

Daniel Perrin – L13: Images of the End – Sunday, June 22: The Reluctant Prophet

1. In the OT stories, we find the outline of future events for God's people AND the world
 - a. THEY faced the same decisions of loyalty we will face – just in their sphere and time
 - The instruction from those stories REVEALS Present Truth for *today*
 - With increased light, the application is clearer and specific to the times we live in.
 - b. In this final lesson we're studying God's attempt to rescue the Assyrian empire in the story of Jonah
 - c. And the Fall of Babylon
 - d. The Memory Text comes from Jonah 1:9: *"So he said to them, 'I am a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land' "*.
2. Jonah: the Reluctant END-TIME Prophet
 - a. How was Jonah an end-time prophet?
 - b. When Jonah *finally* started preaching, the Ninevite families had just 40 days to destruction (less than a month and a half).
 - Nineveh's cup of iniquity was full, and they needed to be warned...NOW.
 - Because God loved the people in that city
 - TIME WAS SHORT — And Jonah wasted precious time.
3. WE have Jonah's mission and message TODAY!
 - a. Time is short / The cities must be warned!
 - b. What would you think of a physician who won't tell a patient they needed to get their affairs in order because time was running out?
 - c. We have a serious message that we are instructed to tell the world.
 - d. NOT just to discuss in Sabbath School class
4. Reluctant means: Hesitating to commit / Slow to get on board / Looking for an excuse or objection
 - a. From the moment Jonah boarded that ship sailing in the opposite direction AWAY from Nineveh...
 - ...He moved from the RELUCTANT category To the REBELLIOUS category
 - This is the natural movement of Reluctant (Lukewarm Objects). Lukewarm turn to "Cold"
 - Reluctant Laodiceans end up finally as rebels
 - b. If we are unfamiliar with true compassion for the lost ...
 - ... we will have a hard time committing to the warning message to be given when time is short?
5. By God's Grace, we don't want to be a reluctant prophet.
 - a. And by God's Grace, we don't want to be a rebellious prophet – going in the opposite direction of God's evangelistic mission
 - b. What does that even look like?
 - God's Word and His end-time messenger give clear instructions to "Go To Work" to take the gospel to the cities / to your neighbors / to your family // to not seek comfort or familiarity / to warn the world, "Time Is Short, this earth is soon to be destroyed"
 - Instead, do we go the opposite way by entertaining ourselves with a good movie and popcorn
 - Or a series of TV shows
 - We spend hours researching vacation spots, with 30 tabs open on our phone or computer so that we can compare the best places to go to relax and have some fun.
 - But when it comes to visiting our neighbors and talking to them about spiritual things, do we invest the same time and energy?
 - IF this refers to us ... Perhaps we need to be thrown overboard from the lifestyle boat we're traveling on
 - Because it's taking us in the wrong direction

6. Lesson points out 2 powerful parallels between Jonah and end-time messengers:
 - a. They deal with the Three Angels' Messages and Coming out of Babylon
 - Take a look at those parallels in the lesson — very well explained in the lesson.
 - b. I'd like to share 2 more parallels between Jonah and END-TIME MESSENGERS
 - c. End-time PARALLEL #1 – If you've not been involved in proclamation before, God invites you now
 - **Jonah 3:1–2** – *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."*
 - d. End-time PARALLEL #2 – Go throughout the City
 - **Jonah 3:3–4** – *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.*
 - God desires workers to enter the cities and warn them.
7. AGAIN, By God's Grace, I don't want to be a Reluctant OR Rebellious when God says, "Go"
 - a. Story of how God brought my family to 3ABN
 - b. God's current leading to be involved in God's plan for educating young people to take the gospel quickly into the cities.
 - My family will still be working in God's vineyard — on a different shift with a different crew.
 - c. When God calls you to Go — which He will, through His strength, say "Yes."