

THE GOD WHO REQUIRES CHANGE

JONAH 3:4

INTRODUCTION:

1. Repentance is unpopular and is sometimes met with hostility.
2. The Bible reminds us that our salvation is dependent on repentance. (Luke 13.3,5; Acts 17.30; 2 Pet. 3.9)
3. In Jonah 3, God sends Jonah to Nineveh with a message of repentance. [Read Jonah 3.1-10; cf. Matt. 12.41)

I. GOD GIVES US TIME TO CHANGE

- A. God gave Nineveh forty days to change. (Jonah 3.4)
 1. God brought rain for forty days. (Gen. 7.12)
 2. God met with Moses. (Ex. 34.28; Deut. 9.18)
 3. Israel wandered for forty years. (Num. 14.34)
- B. God cares for us today.
 1. Even today, God gives us time to turn from doing evil to doing good. (Rev. 2.21; 2 Pet. 3.9,15)
 2. Our time to change is not indefinite. (Heb. 5.12)

II. GOD DESIRES FOR ALL TO CHANGE

- A. God wanted the people of Nineveh to change. (Jonah 3.4)
 1. The people of Nineveh were not the people of God.
 2. The people of Nineveh were extremely immoral and violent people.
- B. God desires all to change today.
 1. God wants everyone in the world to hear the gospel of Christ. (Matt. 28.19; Mark 16.15,16)
 2. To be saved, God expects obedience. (Luke 24.47)

III. GOD CONDEMNS THOSE WHO DO NOT CHANGE

- A. God warned the people of Nineveh. (Jonah 3.4)
- B. God warns people today.
 1. If you are in sin, you are dead. (Rom. 6.23; Eph. 2.1)
 2. If you die physically while spiritual dead, you are dead for all eternity. (Rev. 21.8)

CONCLUSION: They changed because they believed. (Jonah 3.5,10)

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

July 30, 2023

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

HOW DOES BAPTISM SAVE US?

We are told in 1 Peter 3.21 that *“there is also an antitype which now saves us — baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”* In what way does baptism save us?

The verse begins by saying that baptism is just like something else. It is an antitype. To learn what is being compared, we go back to the previous verse. In 1 Peter 3.20, we read about how Noah was saved by the flood waters. That might be confusing. Wasn't the flood the means of destruction? Wasn't the ark what saved Noah from the flood? Yet Peter writes that it was the flood waters which saved Noah. How was that possible?

In Genesis 6, the world was filled with individuals who were corrupt, evil, and wicked (Gen. 6.5-7,11-13). It was a world filled with sin. When the flood waters came, they washed away all the sin and corruption that was in the world. Noah was saved from sin when the waters took it all away.

Here is the comparison. The flood waters took away all the sin that was in the world. In the same way, baptism washes away all the sin that has stained your soul leaving you clean and pure in the eyes of God. The cleansing agent that takes away my sin is the blood of Jesus applied when I am baptized (1 John 1.17). CLP

IS JESUS THE CHRIST?
MATTHEW 16:16

INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus was confident in His own identity, but how can we know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God? (Matt. 16.16)
2. Some of the most irrefutable evidence is found in messianic prophecy. Jesus was predicted centuries before He was born.
3. Psalm 22 is a prophecy concerning the coming of Jesus, and specifically His suffering on the cross of Calvary. (Ps. 22.1)

I. JESUS ACTIVELY FULFILLED

- A. **PSALM 22.1:** *“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me?”*
- B. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy on the cross. (Matt. 27.46)
1. Did Jesus feel as if God had forsaken Him? Jesus asked God to save Him, and God refused. (Heb. 5.7)
 2. Why did God allow Jesus to suffer and die on the cross of Calvary? Because of you and me. (Isa. 53.5,10)

II. JESUS PARTIALLY ACTIVELY FULFILLED

- A. **PSALM 22.6:** *“But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised by the people.”*
1. Reproach: To laugh at to the point of scorn.
 2. Despise: To treat one as though he were worthless.
 3. **JOHN 8.48:** *“Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?”*
- B. **PSALM 22.15:** *“My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws”*
1. “Clings” carries the idea of the tongue sticking to the roof of your mouth because of dehydration.
 2. **JOHN 19.28:** *“I thirst.”*

III. JESUS PASSIVELY FULFILLED

- A. **PSALM 22.7,8:** *“He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him...”* Fulfilled in Matthew 27.39-43.
- B. **PSALM 22.16:** *“They pierced My hands and My feet”*
Fulfilled in Luke 24.39, John 20.27.
- C. **PSALM 22.18:** *“They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.”* Fulfilled in John 19.23,24.

CONCLUSION: PSALM 22.17: *“They look and stare at Me.”*

CREATED FOR A PURPOSE

Why am I here? What is my purpose? Most people believe that they have a purpose in life, and they spend their days searching for their purpose. Finding what you were meant to do is sometimes referred to as a calling. You hear about someone feeling aimless and without direction. Then suddenly, they discover their passion. It may be to help educate the world on the problems of homelessness. It may be to bring joy to other through music.

Did you know that the Bible teaches that we all have a purpose? God told Jeremiah, *“Before I formed you, I knew you; before you were born, I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations”* (Jer. 1.5). Even before Jeremiah was born, God had a plan for his life. He was literally born to be a prophet. The apostle Paul also writes about his purpose. In Galatians 1.15, he writes that God brought him into the world and revealed Jesus to him *“that I might preach him among the Gentiles”* (Gal. 1.15,16). In the New Testament, we are told that each one is given specific abilities. Since we all have “gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them” (Rom. 12.6). The Holy Spirit then gives a list of abilities that we have been given (Rom. 12.6-8).

The greatest example of one who was born with a purpose is Jesus. In the Old Testament book of Isaiah, Jesus is quoted as saying, *“The LORD has called Me from the womb; from the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name”* (Isa. 49.1). He continues in verse 5 to say that God *“formed Me from the womb to be His Servant”* (Isa. 49.5). Even before Jesus was conceived, an angel told Mary that *“He will be great...and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David”* (Luke 1.31-33). An angel appeared to Joseph and told him that Mary *“will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins”* (Matt. 1.21). In Hebrew, the writer explained that Jesus was given a body to fulfill a specific purpose (Heb. 10.5-7).

In the life of Jesus, He often spoke of His purpose. Jesus said that *“I have come that they might have life”* (John 10.10). In the book of Luke, Jesus put it another way. He said, *“the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which is lost”* (Luke 19.10). His purpose for coming to this earth was to sacrifice Himself on the cross so that you and I can have access by grace to salvation.

What is your purpose? What is the reason why God created you? The easiest way to know our purpose is to find out the one thing you love to do and are good at it. Whatever that purpose may be, we are to use it to bring glory to God. For our ultimate purpose in life is His glory (Isa. 43.7).
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