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JONAH PART 23  
CH. 4:1-2

When God saw that the Ninevites had responded to Jonah's preaching with a true show of repentance, He withheld the pronounced judgement. In verse 4:1 (NKJV) it says, ***"But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became (very) angry."***

As much as Jonah loathed these Assyrians, he was eager to see them destroyed. Such calamity would also have affirmed his self-worth as a prophet. He would see a cancellation of Nineveh's overthrow as an affront to his integrity. Since he had preached that God would destroy them, it would seem to him that his word was invalidated. How dare God say He would do something and then not do it? He was beside himself in his anger toward God.

Yet, putting his personal feelings aside for a moment, he knew God's character well enough to rationalize a bit. In verse 2 it says, ***"and he prayed unto the LORD (Yahweh), and said 'Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore, I fled previously to Tarshish. For I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, one who relents from doing harm.'"***

Jonah speaks here of God's grace (unmerited favor) and His mercy (forgiving and withholding consequences) and of the kindness founded upon His love for mankind. Knowing this of God, Jonah's fear was that if he preached to them, God would end up sparing Nineveh. That is why he did not desire to go there to start with. He really desired to see them suffer the consequences of their evilness. That is why he had fled in the opposite direction from Nineveh in the first place.

Now he is angry with God for sparing them, contrary to the word he had preached. Jonah wanted them to be destroyed. God had told him to preach judgement upon them. Even though he knew God to be merciful, he still fully expected them to be overthrown. How could God go back on His word? Jonah was wroth with God.

Have you ever seen anyone angry with god? Or have you ever been in that place? Many people blame God for things they do not understand, especially the loss of life of a loved one, or perhaps a personal tragedy.

It must be remembered that Satan is the destroyer, not God. Sometimes things may occur which give Satan a legal right to destroy. Yes, Satan is a legalist (see the Book of Job). He can destroy when a "door" is opened by what someone does or says. We may never know the reason for it unless Holy Spirit reveals it.

When our protection is compromised don't blame God for what happens. We should not blame Him even when we cannot understand "the why" of it.

When such things happen, we need to pray, give it to God, and seek the peace that only Christ can give. John 14:27 says, ***“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you...Let not your heart be troubled...”***