

Repentance — Our Only Hope, Pt. 4

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“All attempts to find a way out of the plight of today’s world are fruitless unless we redirect our consciousness, in repentance, to the Creator of all: with out this (repentance), no exit will be illumined, and we shall seek deliverance in vain. The other resources we have set aside for ourselves (besides repentance) are too impoverished for the task.”¹

~ Aleksander Solzhenitsyn

Simply put — Repentance Is Our Only Hope—today joining over 1000 churches preaching repentance

Today — It’s Time for America to Have Her Nineveh Moment!

Jonah 3:1-10

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you." 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. 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!" So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. 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. 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. 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. Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish? 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.

America needs to hear the word of the LORD. Can we hear Him?

- a) He speaks through natural disasters — fires, hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes etc. — corrective words of judgement (**2 Chronicles 7:13** *drought, devour, disease*).
- b) He speaks through social tragedies — corruption in government, an apostate church, tumultuous society — can we hear what He’s saying?
- c) America has led the world in the most destructive sins known to man — how can we think God is okay with that? How can we think we, as a nation, don’t need to repent?

**God has watched our moral decay for decades,
He’s watched us sow to the wind
and has allowed us to reap a whirlwind.**

**Are we too comfy and casual in our sheltered lives to hear what God is saying?
Are we too uncaring to be moved to tears for our country?**

¹ Congdon, Lee. *Solzhenitsyn: The Historical-Spiritual Destinies of Russia and the West* (Cornell University Press, September 2017)

America needs to respond to the word of the LORD.

- a) **Nineveh** — believed the word, fasted, covered sackcloth, sat ashes, cried mightily to God, turned from evil and violence. **They repented as a nation, for the nation! WE MUST GET THIS SPIRIT WITHIN US!**
- b) **It's been 103 years** since President Woodrow Wilson made the last call to the nation for a day of public humiliation, prayer, and fasting. Prior to that, it was a regular occurrence.

How have we fared as a nation since then? Two World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, prayer out of schools, abortion, divorce, fatherless homes, addiction, crime, sexual heinousness, same sex marriage, injustice, violence, etc.

**America must respond with repentance to a holy God,
it's our only hope for healing and restoration.**

The LORD will turn from His fierce anger.

- a) Nineveh gambled, without a promise, that God might turn from His anger and forgive them.

**We've got a promise of forgiveness and healing —
how much more should we repent?
Doesn't the sound of deliverance from sin
and righteousness abounding sound good?**

“A change was soon made in the manners of our inhabitants. From being thoughtless and indifferent about religion, it seemed as if all the world were growing religious, so that one could not walk through the town in an evening without hearing psalms sung in different families of every street.”²
~ Benjamin Franklin

**Beloved — if we'll repent personally and nationally,
we can see God heal ourselves, our families and our nation — He promises —**

Jeremiah 18:7-8

The instant I speak concerning a nation and a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will turn of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.”

It's Time for America to Have Her Nineveh Moment!

Come to the altar — kneel in the aisles — stand at your seats — lift up holy hands and pray... Confess your sins, confess the sins of the nation, cry out to God for personal and national forgiveness and healing... don't delay!

² Franklin, Benjamin. *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* (Applewood Books, October 2008)

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways does the LORD speak to us?
2. Are you too comfortable in your sheltered life to be moved to tears for your country?
3. How can we repent for our nation?
4. Unlike Nineveh, we have a promise of forgiveness and healing, how much more should we repent?
5. Are you ready to confess your sins, confess the sins of the nation, cry out to God for personal and national forgiveness and healing... right now?

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