



Daily Devotion

April 21 - Jonah 3:4,5 - Giving Grace

Hello and thanks for joining in on to today's daily devotion. Today is Thursday, April 21st. The 5th day of the Hebraic week.

Our verses today is Jonah 3:4,5.

4 On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned." 5 The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

So Jonah, this time, does what YHWH told him to do. He proclaims a judgement to come. We find that not only the people begin to repent, but in the following verses, we find that the king declares a fast for man and animals. He even puts sackcloth on himself. All in hopes that YHWH would relent from sending that calamity.

The following verses says that YHWH saw all that they did and how they turned from their evil ways. YHWH ended having compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

But here's the thing. Jonah was mad at this. He wanted the judgement to fall. Consider chapter 4 verse 2.

"2 He prayed to YHWH, "O YHWH, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity."

It's amazing to me how the very thing that Jonah was given, that being grace, was the very thing that he didn't want given to others. What about you? Is there someone in your life that you'd rather see get judgement instead of grace?

How do you think YHWH looks at that motive?

Let this be a focus in your time of meditation throughout the day. Until tomorrow, shalom!