

WHAT GOD IS REALLY LIKE



- God's view on gentiles and on redemption can be found in Jeremiah 18
- Jeremiah 18:1 – 11
- He is like a master potter
- If a vessel molds to His will it is kept and used
- If a vessel doesn't respond to His will it is reformed and remade
- ***Goyim*** = gentile nations
- **PRINCIPLE:** As it is for the Hebrews, so it also is for gentiles

JONAH CHAPTER 3

The God of
second chances

- The first beginning was in chapter 1
- The second beginning is in chapter 3
- Jeremiah 18 talks about new beginnings from both a spiritual and a physical perspective
- 2Corinthians 5:16 – 18
- New beginnings are offered first to Israel, then to the gentile world...even to wicked Nineveh

The Word comes to Jonah



- The Word (a manifestation of God) came to Jonah
- When did Jonah get the second chance?
- ***Murraba'at*** scroll has a space at the end of Jonah chapter 2, indicating a period of time before the beginning of chapter 3
- Jonah probably went back to the Holy Land

Jonah goes to Nineveh



- Chapter 1, the message is a death warrant
- Chapter 3, the message is not characterized
- *Qeri'a el* vs. *Quri'a al*
- 3-days journey to cross the city?
- 3 days for proper hospitality? Was Jonah seen as a Diplomat? 3-days is the perimeter and not the length?

The enormous city of Nineveh



- R.D. Barnett and L.C. Allen say archaeology shows Nineveh 3 miles across, 8 miles in circumference
- 1210 A.D. *Histoire* Crusader says Jonah described Nineveh correctly according to its size
- We still don't know how the ancient Egyptians built the Pyramids....but clearly they did!
- Could “3-days” be an idiom like “a couple” ?



GOD REVEALS HIMSELF

- We don't know when Jonah went to Nineveh
- How could the people instantly respond to Jonah's message?
- Isaiah 65:1 – 5
- 40 is a symbolic number representing a great change, time of testing, and loosely connected to repentance



NINEVEH BELIEVED GOD

- Nineveh responded with action!
- The king also believed God and took action
- Nineveh was not doing well, sensitive, and was wary of bad omens
- When hearing Jonah's message, they knew instinctively of their own immoral behavior



The cause and effect of....



- In the 21st century, not many shared values
- The definition of morality is up for grabs
- Spiritual lawlessness came before civil lawlessness
- The king issued a royal decree because not everyone reacted with guilt and accountability
- The concept of morality and Natural Law is in our DNA

OUR THOUGHTS BEGET OUR ACTIONS

- Assyrian society, top to bottom, expressed sorrow and repentance
- What separates sorrow from repentance is changed behavior
- Biblical repentance means to turn from bad to good behavior
- If God does not accept our repentance as actual repentance, then it isn't



OUR MORAL CODE



- By what objective standard did God judge Nineveh?
- The king's decree was extreme
- The fate of animals and humans is intertwined
- Psalm 36:6 – 7
- The length of their fast would have been as short as it was intense