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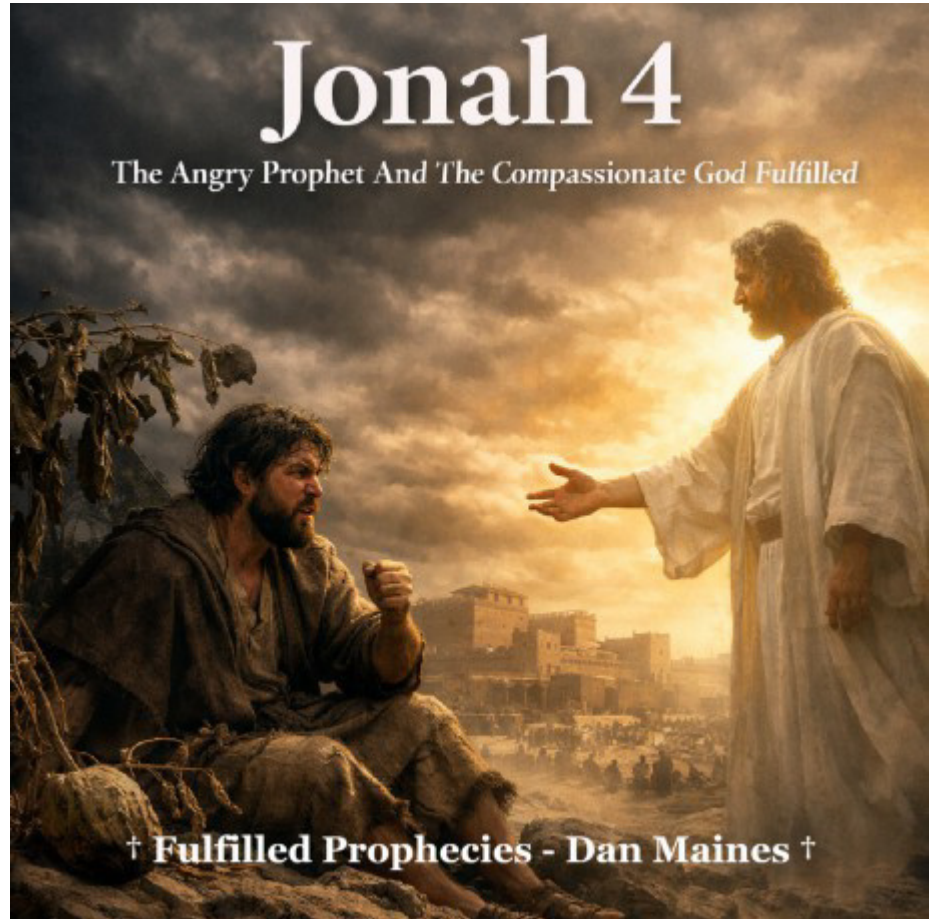
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Jonah 4 The Angry Prophet And The Compassionate God Fulfilled



By Dan Maines

Jonah 4 The Angry Prophet And The Compassionate God Fulfilled

Introduction

† Jonah 4 brings us face to face with the heart of man and the heart of God.

† Jonah is angry because God showed mercy, and this exposes how limited human compassion can be.

† This chapter reveals that God's purpose was never limited to

Israel, it always included the nations.

Jonah 4:1

But it greatly displeased Jonah, and he became angry.

† Jonah wasn't upset about failure, he was upset about success, because Nineveh repented (Jonah 3:10).

† This exposes that Jonah cared more about judgment than mercy, which is the opposite of God's character (Exodus 34:6).

† From the fulfilled perspective, this shows the same issue Israel had in the first century, they rejected Gentile inclusion (Romans 10:19-21).

Jonah 4:2

Then he prayed to the LORD and said, Please LORD, was this not what I said when I was still in my own country? Therefore in anticipation of this I fled to Tarshish, since I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in mercy, and One who relents of disaster.

† Jonah admits he knew exactly who God is, gracious, merciful, and patient (Exodus 34:6-7).

† His problem wasn't ignorance, it was resistance to God's mercy toward others.

† This mirrors the first century Jews who knew the scriptures but resisted their fulfillment in Christ extending to the nations (Acts 13:45-46).

Jonah 4:3

Therefore now, LORD, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life.

† Jonah would rather die than see his enemies receive mercy, that's how deep his anger runs.

† This reveals how pride and nationalism can distort a person's view of God.

† In the fulfilled perspective, this reflects Israel's rejection of the gospel when it went to the Gentiles (Acts 22:21-22).

Jonah 4:4

But the LORD said, Do you have a good reason to be angry?

† God confronts Jonah with a simple question, exposing his heart.

† This question forces Jonah, and us, to examine whether our anger aligns with God's righteousness.

† God does the same in the New Testament, confronting hardened hearts (Matthew 20:15).

Jonah 4:5

Then Jonah left the city and sat down east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in the city.

† Jonah still hoped Nineveh would be destroyed, showing he hadn't accepted God's decision.

† He positions himself to watch judgment, not restoration.

† This reflects the mindset of those in Israel who expected wrath on the nations instead of inclusion (Luke 4:28-29).

Jonah 4:6

So the LORD God appointed a plant, and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head, to relieve him of his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant.

† God shows kindness even to Jonah, despite his wrong attitude.

† Jonah rejoices over personal comfort, but not over the

salvation of a city.

† This exposes misplaced priorities, valuing personal ease over God's redemptive work (Philippians 2:21).

Jonah 4:7

But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day, and it attacked the plant and it withered.

† God removes the comfort to teach Jonah a lesson.

† The same God who gives can take away, to reveal deeper truth (Job 1:21).

† This is about correction, not punishment, God is shaping Jonah's understanding.

Jonah 4:8

When the sun came up God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint, and he begged with all his soul to die, saying, Death is better to me than life.

† Jonah's emotions are tied to circumstances, not truth.

† When comfort is gone, his anger returns.

† This reveals how unstable we are when we aren't aligned with God's will (James 1:8).

Jonah 4:9

Then God said to Jonah, Do you have a good reason to be angry about the plant? And he said, I have good reason to be angry, even to the point of death.

† Jonah doubles down, justifying his anger.

† This shows how stubborn the human heart can be when confronted.

† This same stubbornness is seen in Israel rejecting Christ even

after clear evidence (John 5:40).

Jonah 4:10

Then the LORD said, You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.

† God contrasts Jonah's concern for a plant with his lack of concern for people.

† Jonah valued something temporary more than human lives.

† This exposes the blindness of selfishness and narrow thinking.

Jonah 4:11

Should I not also have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?

† God reveals His heart, compassion for people who lack understanding.

† This proves God's concern has always extended beyond Israel.

† From the fulfilled perspective, this points directly to the inclusion of the nations in Christ (Ephesians 2:11-13).

Historical References

† Josephus records how Israel often resisted foreign nations and saw themselves as exclusive recipients of God's favor.

† Justin Martyr wrote that God's mercy extended to all nations through Christ, fulfilling what was hinted at in the prophets.

† Irenaeus affirmed that God's plan always included bringing the nations into covenant, not just Israel.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We must examine our own hearts, do we rejoice when others receive mercy, or do we resist it.

† God's character hasn't changed, He's still gracious, merciful, and patient.

† We're called to reflect His heart, not Jonah's.

† The fulfilled reality is that the nations are already included, and we shouldn't act like gatekeepers of grace.

† If we get angry at God's mercy, we're revealing that we don't fully understand it ourselves.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Why was Jonah so angry?

A: Because God showed mercy to Nineveh, and Jonah didn't want his enemies spared (Jonah 4:1-2).

Q: What does this reveal about Jonah's heart?

A: He valued judgment over mercy and struggled with God's compassion (Jonah 4:2-3).

Q: How does this connect to Israel in the first century?

A: Israel resisted Gentile inclusion just like Jonah resisted Nineveh's repentance (Romans 10:19-21).

Q: What lesson does the parable teach?

A: Jonah cared more about temporary comfort than human lives, exposing misplaced priorities (Jonah 4:10).

Q: What is the main message of Jonah 4?

A: God's mercy extends beyond boundaries, and His people must align with His heart (Ephesians 2:11-13).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Jonah 4

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

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