayer, and even if he does hear our request there is no formula for obtaining the answer we are requesting, so it is vital we seek his face so that we have the assurance he is listening to us and will at least consider what we are asking.

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

Psalm 66:18

Fervency is a very necessary part of seeking. I am not talking about shouting and aggressive prayers. I have been in so many African churches where they shout and tell the devil to leave for he has no right in their lives, but from observation it is clear to me that the devil has a legal right in many Christians lives or they would not be in the mess they are in. These people need teaching that fervency is not in the decibels we pray, but the intensity of our hearts. Most of what I observe in these shouting meetings is that it is mostly emotional and not spiritual at all.

My assessment is based on the lack of answers to this type of praying.

Fervency and Righteousness

James, in his epistle, says that the fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

James 5:16

This implies that the weak and insipid prayer of a righteous man will achieve very little and the fervent prayer of a self-righteous man will achieve even less. The two are needed and that is why fervency without seeking God's face – to expose our unrighteousness – will not bring about the intercession God has placed upon us.

More than Prayer

Seeking God's face is more than just fervent prayer, it almost demands fasting and self denial. A desperate man takes drastic action and as Jesus said to the disciples when they could not meet the situation and heal a boy, 'This kind will not be removed except by prayer and fasting'.

And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately, Why couldn't we

cast him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.

Mark 9:28-29

I don't think Jesus expected that the disciples would go away and fast each time they met a difficult situation. He expected them to deal with it as they met it; but the lifestyle of fasting and prayer is the enabling when the situation arises. Any person who calls themselves an intercessor and does not fast is deluded and will not achieve the results for sure. Jesus did not tell us to fast when, and if, we wanted to in his Sermon on the Mount. He assumed that all disciples practiced this discipline. He said 'When you fast' and not 'If you fast'. All religious people fast, from Hindus to Satanist, Christians to Muslims. So for a Christian not to fast shows he is not even religious, never mind serious about the condition of his Church or his country. Even the hypocritical Pharisees fasted. It is not an option for a Christian. To not fast is disobedience, for Jesus told us his will and all that is against the will of God is disobedience and sin.

An Intercessory Lifestyle

Daniel is a good example of a man who lived the intercessory lifestyle. He lived a simple life with simple food and would not indulge in the kingly lifestyle he was freely offered in Babylon. Whenever

a situation arose he began so seek God's face. Here is his own account.

In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: and I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said....

Daniel 9:1-4

Prayer and Fasting

Moses fasted and prayed that God would not destroy his people and God heard his request and showed mercy. It seemed to be a supernatural fast because he did not drink water either, and it is impossible to go without water for 40 days, but nevertheless it was prayer and fasting.

I fell down before the LORD forty days and forty nights, as I fell down at the first; because the LORD had said he would destroy you. I prayed therefore unto the LORD, and said, O Lord GOD, destroy not your people and your inheritance, which you have brought forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand.

Deuteronomy 9:24-25

The Remedy

God always has a remedy for his backslidden children just as I, a father, have a remedy for my naughty children – chastisement. Why Christians think that God will not chastise them under the New Covenant of grace is beyond me, when the bible is so clear. Paul takes a whole passage in Hebrews on this very subject and says that if we do not allow God's chastisement we are bastards and not sons. Surely this scripture alone should make us face up to the facts.

But if you are without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then you are bastards, and not sons.

Hebrews 12:8

When we, as individuals, or as a nation, are backslidden the requirements for restoration are humility, prayer, and seeking God's face again. There is a wonderful passage in the book of Hosea (the whole of the book is about the backsliding of Israel) when he shows **why he chastises us**.

For I will be unto Ephraim as a lion, and as a young lion to the house of Judah: I, even I, will tear and go away; I will take away, and none shall rescue him. I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: **in their affliction they will seek me early.**

Hosea 5:14-15

No Plan 'B'

It is strange that we turn to God when we are in trouble and can't solve things ourselves. Christians would rather trust the world system for their safety or health and only when the world can't help them any longer do they cry out to God. What a shame they don't seek God in the first place. We would save ourselves so much pain and adversity if we cut away our supports and trusted God alone for all our needs and problems. As a friend of mine told me; 'Faith is having no plan 'B.'

Later in the book of Hosea God tells us what his people do in their trouble – they go to the world first

Strangers have devoured his strength, and he doesn't know it: yes, grey hairs are here and there upon him, yet he knows not. And the pride of Israel testifies to his face: and they do not return to the LORD their God, nor seek him for all this. Ephraim also is like a silly dove without heart: **they call to Egypt, they go to Assyria.**

Hosea 7:9-11

Egypt is a type of the world and so often Christians look to the world for help, even though we are told that we must be separate from the world, and to be a friend of the world is to be the enemy of God. James, in his epistle, cannot put it any clearer.

You adulterers and adulteresses, don't you know that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

James 4:4

The Rod of Correction

Assyria is a type of God's punishment in Israel and is described as his rod to chastise. Why would God's people look to their enemies unless they were completely blind to the situation.

O Assyrian, the rod of my anger, and the staff in their hand is my indignation.

Isaiah 10:5

Worship, celebration and praising God are counter productive when seeking God's face is required. They are not in the list of requirements for the restoration of God's people and often celebration is a sign of backsliding, such as when Israel were dancing around a golden calf believing they were worshipping the real God.

There is no easy route when we forsake God, and the way back is always hard and painful. Let me encourage you to seek him diligently if you are cold of heart, and if you are close to God then take this chapter as a challenge and warning to not let anything mar the relationship you have with him.



Saying to a stock, You are my father; and to a stone, You have brought me forth: for they have turned their back unto me, and not their face: but in the time of their trouble they will say, Arise, and save us.

Jeremiah 2:27

Chapter 6

Turn

From Your

Wicked Ways

Where do wars and fightings come from among you? Don't they come of your lusts that war in your members? You lust, and have not: you kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: you fight and war, yet you have not, because you ask not. You ask, and receive not, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts. You adulterers and adulteresses, Don't you know that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever

Turn From Your Wicked Ways

therefore, will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. ...Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

James 4:1-10

We have now come to the last condition we must meet for God to restore and heal a backslidden people and bring them into a right relationship with God. This 4th condition may be the hardest for Christians to understand and conform to. We all know that we should be humble and pray and seek God's face, but it is quite intimidating and condemning for dedicated Christians to be told that they have wicked ways, and many Christians would be affronted to be told so. Remember, that the passage we are looking at in Chronicles says, 'If my people' and not, 'if the world, or politicians turn from their wicked ways'. So then, when a country and the Church is backslidden this must apply whether we believe it or not, and whether we like it or not.

In this chapter, I need to look at the wicked ways of God's people, for unless we see ourselves as God sees us and repent, we can never fulfil the conditions for God to restore us. We will never build the bride of Christ and we will not be those who are in the first resurrection to reign with Christ for 1,000 years on this earth. God's people, those who accept salvation by faith, are assured of eternal life, but only those

who meet the conditions laid down by Jesus and the Apostles will qualify to reign with Jesus.

I have written 6 volumes in a series called 'Israel, the Church and the Kingdom of God' and I show how, right from the garden of Eden, the counterfeit spirit of Babylon seduced Eve. I go through the history of Israel, and then the Church to this present date and beyond to show that God's people have always preferred the counterfeit to the real. History is on my side for as soon as God sent a deliverer, God's people soon returned to the confusion of Babylon. Some of the potential deliverers, and this includes Jesus, they mocked, persecuted, and killed. Only a remnant in each generation seem to be willing to pay the price to be the wife of God or the bride of Christ. I suggest the reader go through these volumes if they desire a deeper understanding of how God's people backslide and come under the bewitching power of Babylon – the whore.

What are Our Wicked Ways?

However, I need to look at a few wicked ways of God's people in this chapter to expose to the reader that in this present period of history God's people are in desperate need of repentance and restoration and the only way is to humble themselves, pray, seek God's face, and turn from their wicked ways.

The following paragraphs are just a brief look at some of the ways we need to turn from if we want to meet the conditions.

1. Pride

Pride is the opposite of humility, and I have covered it in the first condition God requires, but let me show some more ways that pride manifests. The outward acceptance and praise of men shows pride. Jesus gave himself to no man because he knew the heart of man. All flesh is grass and to think that all men are not fickle and capable of praise one minute and condemnation the next is naïve.

**But Jesus did not commit himself unto them,
because he knew all men,**

John 2:24

Thousands of people thought Jim Bakker and Jimmy Swaggart were wonderful men of God and showered praise on them. When they found out that they were not what they believed they were they condemned them even before things were proved against them. A true man of God, and that should include all Christians, should not look for the praise of men as it genders pride and a false opinion of oneself.

Jesus said, 'Woe to us, when all men speak well of us', for it is the sign that we are false. Pride always puts the mask of hypocrisy on us, and hypocrisy is a mask for covetousness. That is why the proud preachers who solicit the praise of men seek riches, and status in this life.

Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.

Luke 6:26

The Ethos of Babylon

Pride is the very ethos of Babylon. The statement that was made during the building of the Tower of Babel was, 'Let us make a name for ourselves!'

And they said, **Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name**, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

Genesis 11:4

'Empire building', is the sure sign of a backslidden Church and people of God. Again, when Babylon rose to a world power under Nebuchadnezzar, the same words came out of his mouth, 'Is this not great Babylon that I have built?'

The king spoke, and said, **Is not this great Babylon, that I have built** for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

Daniel 4:30

The 'Kingdom Now' teaching (which is actually a fundamental Catholic doctrine – that the Church

is the kingdom of God and can, and must, bring all the world into this kingdom), shows how pride and arrogance have invaded the modern church. The bible clearly teaches that Christ will build his church and that he will bring the kingdom with him when he returns to earth.

The present kingdom is within a man, and we should put the kingdom of God into people – not people into the kingdom.

Pride always leads to empire building and the praise of man, and this is a fundamental wicked way that we have to repent of, and turn from, if God is to restore us to righteousness in preparation for his return.

2. A Form of Godliness

The second wicked way of modern Christianity is of having a form of Godliness while denying the power. Outward signs of holiness do not make anyone holy. All buildings and religious artefacts are pagan. If God now dwells in people and they are the temple of God, as the bible clearly shows, then all buildings are pagan temples for if Christ and God will not dwell in them then who does? Surely the fact that traditional Churches have gargoyles on them and steeples (which are phallic symbols as are

all obelisks), and bury dead bodies in the grounds, should make Christians think. Special tables for the communion, altar rails when there is no altar, stained glass windows, and candles are all now pagan and outwards signs of godliness, but have no power to change lives. They are soulish and appeal to our flesh. Even music can be a wicked way if it is appealing to the flesh and only stirring up carnal emotions. Only 'spirit and truth' worship is accepted of God. It is easy to be dancing around a golden calf to the real God and think it is acceptable. I have been on the platform of many churches where the dancing of the worship team have been overtly sensual and provocative. Christians are so used to watching entertainment on television that they have become desensitised to sexual provocation and do not even realise what they are doing.

Where is the Real Power.

Most Christians I meet have never seen a blind person see, or a crippled person jump out of a wheel chair — except on a television. They do not live in the supernatural realm. They have an outward life that is all about faith and power, but their lives are not showing the power. The majority of Christians I meet in Churches have lives that are in a mess. They have depressions, worry and stress related diseases just the same as those in the world. They have eating disorders and I am amazed how many are on prescription addictive drugs. They say they are

healed by the stripes of Jesus but it is just not true in their lives so they must be totally deceived to believe a lie. They have the same divorce rate as the non-Christians and live a worldly, self indulgent lifestyle that is not compatible with the sacrificial, self denial lifestyle teachings of Jesus and the Apostles. This is certainly a wicked way that needs to be repented of and an honest appraisal of the teaching of Jesus needs to be adopted in their lifestyles. How can revival come when the Church is partying around a golden calf?

3. Spiritual Adultery

Adultery can never please God, and while the Christians love the world and the things that are in the world they are committing spiritual adultery. James makes it clear in his epistle. How can a worldly Church or a worldly Christian bring revival and meet the conditions for it? The answer is simple – they cannot.

You adulterers and adulteresses, don't you know that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

James 4:4

John also makes it very clear that the world has to be shunned if we want to follow the real Jesus.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1 John 2:15

4. Worldliness

I am amazed that Christians do not know what the 'world' entails. It is simple, for it is 'the system', or the thinking of the world; which includes fashion, politics, fame, status, class, and wealth (the accumulation of riches, not money itself). Satan, according to the bible, is the god of this world, so its thinking and ethos must be Satanic. All those who are at the top of the tree, in this world, whether in politics, sport, commerce, royalty, or any other field, must be serving him. Satan told Jesus he could give him the glory and the riches of this world to whom he wanted and Jesus did not contradict him for this is what Satan stole in the garden of Eden. The earth is still God's, but the world belongs to Satan.

And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, showed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give you, and the glory of them: **for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.**

Luke 4:5-6

In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

2 Corinthians 4:4

When Christians become involved in any of these areas, they are by definition 'worldly'.

When We Think Like the World We Are of It.

We are in the world but we are not to be of it. When a Christian has a political bias or criticises politicians they are of the world. They should be praying for all politicians of all parties according to scripture. I do not need to give more examples for all that is in the world is shown by John in his letter to us but I will just comment on these 3 areas that cover all worldliness.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

1 John 2:16

1. The Lust of the Flesh

This is clearly indulgence to satisfy the physical appetites in our bodies and covers over eating, fornication, adultery, and pleasures that satisfy our

own flesh and spirit and not the spirit of God within us. Doing things for a thrill which risk our lives would be included. Bungy jumping or motor racing are all to satisfy the spirit of man and not God, and are a substitute for the thrill of feeling God's spirit upon us. When a man is consumed of God he has no time for worldly pleasures and pursuits. Some Christians spend more time and money on hobbies than they do to serving God. Does that mean we should be miserable? Definitely not for I cannot believe that Jesus or Paul were miserable people. A person full of God is good company and affable, and a person who is happy with his life. Jesus did not wear black clothes and walk around miserable because he could not enjoy the pleasures of the world. A person close to God has joy that transcends the feeling obtainable from the tinsel and false joy that the pleasures of this world bring.

2. The Lust of the Eyes

This is clearly covetousness and is rampant in the western nations. I must add that it is also rapidly spreading to the 3rd world nations. I visit Africa Asia, and India, and can clearly see the trend. The banking cartels are now putting the third world people in debt just as they have trapped the western nations.

All advertising is based on our lust of the eyes, our covetousness. I know, from being a salesman for a number of years, that it is impossible to sell

anything to anyone. You can only make them feel as though they cannot live without it and create in them a desire to buy it. Salesmen are creating a covetousness in the potential buyer.

The eyes are never satisfied and it is obvious that the majority of Christians want to have the same indulgent lifestyles as the world and often above the average. Pride, and the lust of the eyes for 'things', drive most Christians in this 'last days' period before Jesus comes and it is not a surprise to me for it was prophesied long ago. The last day church of Laodicia were full of these 3 things that John says are of the world and not of God. They were rich and needed nothing. It is so sad that they were deceived and it is the same today. We cannot turn from our wicked ways until we have been exposed and that is why I am giving practical examples for you to consider for yourself and before God.

Because you say, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and don't know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked: I counsel you to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich; and white raiment, that you may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness does not appear; and anoint your eyes with eye-salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Revelation 3:17-19

Complacency

This Church were complacent about the way they lived and complacency is one of the wicked ways we need to repent of in these last days. Amos said to God's people that they should not be at ease. Status, wealth, and entertainment all make us at ease and are dangerous.

Woe to them that are at ease in Zion...

Amos 6:1

This is the last days Church that Jesus is knocking at the door of and can't get in – frightening!

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

3. The Pride of Life

Christians are being encouraged to be prideful. The Church have taken all the phrases from psychology and modern New Age philosophers and we are told we need a good self image, and self worth, we need self satisfaction and so on, when the bible tells us that 'self' is actually the problem and we should deny self and follow him and not Freud, Engles, or Jung, who were the founders of

new age thinking, and drug induced theories that have embraced the world. When we have a poor self image it is because of pride. A person who says they hate themselves would be glad they were fat and ugly – if indeed they were – and happy that they had a poor self image.

Inverted Pride

Most issues concerning self are inverted pride and we need to address this attitude as a Christian. If we need attention it is usually based on pride. This may seem hard of me to say and strange thinking, but I am basing my thoughts on what Jesus said and not what is taught by the modern educators.

Please consider it prayerfully. It is certain that self has no place in a disciple's life as he must die to self and live to the will and desire of God and not to himself. A true disciple is not even aware he has any image – good or bad, because he is secure in Christ and not 'him-self'

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Matthew 16:24

Conclusion

It is not an easy task to be in the world and not of the systems of this world with all its desires and


lusts, but God cannot restore our personal lives, our Church, or our nation, until we deal with the last requirement that is listed for God to heal our land.

The scriptures I have quoted above in this chapter are from John's epistles, and in the context of the last days, and therefore applicable to us today.

**And the world passes away, and the lust thereof:
but he that does the will of God abides for ever.
Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have
heard that antichrist shall come, even now are
there many antichrists; whereby we know that
it is the last time.**

1 John 2:17-18

If you are serious about your country, church or personal relationship with Christ, and want to bring restoration, then consider seriously the 4 conditions that I have written about. If you disagree on some of my points, or how I have interpreted the conditions, then think seriously for yourself and come to your own conclusions for it is clear we need to meet the conditions in the present climate of world history just prior to the return of Jesus.

A photograph of two hands clasped together in a prayerful gesture, with fingers interlaced. The hands are positioned centrally on the page, with the text overlaid on them.

Part 2

Paying the
Price to
Avert God's
Judgement

Introduction

A Gentleman With a Burden

Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

Jonah 1:1-2

Jonah may seem a strange example to use for intercession, but I am sure you will see

why I am using him after you have read this part of the series. I mentioned in the first volume that intercession is more than words of prayer. It is God praying his prayers through people he has a close relationship with, to bring about his purposes. I used Abraham as an example of this in his prayer for Lot to be rescued from Sodom. I also wrote that intercession is a burden and sometime it is played out in the experiences of the intercessor. Abraham is a good example of this as he sacrificed his own son to prophesy the intercession of Jesus on the cross.

I believe Jonah was also used by God through his experiences to prophecy and live out things in the future and I will show them in the second part of this volume.

Why Nineveh?

Nineveh was a wicked city in Assyria and yet we shall see that they met all the 4 conditions for God to restore and heal God's backslidden people. I find this amazing and a challenge to the church today. Sometimes it seems as if those who do not profess to know God understand him better than those who claim they know God and his ways.

Perhaps God arranged all the circumstances and trials of Jonah's life to show us some important principles and I will endeavour to show them in the following chapters. I trust you will be enlightened and challenged as you read this remarkable story. It

has become almost a myth to many Christians and certainly to those who do not believe in our God. The story is so familiar that we have phrases such as 'Jonah the moaner', which trivialise this story and cause us to miss what God intended when he caused it to be part of the canon of scripture.

I believe the story of Jonah is the one that is mocked the most from the world as being unbelievable and not credible at all. Because it is the most criticised book in the bible I therefore believe that it is probably the most misunderstood by Christians – Satan does not want us to have revelation on what God is showing with this true incident. I believe the story is a prophecy of the first and second coming of Jesus to Israel, her restoration, and the attitude of the Church to this restoration.

Christians often think of Jonah in a bad light, and of course he failed on many counts, but nevertheless I believe everything he did was a prophecy for us to understand if we will look through different eyes, and I will endeavour to show that Jonah is acting out a prophecy of Jesus, and also the end time church, in the following chapters. If this all seems too far fetched I can only ask you, the reader, to have an open mind as you go through this second part of volume 2, and come to your own conclusions, whether in agreement or not!



And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

Isaiah 59:16

Chapter 7

Jonah's First Call

When God calls a man – he bids him come and die.

Detrich Bonhoffer

Before we look at the life of Jonah, as recorded in just four small chapters of the Bible, I would like to look at some of the background of this man, for he is also mentioned in the book of

Kings, and it will give us some understanding of the situation.

Jonah – a Dove

Names in the bible all have meanings and it is always important, when doing a character study of a person, to know what God has allowed them to be named. The name Jonah means 'dove', but it can also have another meaning and I will look at this other meaning as we progress through the story.

Human beings all have complex characters and it is difficult to describe anyone with one word. A person can be generous one moment and covetous the next, sad one moment and full of mischief and laughter the next.

So it was with Jonah, but he certainly had the character of a dove. He was a gentle man and easily grieved, or offended, as we will see as we progress through the recorded incidents in the book of Jonah. I believe he was also a man of compassion, and it shows in this story.

An intercessor is not only someone who stands in the gap, or mediates between 2 parties, but he must enter into the feelings of both parties if he is to plead on behalf of one and judge on the part of the other. A man with a callous spirit can never be used of God as an intercessor.

I believe Jonah was the perfect man to role play both Jesus in the beginning of the incidents

recorded, and later to enter into the feelings of the church in the last days.

From Galilee

Jonah was from Gathhepher which is a town in lower Galilee, only 5 miles from Nazareth, the area that Jesus lived many years later, and I believe significant. From the book of Kings we find that he was probably the first of the prophets to the nation of Israel and contemporary with Amos and Hosea. He lived at a time not long after king David reigned over all Israel around 750 years BC. He was a proven and recognised prophet and his words came to pass in the time of King Jeroboam. He prophesied that the coast of Israel would be restored; and it was.

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. 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. 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 spoke by the hand of his servant Jonah**, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher.

2 Kings 14:23-25

Jonah was a man who knew God's voice and when the 'word of the Lord' came to him and told him to go to Nineveh he had no doubt it was God who was speaking. He was given a burden and it would not be lifted until he delivered his message. So many of our modern, so called 'prophets', say they 'feel' this may be of God or, as many do, give a general word that can be interpreted in many ways and could apply to many people. I see so many silly words of prophesy on 'Facebook' saying 'today is your breakthrough'. It can mean so many things to so many people that it is insulting to me. Words like this may be encouragement to people, but they are not biblical prophecy, according to my reading of the scriptures. They are just positive affirmation, mind games, and not worthy of a disciple of Christ.

These modern prophet do not know what a 'burden from the Lord' is, or what it entails. Jonah had no doubt of this word from God, but it scared him for many reasons.

Unknown Territory

Firstly, he was asked to do what no other prophet of Israel or Judah were asked to do – leave Israel and go to the heathen and prophecy against them in their capital city. All the other prophets in the bible prophesied to God's backslidden people whilst staying in Israel or Judah. They often went personally to kings and declared God's

judgement; and then had to flee for their lives, but never outside of the territory of the land God had given them.

Jonah was the exception. Other prophets would prophecy against the heathen nations, but from the safety of their own land and people. Many spoke against Babylon and the book of Nahum is a prophecy of the complete destruction of Nineveh never to rise again (he lived probably 50 years after God has spared the city in Jonah's time), but Nahum was in Israel when he prophesied.

A Wicked City

Nineveh was in a foreign country, Assyria, and about 500-600 miles journey from Israel for Jonah, so it would take a couple of weeks if he was walking and, of course, less if he had an animal to ride upon.

It is hard enough to cry against an evil people, whether they are God's people or heathen, but it is a far greater call and challenge to actually go to another country and cry against them in their own capital city. Nineveh at that time was the capital city of the Assyrian empire and very wicked. Nahum, in Chapter 3, describes some of the abominations that they practised.

**Because of the multitude of the whoredoms
of the well favoured harlot, the mistress
of witchcrafts, that sells nations through
her whoredoms, and families through her**

witchcrafts. Behold, I am against you, says the LORD of hosts;

Nahum 3:4-5

I believe the wickedness of Nineveh had reached its zenith and it was time for God to judge this city. The whole of Assyria was not to be overthrown, but it would have been a warning to the whole nation if God had done what he pronounced through his prophet Jonah. Secular history also records that:

The Assyrians were barbaric in the way they defeated their enemies. Those who weren't massacred in the initial attack were often impaled or beheaded. Women and children were sometimes murdered or enslaved.

From the Good Seed

It is interesting that the bible records who built this city, just after the flood.

Out of that land (Shinar) went forth Asshur, and built Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah.

Genesis 10:11

I can only assume Asshur was the son of Shem – **the good seed** – as a few verses later it says:

The children of Shem; Elam, and **Asshur**, and Arphaxad, and Lud, and Aram.

Genesis 10:22

This is unlike Babylon which was built by Nimrod of the seed of Ham.

Assyria were actually used of God for his purposes and he used them many time to chastise Israel when they were backslidden. However, Isaiah records that one day in the future they will be united with Israel and Egypt (which is another nation that God used to fashion the whole nation of Israel from an extended family).

In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and **with Assyria, even a blessing** in the midst of the land: Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, **Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands**, and Israel my inheritance.

Isaiah 19:23-25

No Get Out Clause

Secondly, he was asked to pronounce God's judgement, without recourse for God to change his mind if they repented – there was no 'get out clause'

for them. Generally, God's prophets came and told the people their sins and said that if they repented and change their ways, God would forgive them, restore them, and turn away his judgement from them. There was no such remit for poor Jonah. He had to just pronounce judgement. He could not run to safety for he would be in the middle of a large city in a strange land. We know what he was told to say, because the second time he was called he obeyed and it was the shortest prophecy of judgement of any prophet in the bible. Just 8 words. No more and no less

Yet 40 Days and Nineveh Shall be Overthrown

40 is an interesting number in the bible, but I cannot do a study of it in this book. I can however, show that it is significant to the study of Jonah. Israel were 40 years in the wilderness for a time of testing and Jesus was 40 days in the wilderness, also to be tested. Many of the kings of Israel reigned for 40 years (David, Solomon and Saul were 3 of them), and many judges ruled for the same number of years, including Samuel.

Why didn't God say he would destroy Nineveh the next day or next week? Jonah didn't say if they repented he would save them, so why give them time before judgement? I believe it was for prophetic reasons that it was 40 days and I will share why when we come to chapter 3 of Jonah.

He Ran Away!

Why did Jonah disobey God and flee to Tarshish? It is not enough to say he was frightened, because fear is never an excuse to stop obedience; many men have been obedient despite their fears. My father was a parachutist commando in World War II, and he told me that when he jumped in action into Normandy, France, just before the D-Day invasion he was sick with fear, but nevertheless he jumped into enemy gunfire that was rushing at him from the ground. No, we cannot say that fear was the root reason. I believe I can expose the real reason, but we will have to wait until we look at chapter 4 of the book of Jonah before I disclose it.

God does not send a person to do a job for him if he has not been trained; just as the British Army would never have sent my father into the heat of the battle if he had not had special and rigorous commando training – he was trained with live bullets and some of the men died in the exhaustive training.

Prophets are trained to;

1. Hear God for themselves.
2. Obey, whatever the consequences may be.

Remember, that many of God's prophets were stoned, put in pits, and ostracised, so Jonah will

have had a good training before he was called. This was not the first time Jonah had a word from the Lord and prophesied, as I have shown, so he had no excuse, ...but he fled to Tarshish via Joppa.

Jonah was the first and only prophet who was asked to go to a Gentile city – Nineveh. Jonah was sensitive and also impulsive for I believe he ran away on impulse and regretted it as soon as the storm came. He certainly wept when he realise his folly.

Tarshish in Spain

Most scholars agree that Tarshish was a Phoenician port on the coast of Spain, famous for its gold, silver, and tin mines. Whether it was the first boat Jonah could find or whether he had a more educated reason for going to Joppa we will never know for the bible does not tell us, but it does give us a clue as to why he went so far away. It records that he went to escape the 'presence of the Lord'. Is this possible when the scripture says that 'even if I make my bed in hell God is there'? Yes, I believe it is possible for a period of time.

If you have a place where you seek God – your closet – then you should be able to understand that it is very possible. If you decide not to go to your place of prayer and indulge in something that will take your mind off God it is difficult for him to speak to you.

Of course, I believe that after a while God will find a way, but a temporary escape from the

consciousness of God's presence is possible and this is what Jonah did. I am sure he felt he had escaped the instructions of a task he did not want to do.

Give God a Rest?

Maybe it was similar to many Christians who, when on holiday in a different environment and with a desire to indulge in pleasure for a couple of weeks in the year say, 'I'll give my prayer and bible reading a rest while on holiday and will not attend a church'. It is no different than what Jonah did. Pleasure is the killer of hearing God's small voice and that is why the devil has made Church meetings of Christians into celebrations, and entertainment, because he knows it is difficult to hear God in these environments (maybe it is not by chance that Spain is a holiday centre of escapement for so many people around the world).

God will Find a Way

When we do not want to hear God speak in the quietness of our closet, or with other Christians when we seek his face, God often uses other methods to speak to us – circumstances. I find it hard to believe that Christians attribute adverse circumstances to the devil when it is recorded that all things are working for their good. Circumstances to a Christian are always the voice

of God; it is how he gets our attention if only we can interpret what he is saying. The bible records that God sent a great wind to speak to Jonah and he certainly heard it. Jonah was a good man who loved God and understood his character better than most modern Christians, as I will show in a later chapter.

You can flee from God's presence but you cannot flee from his plans, because 'his gifts and callings are without repentance'.

Sleeping in the Storm

I find it amazing that Jonah was asleep when the storm was at its worst. It is not coincidence that Jesus also slept through a storm in the lower part of a ship. Jesus said that Jonah was a prophecy of himself when he was in the whales belly, and here again we see that they both slept through the storm.

It is easy to see why Jesus slept through the storm when the disciples were distraught, for he knew his destiny. He knew that he would shed his blood for the sins of the world, and drowning does not involve shedding blood, so he was secure in his future. He also knew that he would get to the other side of the lake for he had prophesied it.

Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said

unto them, **Let us go over unto the other side** of the lake. And they launched forth.

Luke 8:22

Jesus also knew that there was a man on the other side who needed delivering from a legion of devils and was the reason his father had told him to cross the lake.

When you know your future
you are secure
in your present situation.

What about Jonah though, why was he sleeping? Well, he was a man of God and it is recorded that he was a man that feared God.

And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I **fear the LORD**, the God of heaven, which has made the sea and the dry land.

Jonah 1:9

When you fear God you do not fear men or circumstances. I believe as soon as the storm arose, Jonah realised that God was speaking to him and his fear of God came back to him. He had 'lost it', when he ran away, but now that God was chasing him it made him secure in the knowledge that God was dealing with him to put him 'back on track'. He feared God

so he did not fear the storm and was asleep knowing that God was in charge and that he would somehow get him to the other side so that he could fulfil the plan of God for his life ... and that of Nineveh. A sensitive person may do silly thing on impulse, like Peter did when confronted with a little maid, but they often repent quickly after they realise what they have done, and I believe Jonah was quick to repent of his folly, well before he was in the belly of the whale.

Contrast this with the mariners who were hardened sailors and used to rough seas. They were in fear. They woke Jonah up just as the disciples did to Jesus and said the same thing. 'Carest thou not that we perish'. They told him to call on his god as they were calling to their gods. However, there is no record that Jonah prayed for the storm to cease for he knew it was from God. We often pray for deliverance because we think the root cause is the devil. If we realise that 'all things are working for our good', many times we would be 'thanking God in all things' and victorious in adverse situations.

Jonah was the Culprit

The mariners decided to cast lots to see who was the cause of the storm and it is no surprise that Jonah was the one found with the 'short straw'. They asked him why the storm had come upon them and he told them he was running from the presence of God. The men were more afraid, or as the bible says 'exceeding afraid', and asked Jonah why he had

disobeyed God and what they should do to him to appease the anger of his God.

Then were the men **exceedingly afraid**, and said unto him, **Why have you done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.**

Jonah 1:10

It was a very similar situation to one that is recorded in the New Testament when the Philippian jailer saw that God caused an earthquake and all the prisoners could have escaped; he said, 'What must I do to be saved'. (The Story is in Acts 16:25-30.)

One Man's Death to Save Many

Jonah told them to sacrifice him and they would be freed. His death would be their salvation. The mariners did not want to sacrifice Jonah and tried to save him by rowing to land, but God would not allow them to succeed – Jonah had indeed to be sacrificed. I find it amazing that these pagan sailors turned to the god of Jonah and asked him to forgive them for sacrificing Jonah saying, 'lay not this sin to our charge'. They acknowledged that the god Jehoveh was the cause of the storm. What a change of heart for these men!

Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the

sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them. Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech you, O LORD, **we beseech you, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood:** for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you.

Jonah 1:13-14

They threw Jonah overboard to his fate and the storm immediately ceased. Instead of the sailors going back to their idols, they changed from fearing the storm to fearing the god of Jonah, and made vows and sacrificed to Jehovah. Salvation had come to them through the death of Jonah. A perfect shadow of what Jesus would go through on the cross to appease the wrath of God and bring salvation to the world.

So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging. Then **the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows.**

Jonah 1:15-16

A Different Book

The book of Jonah is different than other books of the bible in more ways than one. Every one of the four chapters ends with a verse that starts a new paragraph. This verse/paragraph is like a modern


soap opera where the last scene is always a 'cliff hanger', leaving the viewer desperate to know what happens next. It is almost as if the last verse should be the first verse of the next chapter. Here then, is the last verse of Chapter 1

Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 1:17

Is this the end of Jonah, and God's plan for his life?

....to be continued



And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

Luke 15:17-18

Chapter 8

Jonah's Cry!

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

2 Timothy 3:16

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

1 Peter 1:20

Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. What an amazing statement! From reading the book of Jonah we would not know what species of fish it was that swallowed him, but from the New Testament we find out that it is translated as whale.

For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Matthew 12:40

Whatever species it was, it is possible for a man to be swallowed by certain types of whales or sharks, but if not a whale or shark, then maybe it was a special fish that God created just for that purpose. What matters to me is that this story is not just allegorical, it happened.

It was Planned From the Start

From the scripture it seems to me that God has already prepared for this incident before creation, just as he had prepared for Jesus to die one day in the future as a sacrifice for others. It does not say God prepared, or sent a great fish, it says, '**God had prepared**' which is past tense. I believe it had been prepared before the foundations of the world just as I have. God knows the end of a matter before he instigates it, so I don't believe it is a rash statement.

Many scientists accept that, maybe, certain fish could swallow a man whole, but none of them that I have researched believe a man could survive for 3 days and 3 nights – there would be no air for him to breathe. I wonder why Christians think that he survived in the belly of the whale. **I believe he died**, because he is a type of Christ and, as I will show, his prayer in the whale before he died was so similar to the prayers of David (which we accept are the feeling of Christ before, or as, he died). This cannot be a coincidence.

The whale was the safest place for Jonah; not to save him alive, but to resurrect him from the dead. If he had died in the ocean, he would have had to wait for the resurrection of all flesh in the future, but he was to prophesy the resurrection of Jesus hundreds of years in the future and the restoration of Israel that is to happen in the not too distant future and the whale was his death ...and his resurrection.

Was it Jonah or Jesus?

This chapter is all about the prayer of Jonah, his heart cry in his distress. The first verse says 'Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord God out of the fish's belly and said'.... His prayer is almost as if it is someone else praying and indeed it is, because the spirit of God takes over and he is prophesying. He starts off with the words 'I cried'. It is the heart cry of a man falling into hell (the place of the dead, not the lake of fire), and one who is feeling the heart of

Jesus. David in Psalm 18 does the same by the spirit of God and much of it is similar to what Jonah says. All scripture is prophetic as Peter tells us in the first letter to the Church.

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

1 Peter 2:20

It's All for a Purpose

What can we learn from all this? We can begin to understand that all our circumstances, and even our failures, can be used to fulfil God's plan for us and for others. Whatever you are going through, or whatever you have been through is all to conform you to the image of his son, for that is why he predestined you before he created the heavens and the earth.

Our impulsive mistakes, and consequences of them, are all to fashion us in God's image and to prophesy things for our future or for other's. If the bible did not record the failures and mistakes of people whom God called we would have no help or encouragement in our own situations. Jonah fulfilled what God called him to do – albeit not directly – but in the end he did God's will and will certainly receive his reward for obeying it.

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestine to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestine, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Romans 8:29

Are You Predestined?

There is only one purpose for your predestination, and that is to be conformed to the image of his son. All your trials, mistakes, and circumstances outside of your control were ordained of God because that is the best way to conform you to his image. It doesn't really matter what we are, or what we go through, there is only one aim in the mind of God and that is – to be the bride for his son. Your life is a prophecy and you are living out this prophecy according to the will of God.

For you and I to feel what God wants us to express, we have to go through many trials and problems. Compassion means entering into the sufferings with a person and their circumstances. How can you feel pain when you are well, or how can you feel downcast if you are uplifted? How can you mourn when you are happy or how can you long-suffer for a short time? How can you understand God and his feeling unless **you go through his emotions** and experiences?

Why do we Suffer

This does not mean you will not suffer for your mistakes; of course not, Jonah suffered for his disobedience but God had chosen a sensitive and impulsive man knowing what he would do under certain circumstances and he fulfilled the will of God. Jonah did go to Nineveh and he did say what God intended him to say, so he fulfilled God's will and because of his own weakness was able to prophesy the death and resurrection of Jesus and his feeling as he descended to hell and much more as I will reveal in the next chapters. It is always God's glory that matters and not ours. Paul, in his letters to the Roman church, lets us know that it is God's plan, whether good or bad in our eyes, and for his glory.

And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calls), it was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he said to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

Romans 9:10-15

There is an incident in the ministry of Jesus that caused the disciples a problem. They asked Jesus if a man was born blind because of his sin or the sins of his parents. Under Moses law, sin (disobeying God's law) brought physical consequences, so they were correct in their thinking.

And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

John 9:3

However, the purposes of God often take a higher president over any other law and this was one of those times. The man was born blind for the sole purpose of Jesus healing him and to show us that God raises up who he wants and puts down who he wants so that he can get the glory.

Jesus answered, Neither has this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

John 9:4

Jonah's Cry

Let us not limit God to our view of him, or the dead doctrines of our denominations. Let God be God, and see his wonderful dealing in the lives of men and women.

Here are all the verses from Jonah's cry. Read them carefully for it sounds like Jonah is thanking God for delivering him as though in the past tense.

And said, I cried by reason of my affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and you heard my voice. For you had cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all your billows and your waves passed over me. Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple. The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet you have brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God. When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, **into thine holy temple.** They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.

Jonah 2:2-9

Jonah seemed to know that he would fulfil God's plan and his prayer was a prophecy just like the

prayer of David when he expressed the feeling of Jesus and the hope of resurrection, 'yet you have brought up my life from corruption' – he was still in the Whales belly at this time. David said:

Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices my flesh also shall rest in hope. For you will not leave my soul in hell; neither will you suffer your Holy One to see corruption.

Psalm 16:9-10

Jonah and David

Here is part of Psalm 18. Notice the similar sentiments that David expresses:

The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: **he heard my voice out of his temple**, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

Psalm 18:4-6

Notice that both scriptures, from David and Jonah say that they would turn toward God's temple. I am sure they are meaning the temple in heaven and not the one that was on earth at that time.

I see a wonderful progression in the prayer of Jonah for restoration and deliverance and I want to

go through it before we continue this fascinating adventure that Jonah had.

1. Jonah Turned

The first point of interest is the turning point in Jonah's attitude. He says in verse 7, 'When my soul fainted'. In other words, when I came to my senses or the end of my self. Just like the prodigal son that I will speak about in a later chapter. The pigsty is a wonderful place because it is the place of realisation, the place of a change of attitude. The way to the pigsty is the painful part and is the wrong direction, so let me encourage you to pray for those who are moving away from God; pray them into the pigsty for they will never change their attitude and will never start the journey home until they arrive at this place. The whale's belly for Jonah was his pig sty and it was a wonderful place of confession and restoration.

2. Jonah Remembered

It is so important to remember where you have fallen from. The prodigal remembered that the servants in his father's house were better off than he was and it affected how he thought and acted – he went back to his father's house.

A man lost his axe head whilst cutting trees and it fell into the water. Elisha told the man to go and find where he lost it, and from there the miracle of

restoration happened. We always have to go back to where we failed and start again with God. He does not restore a person in another position until they face where they went wrong or were in error (story in 2 Kings 6:1-7).

3. Jonah Prayed

The first 2 points were in his spirit (his thinking), but now there is action (he spoke – he prayed). Prayers of acknowledgement and confession are always the beginning of restoration.

When my soul fainted within me **I remembered the LORD: and my prayer** came in unto you, into your holy temple.

Jonah 2:7

4. His Perception Changed

He began to see things differently and began to make renewed vows to God.

They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto you with the voice of thanksgiving; **I will pay that which I have vowed**. Salvation is of the LORD.

Jonah 2:8-9

Jonah was now ready to obey God and do what was required of him. I believe, after that prayer, he

died in the belly of the whale and put himself in the hands of God, just as Jesus did when he said, 'Into your hands I commend my spirit'. He was confident that God had heard him just as Jesus did and when you die in the will of God there is always a resurrection. The last words of his prayer were, 'Salvation is of the Lord'. What a way to die when you believe in a resurrection.

Another Cliff Hanger

As in chapter one, this second chapter ends with a cliff hanger which is really the opening verse of the next episode.

And the LORD spoke unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Jonah 2:10

It seems unbelievable that God would talk to a fish, but he did and it vomited Jonah out alive on to the day ground. This is one of the biggest miracles in the bible and people miss it because we think Jonah is a children's story and make fun of him coming out of the whale all covered in weeds and stinking. I believe he came out as fresh as a daisy just as Jesus did out of the tomb. Jonah is a prophecy of this greatest event in history.

The cross was important, but as Paul says, if there was no resurrection we are still in our sins. It is not enough for the blood to be shed, it has to be

applied, and Jesus had to rise again as a priest after the order of Melchizedek to go into the temple in heaven and apply the blood of the atonement.

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, **but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place**, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Hebrews 9:11-12

It's all Prophecy


I will end with the words that Jesus spoke to some of the disciples after he had risen from the dead. They did not realise that all the prophets prophesied of Jesus by their action, or their words; Jonah did both!

And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And **beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.**

Luke 24:25-27

And the LORD spoke unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

...to be continued



What do you think? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Which of the two did the will of his father?

Matthew 21:28-31

Chapter 9

Jonah's Second Call

It shall come to pass in that day, the Lord shall set his hand again **the second time** to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and the islands of the sea.

Isaiah 11:11

And the voice spoke unto him again the second time, What God has cleansed, do not call it common.

Acts 10:15

The last verse of Chapter 2 says, 'And the word of the Lord spoke to the fish and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry ground'.

The question we need to ask is; 'Where did the fish place him?' He was on a ship heading for Spain when he was swallowed by the fish. How near the coast of Israel we do not know. Did the fish vomit him on the coast of Spain, or did it take him back and drop him at Joppa? The fish certainly did not drop him near to Nineveh because it is not near any coast, and the fish would have to swim through the straits of Gibraltar through to modern Iraq – about 1200 miles. I do not think the boat that Jonah took was too far away from Joppa when the storm broke out because the men tried to row to the land, showing the land was not far away. I think he was delivered back to Israel where he started.

Losing the Axe Head

As I wrote in the previous chapter; when a person disobeys God or makes a mistake they always have to see where they 'lost the axe head' and start again from the place where they made the mistake. You cannot just pick up the pieces further ahead than you have gone. If you fail an exam you just have to take it again until you pass, or you go no further in your journey. I know of so many people whom God has called and when they have failed in some area they believe they can just pick up at a new place or position and do something else without going back

to where they failed. It doesn't happen and it leaves them in the wilderness.

So, Jonah was back in Israel where he heard the first call of God and the burden to declare God's judgement on the wicked city of Nineveh.

It would now be good to look at why Jesus told us that Jonah was a type of himself. Jesus, on two separate occasions, mentions this fact. The first is in Matthew 12. The religious rulers of God's people were asking Jesus for a sign from heaven; he had just called them 'a generation of vipers'.

O generation of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Matthew 12:34

But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seek after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: for **as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.** The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgement with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

Matthew 12:39

Later, in another incident, the Pharisees asked Jesus for a sign from Heaven. He told them that they

should be able to read the signs that were obvious. I have already shared in a previous chapter that short term weather predictions can be quite accurate and because Jesus was among them they had no excuse not to recognise him from all the scriptures. But as Jesus said, a wicked generation looks for a sign when the facts are staring them in the face. I feel the Church of Christ are just as blind to what is happening at the moment, as Israel were when Jesus was standing in their midst and they did not recognise him as their Messiah. We are on the brink of World War 3 and not far short of being under the complete control of a One World System and Christians are still talking about taking the world for Jesus, wondering how wealthy God can make them, or how much they can enjoy life in this rotten world that Satan is the god of. They will miss his second coming just as sure as Israel missed his first coming, because they cannot discern the times we live in.

The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, you say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O you hypocrites, you can discern the face of the sky; but can you not discern the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and **there shall no sign be given unto it, but the**

sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

Matthew 16:1-4

The Sign of Jonah

What was Jesus saying and what was the sign of Jonah?

Most Christians think it was prophesying that Jesus would be 3 days and 3 nights in the tomb before he rose again, but that flies in the face of all the scriptures that say Jesus rose early on the 3rd day, not after the 3rd day and night! All the scriptures, that talk about Jesus death and resurrection, without exception, say he rose on the 3rd day. Jesus told the disciple that he would rise on the 3rd day, not after 3 days and 3 nights.

This scripture about Jonah is the only one in the whole bible that mentions 3 days and 3 nights so we need to look at another explanation why Jesus said this was a sign to Israel. The clue to me is what Jesus said before his comment about Israel not reading the signs. They missed his first coming!

This is the reason Jonah was chosen as an example – because, when he was told to go to Niniveh the first time, the people of Nineveh had no idea that they were under God's judgement, because they never saw him. He was 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of the whale – he died and was buried, just as Jesus was and so Israel missed their Messiah. They

did not know that he rose again and would appear the second time.

So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look **for him shall he appear the second time** without sin unto salvation.

Hebrews 9:28

All Israel knew that the second time Jonah was called he went to Nineveh and they saw him, believed God, repented, and were delivered. Jesus was giving them a sign that although they did not recognise him as their Messiah, when he returns the second time to Israel they will surely see him and realise they esteemed him smitten of God the first time.

They Should Have Seen the Signs

Isaiah had already told them he would be crucified as their atonement goat and by his stripes they would be restored. They have Isaiah 53 showing them how they would respond to his first coming (esteem his smitten of God) and their attitude when he comes the second time, and they cannot see it to this day. The Church have taken this chapter and applied it to his first coming and are just as blind.

I believe the 3 days and 3 night are prophetically the period between his first and second coming, and not how long Jesus was in the grave. I have put all the scriptures that speak of the time Jesus was in the

grave at the end of the chapter for you to look at for yourself enabling you to make your own conclusion regarding this.

The Second Time

'And the Word of the Lord came the second time to Jonah'. We do not know how long it was after he was returned to Israel by the whale; it could have been straight away or it could have been months, even years, but all we need to know is that he was again called to deliver his burden to Nineveh. The first time he was commissioned he was told to **cry against the city**. The second time he was told to go and **preach to it**.

Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

Jonah 3:2

Why the difference in words? I believe it was to show the change, not in the message, but in the man. He was to say the same words to the people of Nineveh, but now he was a changed man. Trials change a man; pain and rejection, trials of life, and failures, all mould a man in the image of God if only that man will allow it. I believe **Jonah was now a different man with the same message**. This is worthy of note for you can preach a good message with the wrong motive and heart. You can excommunicate a man with tears in your eyes and

heart, but you can also excommunicate a man with anger in your heart, and a steely and granite look in your eyes. Compassion comes with suffering, and an intercessor has, of necessity, to have suffered in some way to be able to identify with the person or situation he is interceding for. How can you plead for mercy with a hard heart, or judgemental spirit. It is obvious that you cannot. Let us learn from Jonah and others who have been through 'the mill' and preach or teach with understanding and not with a self righteousness and judgemental spirit.

So Jonah went to Nineveh and told the people what God had to say to them. It was a very big city for Jonah went a day's journey into the city before he preached. It is recorded later in chapter 4 that there were 120,000 children in the city so the population was massive for a city in that age. It is estimated at between 600,000 and 1,000,000 lived in that ancient city and, according to ancient historians, was the largest city in the world at that time. It was the large, important capital of a dominating empire. It took 3 day's journey from one side to the other.

So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

Jonah 3:3:4

40 Days – Then Destruction!

Jonah spoke the words that God has told him to say, but because of his failure and restoration he was a different man and his preaching carried a conviction that would have amazing results in Nineveh.

Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

Jonah 3:4

Why did God give them 40 days to repent? 40 days is the time of testing, and proving, and judgement of God. Here are 3 scriptures that mention 40 days to substantiate my conclusion, but there are many other times 40 days are mentioned in the bible.

1. God's judgement on the whole earth in the days of Noah.

And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

Genesis 7:12

2. Moses' intercession when God has declared judgement on Israel because of the golden calf they had made.

Thus I fell down before the LORD forty days and forty nights, as I fell down at the first;

because the LORD had said he would destroy you.

Deuteronomy 9:25

3. Jesus in the wilderness being tempted of the devil.

Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.

Luke 4:2

Unprecedented

What happened next is extraordinary, because it says '**the people believed God**'. It is as though they did not hear Jonah's voice but the voice of God directly. They believed, acted upon it, and averted the judgement of God that had been pronounced by Jonah – destruction of their entire city. The results of Jonah's proclamation of judgement brought revival to that city.

The call to repent came from the top. The king of Nineveh commanded that the people call a fast.

For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout

Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water.

Jonah 3:6-7

God always appealed to the leaders when Israel were backslidden, for they are the ones that lead God's people astray. It is the same today. Christians are sheep and it is the shepherds that will have to bear the greater punishment for leading the church into a watered down, self pleasing, counterfeit of what Jesus and the Apostles preached so clearly.

Gird yourselves, and lament, you priests: howl, you ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, you ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withheld from the house of your God. Sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD,

Joel 1:13-14

Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare your people, O LORD, and give not your heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore

should they say among the people, Where is their God?

Joel 2:17

Nineveh was a Gentile city, but 'God is no respecter of persons' when it comes to judgement and mercy. People use the phrase to try and say that God loves everybody the same, which is rather silly, for love has to show preference and favour to demonstrate its reality. To treat everyone the same is to love no one. God certainly discriminates if you read your bible without your doctrinal glasses on, and he shows favour to whom he wants and it is certainly not everyone. The phrase 'no respecter of persons, if you look at the scriptures that use this phrase, is to do with judgement or mercy.

God Will Respond

If a Gentile who was outside the covenant of God meets the requirements that God laid down for his own people he will respond (as he did with Cornelius or the Syrophenician woman in the New Testament, just as he did under the Old Covenant with Nineveh). This is the main reason I have looked at the story of Jonah in this book of intercession and especially as part 1 looks at the conditions for revival as laid down in 2 Chronicles 7:14. I find it amazing that this heathen, wicked city of Nineveh, met all the 4 conditions for God to hear them, forgive their sins and to heal, or restore,

the land of Israel. Let me show how they met these conditions.

1. They Humbled Themselves With Fasting.

David proclaimed that fasting is a way of humbling oneself.

But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into my own bosom.

Psalms 35:13

The whole city of Nineveh, by an edict of the king, not only fasted and put sackcloth on themselves, but the edict commanded that all the cattle should also fast and put sackcloth on. This was not a water fast, as the people were commanded not to even drink water. You can only last a few days in this condition, so it is the ultimate fast and I can only think of one other incidence of this happening – Queen Esther – again it was for the deliverance of the nation of Israel and so I believe this fast that Nineveh did was showing that the city was a type of Israel.

I don't think this had ever happened before or since in the bible – even of God's people – amazing! Surely, God is showing us something with this detail?

For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth...

Jonah 3:6-8

2. They Prayed

They prayed to a God they did not know before Jonah came – the God of Israel – Jehovah.

3. They sought God's face

Surely this phrase '...and cry mightily unto God', is more than just prayer. They believed that they would be destroyed in 40 days and sought God's face.

4 They turned from their Wicked Ways.

...yes, let them turn every one from his evil way,
and from the violence that is in their hands.

From Jonah 3:8

Not knowing the words God spoke to King Solomon about the conditions for God to heal and restore Israel, the city of Nineveh said the

same phrases and met the same conditions for the restoration of God's people. Surely, it is becoming clear that Jonah is a type of Jesus who will come a second time to earth and restore Israel back to God when they confess their sins. At present God's people Israel are backslidden, and the state of Israel is a secular nation with an occult symbol on its flag (it should be the menorah and not the miss-named 'Star of David' which is actually the star of Raphaim that Stephen talks about in his judgement of Israel recorded in Acts 7). It is also the star of Zionism which is actually anti Israel if only people could understand and not believe the propaganda of the media.

**Yes, you took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and
the star of your god Remphan,**

Acts 7:43

When Jesus appears to Israel, in the not so distant future, they will repent and turn from their wicked ways and meet the conditions that God laid down to Solomon. God will reverse his judgement on them as soon as they acknowledge him as their high priest who has atoned for their sins with his own blood. I believe Jesus will reveal himself to Israel on the day of Atonement ^{Footnote 1}. This is the day when a whole nation are forgiven; the nation will be saved in a day as the scripture below indicates. Isaiah asks the question, 'Can a nation be born at once?' I believe it can – on the day of Atonement.

Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

Isaiah 66:8

For I don't want you to be ignorant brethren, of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Romans 11:25-27

They Seemed to Know God

The King of Nineveh seemed to know God and his character. How was this? I do not know, but maybe as they were from the seed of Seth, the good seed, they were actually backslidden rather than heathen. Remember, when Jesus comes back to earth his people Israel, will be backslidden and seen as heathen in God's eyes and in the eyes of the world. Most of Israel have been dispersed into the rest of humanity and have lost their identity; as God said they would when he scattered them amongst their enemies. God said he would have to speak to

them with another tongue; in other words not their own language – for they will not know it. They will believe that they are not of Israel, but Jesus will plead with them in that day and they will repent and be restored. Nineveh is a type of backslidden Israel, who when Jonah/Jesus comes to it the second time, will believe God, repent as a nation, and be restored (or healed), in a day.

**For with stammering lips and another tongue
will he speak to this people.**

Isaiah 28:11

Take note of what the king said to his people as they met the conditions for God to restore Israel. They knew they deserved judgement and destruction, but they understood that God is a God that can be entreated to change his mind, and repent. Most Christians do not know or believe that God can do this, but here is the scripture and there are more instances in the bible where people asked God to repent, and change his mind, when it was set on another course; Moses being one of them.

**Who can tell if God will turn and repent,
and turn away from his fierce anger, that we
perish not?**

Jonah 3:9

We end this part on another cliff hanger? What will God's response be to this request to repent and

change his mind?

...to be continued

Scriptures that mention the death and resurrection of Jesus.

We know it was very early on the 3rd day that he rose from the dead.

Matthew 16:21 and be raised again the third day.

Matthew 17:23 the third day he shall be raised again.

Matthew 20:19 the third day he shall rise again.

Mark 9:31 he shall rise the third day.

Mark 10:34 and the third day he shall rise again.

Luke 9:22 and be raised the third day.

Luke 13:32 and the third day I shall be perfected.

Luke 18:33 the third day he shall rise again.

Luke 24:7 and the third day rise again.

Luke 24:46 to rise from the dead the third day:

Acts 10:40 Him God raised up the third day,

1 Corinthians 15:4 he was buried, and rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Footnote 1

Passover


Jesus died on the first feast of the year

Pentecost

The Holy Ghost was poured out at the second feast –

Tabernacles

Surely it is not unreasonable to expect a major event to happen at the last great feast, where the trumpets are blown (Jesus will descend to earth at the last trump) and the day of Atonement is celebrated. See my books on 'Israel, the Church and the Kingdom of God' - Volume 5. (ISBN 978-904592-55-6) for more information about the feasts and their prophetic voice to us today).



I have spoken of Jonah, and of the story of him and the whale. – A fit story for ridicule, if it was written to be believed; or of laughter, if it was intended to try what credulity could swallow; for, if it could swallow Jonah and the whale it could swallow anything.

Thomas Paine, The Age of Reason

Chapter 10

Jonah's Complaint

But Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

1 Kings 19:4

In the last verse of chapter 3, which is a paragraph like the other chapters, it begins the next episode in the life of Jonah. This was God's response to Nineveh meeting the 4 conditions that

he promised Solomon he would respond favourably to – but this was a heathen city! Well, God's answer was quick and decisive. God Changed his mind and repented of what he was going to do to Nineveh.

And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

Jonah 3:10

Job done – why another chapter and episode? What could be added to the story? In type, Jesus had appeared the second time to Israel, they have repented and been restored. What more is there?

Well, there is another chapter in this saga and a very important one; for if we accept that the first 3 chapters are about Israel and their acceptance of Jesus at his second coming then there must be more that is prophesied that happens after this. The chapter starts with these strange words

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

Jonah 4:1

Why on earth was Jonah angry and what is he prophesying? We do not have to speculate on his reasons for being angry for the chapter tells us. He was angry because God did not keep his word to destroy Nineveh.

If a prophet foretold of events that did not come to pass they were obviously a false prophet, and worthy of stoning. Jonah must have been disappointed because he knew the character of God and that was the reason he ran away in the first place. He did not understand why God did not allow for repentance in his instructions of what he was to preach – other prophets did! He prayed to God in his anger and gives us the reason for his desertion from God's will. Jonah was a God fearing man and had a very good relationship with God if you look at the story closely. His communication with God was far above the average Christian, who is always waiting for a word from the Lord – through someone else.

Jonah Knew God

Not many Christians know how to really talk to God personally, and fewer still does God talk personally and plainly to. If this is not true then why are so many seeking God's will? When we are too critical of these men whom God chose and had a special relationship with we miss so much of what is really happening and what God is trying to say through their lives – 'mistakes an' all'

And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray,
**O LORD, was not this my saying, when
 I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled
 before unto Tarshish: for I know you are a
 gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger,**

and of great kindness, and you repent of the evil.

Jonah 4:2

Jonah knew God, and his character, and this was the reason why he did not want to prophecy without giving Nineveh a chance to repent. To declare destruction was too much for Jonah ...so he fled. He felt it was the end of his ministry just like Elijah did after the prophets of Baal had been destroyed. Elijah had indeed reached the pinnacle of his ministry, but there were just a few ends to tie up before he went to his reward in the whirlwind.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

1 Kings 19:4

Elijah had to do some important work before he died.

And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when you come, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of

Shaphat of Abelmeholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.

1 kings:15-16

However, just like Elijah, Jonah had not finished his prophecy of the future and there needed to be more to the story so that we could have revelation. God asked Jonah if he had a right to be angry, but Jonah was not ready to answer and he went and sulked outside the city to see what was to become of it. He knew God had spared it, but maybe God would change his mind again and feel sorry for Jonah having 'egg on his face' I believe he was hoping God would keep to his original word, vindicate him, and save his face.

So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, until he might see what would become of the city.

Jonah 4:5

Emotional Blackmail

Sulking, is really emotional blackmail and we should never exercise it – but of course we often do because of our weakness. Unfortunately for Jonah, God had a bigger plan; one that he was not aware of – but God did feel sorry for Jonah and made a gourd (possibly a castor oil plant) to grow quickly, cover him, and comfort him in his grief. Interestingly, it

says God prepared a gourd, just like he prepared the whale to swallow Jonah. Nothing is left to chance by God and he has all the 'props' and people prepared to play out his prophecies.

And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd.

Jonah 4:6

How long did he wait? It is not recorded, but he could have waited the whole 40 days before God spoke to him.

Another Side of His Character

I think this is where the other side of Jonah's personality came across, because the name Jonah can also mean 'vex' or 'do wrong' ^{Footnote 1}. I do not know if Jonah vexed God, but he was certainly vexed in himself. After the gourd had been a blessing to Jonah, God did a strange thing; he send a worm to destroy it and expose Jonah to the heat of the sun. The poor man was getting expose again, but it was all part of the prophecy that needed to be lived out. Remember we are looking at events that will proceed after the restoration of Israel sometime in the future.

God then sent a gale from the east to blow on Jonah and he requested to die again.

And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live.

Jonah 4:8

God Asked Jonah Again

God again spoke to Jonah and asked him the second time if he had a right to be angry, but this time about the comfort he found from the gourd and the disappointment when it was taken away from him. (Interestingly, Elijah was woken by an angel two times before he went to hear the still small voice of God and his instruction for the future, before his departure from this life). Jonah answered God this second time and said he did have a right to be angry about the gourd, and how it was taken away, and angry enough to justify to be allowed to die. Here are the words of an angry man!

And God said to Jonah, Is it right that you are angry for the gourd? And he said, **I am justified in being angry, even unto death.**

Jonah 4:9

Jonah was now trapped, and where God wanted him. With this statement, God exposed Jonah's anger as self-righteousness and envy. He told him that he had compassion on the gourd, yet he had not

planted nor watered it, neither had he given life to the seed. It came up overnight and died overnight, and yet Jonah had compassion on a plant.

Then said the LORD, you had pity on the gourd, for the which you have not laboured, neither have you made it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night.

Jonah 4:10

We now come to the last verse of the chapter and of the whole book of Jonah to finish what God said to this prophet.

At the end of this 4th chapter there is no paragraph or cliff hanger ...or is there?

...to be continued

Footnote 1

Etymology of the name Jonah

There's something deeply peculiar about the name Jonah. Pretty much all sources derive it of the root, and render the name Dove. Jones' Dictionary of Old Testament Proper Names, however, makes a striking observation (or perhaps even an error). Jones suggests that the Hebrew word for dove comes from the verb (yana), meaning to oppress, vex, do wrong:

Note the striking similarity between the word (yana) and the name (Jonah). The difference is only the letter waw, which, when used as a vowel, doesn't change the meaning all that much. By some twist of fate, a dove was known by a word that also means to vex. In practical life the dove wouldn't be known as a vexer, but in the story of Jonah, when it's by no means certain what the name Jonah means, any Hebrew audience would have understood the name Jonah as a pun.



I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before you.

Luke 15:18

Chapter 11

Israel

and

The Church

Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Your brother is come; and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and entreated him.

Luke 15:26-28

The last verse in the book of Jonah is different than every other book of the bible, because it is the only book that ends with a question. There is no answer recorded and so the reader has to come to their own conclusion. We do not know the reaction of Jonah to God's question, and I believe it is because God doesn't want us to miss the important point; which is the question itself. I personally believe Jonah accepted God's question and agreed with God, because it would be difficult for Jonah to challenge God's logic. If Jonah felt sorry for a castor oil plant that only lived for one day, surely he cannot be angry that God felt sorry for a city that had 200,000 innocent children; but you come to your own conclusion. Here is God's question to Jonah;

And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?

Jonah 4:11

Why is There a Chapter 4?

Why is the last chapter of Jonah included in the book; for as I have already shown, 'in type', Israel have been restored at the second coming of Jesus, and the kingdoms of this world will have become the kingdoms of Christ? I believe this last chapter

was added to show the reaction of the Church to this restoration.

God's people, Jews and Gentiles, were one body of believers until the Catholic Church took over from Imperial Rome. From that point the 'Church', has generally been anti-Semitic throughout history right up to this present date.

When the counterfeit Jews, the Zionists, started the State of Israel in 1948, many Christians believed this was the restoration of Israel and began to support Israel, realising God has not finished with his people. Unfortunately they did not realise that the Zionist state of Israel is secular and Zionists are actually anti-Semitic. The acknowledged father of Zionism, Theodor Herzl, will confirm this if you research his letters. Footnote 1. (I have also put a statement from 'Jews against Zionism' in the appendix at the end of this chapter.) The evidence is overwhelming if anyone wants to get behind the media propaganda and lies about the modern State of Israel.

Paganised Christianity

The Roman Catholic church, from the days of Constantine, paganised what God had started with the early Church and stole the kingdom back into Babylon (Israel were already in spiritual Babylon, from the days of Nebuchadnezzar when God gave him the kingdom the power and the glory, when Jesus was on earth).

You, O king, are a king of kings: for the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven he has given into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all. You are this head of gold.

Daniel 2:37-38

A New Start for God's People

The early Church broke free from religious Babylon, and the Babylonian Talmud, and started a fresh revelation of God and his son Jesus.

This is not the book to go through the history of the Church in Babylon ^{Footnote 2}, but Martin Luther or Calvin would be good examples, because although they stood against the mighty Church of Rome and for biblical salvation (by grace and not works) yet both were radical anti-Semites. (I have put quotes to confirm this in my other books so will not repeat them here.) ^{Footnote 3} All the present day Christians who believe the 'Church' is the kingdom of God have been deceived into believing this Catholic doctrine. The 'Kingdom Now' doctrine; that God has replaced Israel with the Church, is basically Catholic theology and the opposite of what the bible says.

Paul makes it very clear that God has not replaced Israel. In fact, the Gentile Christians, the wild olive tree, are grafted on to Israel – the true and original olive tree.

For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? Brothers, I don't want you to be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.

Romans 11:24-26

What a shock the Church will have when God has mercy on Israel as they meet the demands of restoration in the near future when Jesus/Jonah appears to them. Their repentance will precede their deliverance from the judgement of God, for make no mistake, Israel is under the most severe judgement and wrath of God at this time in history.

The church, who have replaced Israel, will sulk and be angry when they see Israel restored and celebrating round the fatted calf, when they have acknowledged Jesus as saviour for 2,000 years.

Another Parable

There is a parable in the New Testament that shows this really plainly if you see it with different eyes. The prodigal son is an allegory of Israel and

the Church. The elder son is the Church, because those who accept Jesus, and salvation by faith, are Children of Abraham and not Moses. Abraham was not a part of Israel, he is a part of the bride. Abraham was before God made a marriage covenant with the children of Israel. He is the father of faith and he looked past the birth of Israel, past the cross and resurrection of Jesus and the Church on earth. He was looking, through the eyes of faith, to the bride of Christ – the city whose builder and maker was God.

For Abraham looked for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Hebrews 11:10

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:2

Paul says he chose us – the bride of Christ – before he created the universe.

According as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Ephesians 1:4

Adam and Eve, right at the dawn of the history of our planet, prophesies of Christ and his Church,

and not God and Israel. God always had in his mind the true church – a virgin bride for his son.

God's People are easily Deceived

Messianic Christians are being deceived into looking at their Jewish roots, but they don't have any to look at! They are Gentiles and if they accept Christ their roots are now in Abraham – not Moses and the Torah. The law only came as a temporary measure because of unbelief (the opposite of the faith of Abraham) until Jesus came to restore us to a personal relationship with God without law – just like Abraham.

So, Abraham, the man who started the church (he was the first to come out of Babylon to serve a personal God) was first, and the church who accept Jesus as God's son and their saviour is the older brother. The Church, even if in Babylon and backslidden, is the older brother in this parable.

The Prodigal Son

The younger brother is a type of Israel in the parable and not a backslidden Christian as many teach. (All the parables are to Israel; Jesus came to his own and everything he said was to Israel. Only when he was rejected was the way open for the Gentiles. It was Israel who took their inheritance and squandered it just like the younger son in the parable. When Israel are in the pigsty, and it is fast approaching the day

when they are ready to repent and acknowledge their sins and return, just like Nineveh, they will be restored with feasting, a ring on their finger and new righteous garments. It will provoke the 'self righteous Church', who have despised Israel for squandering their inheritance and killing Jesus. The Catholic Church and all those who have her doctrines have 'wanted the vineyard for themselves'.

But those husbandmen said among themselves,
This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the
inheritance shall be ours.

Mark 12:7

Will We Sulk?

The whole parable of the prodigal son is in Mark 12:1-9. The Church will be angry and sulk just like Jonah did when Nineveh repented and were restored from judgement. Notice the elder brother was angry – just like Jonah.

Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Your brother is come; and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.
And he was angry, and would not go in.

Luke 15:26-27

The father went out of the feast and entreated the older brother to rejoice with him, saying that his son was lost and was now found and it was right to rejoice – just as God had said to Jonah when Nineveh were 'saved in a day'.

... therefore came his father out, and entreated him.

Luke 15:28

He was angry, exactly the same as Jonah was angry, and for the same reason; that God had mercy on those who deserved judgement. Be very careful, readers of this book, when someone repents and is accepted again by God, and blessed, when you have been faithful and not disobedient.

There is another parable in the same passage and is one of a trilogy along with the lost coin. Here is the conclusion to the lost sheep parable. Read it with understanding in the light of all I have said about the older, self righteous, brother.

And if he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoices more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.

Matthew 18:13

This is what the indignant, self righteous, brother said to his father about his younger brother. Notice he did not call him his brother, but 'your son'. He would not even acknowledge that he was a brother,

just as many Christians do not want to acknowledge Israel as their younger, albeit, prodigal brother.

He answering said to his father, Lo, these many years I have served you, I did not transgress any time your commandment: and yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: but as soon as this **your son** was come, which has devoured your living with harlots, you have killed for him the fatted calf.

And he said unto him, Son, you are ever with me, and all that I have is yours. It was fitting and right that we should make merry, and be glad: for this **your brother** was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

Luke 15 29:32

It is not by chance that the parable ends with the question unanswered by the elder brother – just like the story of Jonah. We do not know whether the elder brother responded favourably to his father's plea or not.

We Should Provoke Israel!

Paul says that the Gentiles who accept Christ are supposed to provoke Israel to jealousy, but I am afraid that the majority of Christians will be provoked to envy themselves when Israel come back to their maker and husband. It is a warning to us in the present day, for we live in a time when we

could see the true returning of Israel. When Jesus returns in judgement and they repent they will be accepted once again and the celebration will begin.

Intercession is More Than Prayer

This volume has been all about meeting the four condition to avert God's judgement and prayer is only one of them. We need to understand that intercession is not just prayer, but practical outworking is necessary for the other three - humbling ourselves, seeking God's face, and turning from our wicked ways are all things we have to do and not just say. I included the story of Jonah to show that intercession is often some burden we carry until the intercession is finished. If we become a person God knows personally, he will use our character – the strong and the weak points – and bring circumstances into our live – good and bad – to fulfil his plan and to prophesy what he is wanting to do in the near or distant future. It is an exciting life for those whom God calls to intercession.

In the next volume of this series I will look at the subject of spiritual warfare; for whenever a Christian mentions intercession this subject invariably comes into the conversation. I believe there is much nonsense talked about, and much ignorance in the minds of Chritians, regarding this subject and I will expose most of it as being erroneous when we

examine the scriptures. I will also look at the spirit of Elijah – to make the paths straight for the second coming of Jesus – for this is all part of Intercession (turning the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers).

Footnote 1

It would be an excellent idea to call in respectable, accredited anti-Semites as liquidators of property. To the people they would vouch for the fact that we do not wish to bring about the impoverishment of the countries that we leave. At first they must not be given large fees for this; otherwise we shall spoil our instruments and make them despicable as 'stooges of the Jews.' Later their fees will increase, and in the end we shall have only Gentile officials in the countries from which we have emigrated. The anti-Semites will become our most dependable friends, the anti-Semitic countries our allies.

(The Complete Diaries of Theodor Herzl. Vol. 1, edited by Raphael Patai, translated by Harry Zohn, page 83-84)

Herzl regarded Zionism's triumph as inevitable, not only because life in Europe was ever more untenable for Jews, but also because it was in Europe's interests to rid the Jews and be relieved of anti-Semitism: The European political establishment would eventually be persuaded to promote Zionism. Herzl recognized that anti-Semitism would be harnessed to his own--Zionist--purposes.

(Righteous Victims, p. 21)

Footnote 2

I have written a series of 5 volumes on the subject of Babylon entitled '6,000 Years of Babylon' and they are available from www.barrattministries.org.uk There are also 40 teachings which coincide that are available to watch on 'Vimeo' www.vimeo.com/ondemand/51010

Footnote 3

Quotes from Luther and Clavin are in the 'Israel, The Church and the Kingdm of God' series, Volume 3, Footnotes to Chapter 10
ISBN 978-1-904592-52-5

Appendix

WHY ORTHODOX JEWS ARE OPPOSED TO A ZIONIST STATE

First some introductions:

1. What is "The People of Israel" ?

The People of Israel have existed for thousands of years. They have their own particular, essential nature. The Torah is the source of their essential nature. Without Torah and Faith there is no People of Israel. Whoever denies the Torah and the Faith is no longer part of the People of Israel. The purpose of the People of Israel in this world is Divine Service. Their salvation is occupation in Divine Service.

2. What is Zionism?

Zionism is a relatively new thing.

It has only existed for a century.

Zionism redefines the true essential nature of the People of Israel, and substitutes for it a completely contradictory and opposite character - a materialistic worldly nation.

Their misfortune is lack of what other nations possess, i.e. a state and army.

Their salvation is possession of a state and army etc.

This is clearly spelled out in the circles of Zionist thought, and among the leaders of the Zionist State, that through changing the nature and character of the People of Israel and by changing their way of thinking they can set before the People of Israel "their salvation" -- a state and an army.

The People of Israel oppose the so-called "State of Israel" for four reasons:

FIRST -- The so-called "State of Israel" is diametrically opposed and completely contradictory to the true essence and foundation of the People of Israel, as is explained above. The only time that the People of Israel were permitted to have a state was two thousand years ago when the glory of the creator was upon us, and likewise in the future when the glory of the creator will once more be revealed, and the whole world will serve Him, then He Himself (without any human effort or force of arms) will grant us a kingdom founded on Divine Service. However, a worldly state, like those possessed by other peoples, is contradictory to the true essence of the People of Israel. Whoever calls this the salvation of Israel shows that he denies the essence of the People of Israel, and substitutes another

nature, a worldly materialistic nature, and therefore sets before them, a worldly materialistic "salvation," and the means of achieving this "salvation" is also worldly and materialistic i.e. to organize a land and army. However, the true salvation of the People of Israel is to draw close to the Creator. This is not done by organization and force of arms. Rather it is done by occupation to Torah and good deeds.

SECOND -- Because of all of this and other reasons the Torah forbids us to end the exile and establish a state and army until the Holy One, blessed He, in His Glory and Essence will redeem us. This is forbidden even if the state is conducted according to the law of the Torah because arising from the exile itself is forbidden, and we are required to remain under the rule of the nations of the world, as is explained in the book VAYOEL MOSHE. If we transgress this injunction, He will bring upon us (may we be spared) terrible punishment.

THIRD -- Aside from arising from exile, all the deeds of the Zionists are diametrically opposed to the Faith and the Torah. Because the foundation of the Faith and Torah of Israel is that the Torah was revealed from heaven, and there is reward for those who obey it and punishment for those who transgress it. The entire People of Israel is required to obey the Torah, and whoever doesn't want to, ceases to be part of the congregation of Israel.

FOURTH -- Aside from the fact that they themselves do not obey the Torah they do everything they can to prevent anyone they get under their power from fulfilling the commands of the Torah, the claims to freedom of religion are lies. They fight with all of their strength to

destroy the Faith of Israel.

The Zionists claim that they are the saviours of Israel, but this is refuted by twelve things:

FIRST -- If one contemplates the two thousand years of our exile, take any hundred years even the hardest, one will not find as much suffering, bloodshed, and catastrophes for the People of Israel in the period of the Zionists, and it is known that most of the suffering of this century was caused by the Zionists, as our Rabbis warned us would be the case.

SECOND -- It is openly stated in books written by the founders of Zionism that the means by which they planned to establish a state was by instigating anti-Semitism, and undermining the security of the Jews in all the lands of the world, until they would be forced to flee to their state. And thus they did. They intentionally infuriated the German people and fanned the flames of Nazi hatred, and they helped the Nazis, with trickery and deceit, to take whole Jewish communities off to the concentration camps, and the Zionists themselves admit this. (See the books *Perfidy*, *Min Hameitzor*, etc.) The Zionists continue to practice this strategy today. They incite anti-Semitism and then they present themselves as the "saviours". Here are two replies given by Leaders of the Zionists during World War II, when they were asked for money to help ransom Jews from the Nazis. Greenbaum said, "One cow in Palestine is worth more than all the Jews in Poland." (G-d forbid). Weitzman said, "The most important part of the Jewish people is already in the land (of Israel) and those who are left, are unimportant" (May we be spared).

THIRD -- We see that most of world Jewry lives in security and under good physical conditions, and have no desire to go live in the Zionist State. Whereas many people have left the Zionist State to live under better conditions in other lands.

FOURTH -- The Zionists make a great deal of propaganda to induce people to immigrate to their state. If their state is so beneficial why do they have to make so much propaganda.

FIFTH -- Because nobody wants the Zionists to "save" them. The only way they can get immigrants is by promising poor people material benefits, and even then very few people respond.

SIXTH -- The Zionist State is always threatened by the dangers of war. Whereas the rest of world Jewry live in peace and security, (except in a few places where the Zionists have undermined their security and fanned the flames of hatred).

SEVENTH -- The Zionist State could not continue to exist without economic support from Jews living outside of the Zionist State.

EIGHTH -- The Zionist State is on the verge of economic collapse, and their money is nearly worthless.

NINTH -- The Zionist State persecute all Jews who are loyal to their Faith.

TENTH -- They start wars that endanger the Jewish People, for the sake of their own political interests.

ELEVENTH -- According to the Torah the path of safety is following ways of peace not starting fights with other nations, as the Zionists do.

TWELFTH -- Even if the Zionists could and would provide physical security it would be at the expense of our Faith and Our Torah. The true People of Israel prefer death rather than life at such a cost.

It is therefore clear that Zionism is not the saviour of the people of Israel. Rather it is their greatest misfortune.

Even though there are some observant Jews and rabbis, who approve of the Zionists, this is not the opinion of the Torah.

The Zionists have enough control over the American news media to make sure that only their side of the story is heard.

They make it look like all Jewry and their rabbis are Zionists, but this is false propaganda.

The most important Rabbis and the majority of religious Jewry are opposed to Zionism, but their voice is not heard because of Zionist control of American news media.

The Zionists terrorize everyone who speaks out against them.

That part of the Jewish masses which is fooled by Zionist propaganda puts pressure on their Rabbis not to speak out.

Between the terror and the pressure of the masses most of the Rabbis are prevented from speaking out.

We bring three testimonies of the true opinion of the Torah.

1. In the past two thousand years of the dangers and sufferings of exile not once did any of the Sages of Israel suggest that we make a state to

protect ourselves. In every generation we had thousands of Sages well versed in the Torah.

2. We have thousands of legal work of Torah law that have been handed down to us by the Sages of all generations. Not once do we see a word suggesting the establishment of a state. What we do find is warnings against it.

3. The founders of Zionism were all atheists who denied the Torah. All the Torah Sages of that time opposed them and opposed Zionism, saying that Zionism would lead only to destruction.

However the true People of Israel will never change their nature or give up their Faith because of the strength the Creator gives them.

Zionism is a foreign growth in the body of the Jewish People. The end will be that it will rid itself of this foreign growth and remain pure.

Zionism has overcome the Jewish people by force, fraud and terror, but none of this will help them because the truth will always remain with the help of the Creator.

Zionism will not replace the Jewish People. The Jewish People will remain strong in their faith and the Zionist State will cease to exist.

It is therefore, our demand that the State that calls itself ISRAEL, should cease to exist. Since this won't be done, we demand that they cease to call themselves "Israel", because their entire being is in complete opposition to the true People of Israel. The true People of Israel deny them permission to call themselves by that name. The Zionist leaders have no right to set themselves up as the representatives and spokesmen of the true People of ISRAEL.

Since we know they will not fulfil this demand either we feel that at least we cry out the truth. The truth will always

remain the truth. By no means or force can the truth be changed. Even if all the world would say that one and one is three, the truth will remain that one and one is two. Let the truth be declared. The use of the Name "ISRAEL" by that State is a complete falsification. The People of Israel have nothing to do with that State. Zionism and its State have no share and no part in the true ISRAEL.



He said unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, Do you love me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Do you love me? And he said unto him, Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Feed my sheep.

John 21:17

Postscript

Jonah

and

Peter

And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, You are Simon the son of Jonah: you shall be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, 'a stone'.

John 1:42

As a postscript I thought it would be good to compare the life of Jonah with that of Peter as they have so much in common.

I cannot produce any evidence from scripture, but I suspect that when Jesus called Peter 'Son of Jonah' he was giving a nickname for him because his character was so similar to that of Jonah. Maybe his father was called Jonah, but that would be significant anyway as I will show how similar they were.

Jesus did give nicknames to some of the disciples to describe their characters. The sons of Zebedee, James, and John, are a good example. Jesus called them 'Boanerges' which means sons of thunder. Of course, we know their father was called Zebedee and not Thunder,

And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The Sons of Thunder.

Mark 3:17

It was obviously a description of their character. They were both fiery in temperament and at one stage of Jesus' ministry they wanted to call fire from heaven to destroy some who were doing miracles, but not following Jesus and he had to tell them off for having the wrong spirit.

And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from

heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

Luke 9:54

Jesus also changed Peter's surname from Simon son of Jonah, to Simon Peter.

And Simon he surnamed Peter

Mark 3:16

And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, You are Simon the son of Jonah you shall be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

John 1:42

This was because Peter would change from the character he was born with; impulsive and sensitive, to become a solid and dependable 'rock' and pillar of the church in Jerusalem.

And I say also unto you, You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Matthew 16:18

I believe that Jesus was not talking about the revelation that Peter had of Jesus, but that he would build his Church with Peter as the head. Christians, because the Catholic Church say that Peter was the first Pope which is pure fabrication, are afraid to look at the scripture at face value.

Let me now show similarities between Peter and Jonah.

1. They were both sensitive and impulsive

Jonah impulsively ran away from the call and impulsively sulked when things did not go the way he wanted.

Peter jumped out of the boat to walk on water while the other disciples just watched, he impulsively rebuked Jesus when he was told of the suffering that he would have to go through, he impulsively denied Jesus when a little maid recognised him as a follower and there are many more instances recorded in the gospels and in Acts – he was the first to jump up and preach after the Holy Ghost fell on them.

2. Both could be used against the will of God

Jonah sulked to try and change God's mind and plan.

Peter had to be rebuked by Jesus when he tried to stop the cross,

3. Jonah & Peter both failed when the pressure, and test came

Jonah ran away to escape doing God's will and preaching in Niniveh.

Peter denied Jesus rather than suffer with him

4. Both Jonah and Peter wept and repented

When they were both exposed and realised they had failed in their calling they repented.

Jonah cried from the belly of the whale.

Peter went outside after he had betrayed Christ and wept bitterly.

And Peter remembered the word of Jesus,
which said unto him, Before the cock crows,
you will deny me 3 times. And he went out,
and wept bitterly.

Matthew 26:75

5. Jonah and Peter both had a second call after they failed

It is interesting that throughout the gospels, after Jesus has surnamed Simon as Peter he was always called Peter except for only one occasion. This was when he had his second call after he had betrayed Jesus and reverted to his impulsive and sensitive character.

By using the phrase 'Son of Jonah' it is as if Jesus was saying, 'Let's start again. Let's remember how you were Simon son of Jonah, with the impulsive and sensitive spirit. Let's start again and become the rock I destined for you to become.

So when they had dined, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, Do you love me more than these? He said unto him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. He said unto him, Feed my lambs. He said to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me? He said unto him, Yes, Lord; thou know that I love you. He said unto him, Feed my sheep. He said unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, do you love me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Do you love me? And he said unto him, Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you. Jesus said unto him, Feed my sheep.

John 21:15-17

After the third time Peter was commissioned as the pillar of the church and the fisherman became a shepherd – 'feed my sheep' – he was again the rock.

6. Both Jonah & Peter, after failing, went on to fulfil what God had planned for them.

Peter went on to become a pillar in the church.

Jonah went to Nineveh and preached with such conviction that the whole city repented.

7. Jonah & Peter were called to the Gentiles

Jonah was the first prophet under the Old

Covenant to be sent to the Gentiles. He pronounced God's judgement on them (Nineveh was destroyed completely by God some years after they were saved by the preaching of Jonah).

Peter was the first Apostle to preach to the Gentiles under the New Covenant.

Peter gives much prophecy about the coming Judgement of God to both the church and the ungodly in his letters to the church. Here are a couple of examples from his 2 letters.

For the time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

1 Peter 4:17

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men.

2 Peter 3:7

8. Jonah & Peter Both Went to the Gentiles via Joppa

Jonah was the only prophet who was called to the Gentiles and he went via Joppa.

Peter was the first Apostle to preach to the Gentiles and it was at Joppa that he had a call to go to the Gentiles.

I was in the city of Joppa praying: and in a trance
I saw a vision, A certain vessel descended, as it
had been a great sheet, let down from heaven
by four corners; and it came even to me:

Acts 11:5

Cornelius was the first Gentile to receive salvation after Peter's preaching and was the first Gentile to receive the Holy Ghost and be baptised.

Now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: he lodges with Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell you what you ought to do. And when the angel which spoke to Cornelius ...

Acts 10:5-7

I am sure there are more similarities between these two men, but surely I have shown enough to say that, whether nickname or not, Peter and Jonah have much in common.

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