



BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF JONAH



JONAH

1: 1-16

Chapter One — The Call and the Flight from the Assignment

According to the theme scripture, the lord instructed Jonah to cause judgement to the people of Nineveh. Notethat, he did not cause this people from heaven but rather he sent a man, a priest, meaning a priest assignment is towards nations. When God instructed Jonah to execute judgement, he flew and ran away from the presence of the lord but the lord caused great wind to befall the ship.

The will of man

A will is the ability to make decisions. When you are sold out, God becomes your decision maker. Jonah had a good relationship with God that was why God was able to send him to go and proclaim judgement on a nation. Jonah understands how God work. At that time, he had no will of his own. Jonah's will at that time, was already given to God. There are people who has strong bond with their father, and can refuse a particular instruction, butthe father persist on them to carry out that task not because he wants to temper with his will but because his will, is your will. Jonah could not be separated from God, he knew God's way that was why, he was able to escape to another route, another direction and leaving the presence of God because, he was first soaked in God's presence.

The bible said that, when the storm and wind came upon the ship. The sailor sensed that someone there was responsible for what came upon them so they made enquire and it fell on Jonah that he was the cause of the disaster. So he told them, about the God he serve and to throw him into the sea for their ship to become calm again. So they threw him down the sea. But God prepared and appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah and he remained in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights. God was with him.



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Chapter Two — Repentance and Realignment

Jonah prayed in the belly of the fish and repented from his disobedience and God told the fish to bring him out. So the fish vomited him on a dry land.

The lord instructed the fish to swallow and also to bring Jonah out. This is to say that, we got the authority to tell anything what to do as long as that thing is on this earth and we are working in alignment with God. Jonah was not able to exercise his authority at that time because he disobeyed God.

Chapter Three — The Obedience and the Repentance of Nineveh

The word of the lord came to Jonah for the second time to go and pass his message to the city of Nineveh that in forty days, Nineveh will be overthrown. The message Jonah came with to Nineveh was scary. So the king declared a fast for the whole nation from the highest to the lowest including animals that all should give up their evil ways and fast and pray for Repentance. So the lord relented from destroying the nation. This is to say that, the power of a man is not limited to just men. It's so powerful that there is nothing it cannot penetrate be it man or animals.

Chapter Four — The Lesson of Mercy

This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, so he complained to the lord because he knew how God acts, what God will do and how merciful he is. Jonah was sad because if God was going to be merciful unto them and repent from destroying them, then why did he send him there that it is better for him to be dead than alive. And the lord told him, if it is right for him to be angry. So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city to see what might befall the city.

There is power in the creation of God. No wonder, the bible said that we should go into the world and preach the gospel to every creation not limited to humans alone because everything God created has power but man's power is superior but if man fails even the animal will be more powerful. The devil can possess both man and animal.

Our duty as gatekeepers

In conclusion, it is our duty to pray for people like Jonah, who has specific assignment to carry out for the will and purpose of God to be done in the world today. We have been given authority over God's creation on earth, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant(Jeremiah 1 v10). We are the inheritors of the earth. Glory to God