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*\*The Word of the Lord Goes Out During Times of Warnings.*

*\*Jonah 3:1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.” 3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent. 4 And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day’s walk. Then he cried out and said, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”*

1. V:1-2 ***God never blindsides humanity.***

**God’s Word** comes to Jonah a second time

**Again, God’s instructions are to go to the capital** and warn them of destruction.

**By faith,** Noah was divinely warned. **Hebrews 11:7**

**I Cor. 10:11 All these happened to them as examples** in the wilderness and Old Testament. God’s patterns are so we will learn how God deals with His people from the past. (the O.T. shows us God’s warnings.)

1. V:3 **The warning went to Nineveh according to the word of the Lord.**

**Jonah did not add to or take away** from the warning.

\***John 3:36** He who believes in the Son has everlasting life, and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

1. **Learn the Biblical pattern of God’s past warnings.**

**1st Example:** Destruction of the Northern Kingdom in **721 B.C. is a pattern.**

**2nd Example** is Babylonian captivity.

**First came** **the breach of 605 B.C.** The walls of Jerusalem are destroyed, and Daniel and his friends are taken captive.

**The second wave** came when Babylon replaced the King of Israel, and more captives were taken.

**The third wave** was the total destruction of the temple in **586 B.C.**

1. V:4 **The Number 40** **represents a period of waiting and completion of God’s purpose.** His purpose this time is to overthrow Nineveh.

**\*Genesis 19:25 & Amos 4:11** This same word **to overthrow** is used to describe the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

**Noah’s flood** lasted 40 days and nights.

**Elijah in 1 Kings 19:8,** strength from the food the angel provided Elijah went 40 days and nights till he reached Horeb.

**Ezekiel** laid on his right side for 40 days for the iniquity of the house of Judah. **Ezekiel 4:6**

**3 Kings reigned for 40** years: Saul, David, and Solomon

**Goliath taunted** Israel for 40 days. **I Samuel 17:16**

*\*The Ingredients to the Path of Life.*

*\*Jonah 3:5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. 6 Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. 7 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 anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. 8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. 9 Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?*

1. **Repentance is an action word.**

**It’s more than** being sorry.

**If repentance is anything,** it’s not business as usual.

**Fasting, dressing in humility** (Spiritually), and depriving yourself of the flesh are good steps to awaken your spirit.

1. **A proclamation from leaders and obedience from all showed sincerity.**

**How did God get a capital and a king’s attention?**

**An eclipse**

**A man spit out from a large fish. (**Assyria’s God was the fish god)

1. **Crying or changing our actions, God is not obligated to deliver us.** (Choices have consequences)

**They turned from their evil, wicked ways.**

**They call out to the true God**

**They understood a judgment of death was upon them.**

*\*God’s Desire is that None Should Perish*

*\*Jonah 3:10 Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.*

**God sees all; He knows our motives and our hearts.**

**Question? Do you know your heart and motives?**