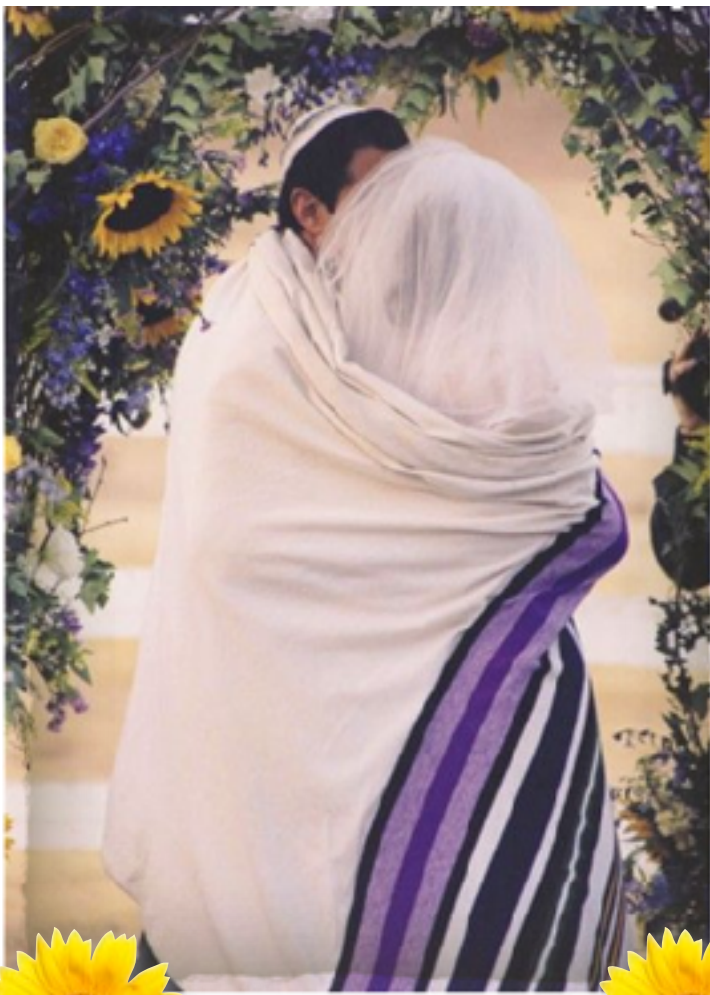




THE BRIDE'S
ROBE MADE
WITH
INTEGRITY,
COMPASSION
AND MERCY

SUKKOT 2016

Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

This is a product of *Kanaan Ministries*, a non-profit ministry under the covering of:

- Roly, Amanda's husband for more than thirty-five years.
- Pastor Edward and Dalene Gibbens
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It's time for one of the annual cycle of Feasts.

God destines that man will, in his *worship*, revolve around the Tabernacle during the course of the year being constantly reminded of the basic building blocks of our relationship with Him.

The Pesach/Passover allows us to think about our *deliverance* and to annually make sure that we are living as truly "free men".

The Shavout / Pentecost allows us to consider whether our diligence to study His Word and listen to the Holy Spirit are still at that level when we can safely say that we hear the Small Still Voice of God

This final set of Feasts, Sukkot / Tabernacles reminds us that we are the *Bride*. It is now time to consider whether our wedding robe is pure / unwrinkled and shining. The Feast of Trumpets heralds in this time of INTIMACY.

The trumpet is made of pure silver: *is your life reflecting the purity of an expectant Bride?*



ARE YOU
GOING TO THE
TABERNACLE,
JONAH?

ARE YOU GOING TO THE TABERNACLE, JONAH?

It is time for the Feast of Yom Kippur – Day of Atonement. It is a day of prayer and fasting. And those who truly walk in obedience to the Commandments know that this day **we must** “**afflict our souls**”.

The fall feasts are bundled together for a reason... Something as simple as the realization that each one builds upon the other. In other words, you really cannot enter into the spiritual reality / intimacy of Sukkot, if you have not readied your spirit -man at the Feast of Yom Teruah and stopped off at Yom Kippur to verify your calling- you will be unholy and unclean!!!

God is not a God of silo's -- there is an interconnectedness and a flow from one Feast to the other. Without doubt, these Feasts together form a type of Tabernacle, the first one is the foundation, this one are the walls, and Sukkot becomes the roof covering.



Leviticus 23:27 Now on the tenth day of this seventh month is the Day of Atonement. It shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall **afflict** yourselves and present a food offering to the LORD.

Leviticus 23:29 For whoever is not **afflicted** on that very day shall be cut off from his people.

So what does this word “afflict” mean?

Let us look at the background to this word and then make some conclusions as to **how** we should be afflicting our souls.

Strong's and other commentary:

a) It is the Hebrew word Strong's 6031: "**a-na**"

👤 to be occupied, be busied with,

👤 to afflict, oppress, humble, be afflicted, be bowed down—to bestow labour upon anything, to exercise oneself in a thing.

1. (**Qal**)

- ~ to be put down, become low
- ~ to be depressed, be downcast
- ~ to be afflicted
- ~ to stoop

2. (**Niphal**)

- ~ to **humble oneself, bow down**
- ~ to be afflicted, be humbled

3. (**Piel**)

- ~ to humble, mishandle, afflict
- ~ to humble, be humiliated
- ~ to afflict
- ~ to humble, weaken oneself

4. (**Pual**)

- ~ to be afflicted
- ~ to be humbled

5. (**Hiphil**) to afflict

6. (**Hithpael**)

- ~ to humble oneself
- ~ to be afflicted

Now let us read the Bible passage again that describes this Feast (*Yom Kippur* / Day Of atonement) and ask ourselves if we are diligent with this Commandment **to inflict our souls**. And even more pertinently, why read **Jonah** at this time of Yom Kippur?

Traditionally, we are told that we must "fast" by avoiding all food on this day. However, a closer look at this wording highlights something of significance...

The Hebrew word to “fast from food” is Hebrew **Strong’s 6684 Tsum** “refrain from eating for a period of time.”

The word that we have highlighted originally, “*ana*” specifically says “**humble your soul**”. An indication of the word’s usage is found in Numbers 30:13, where, within the context of marriage a husband can either confirm or annul a wife vow. We will see that this act of “afflicting” our soul has to do with the actions of humbling ourselves to be the perfect BRIDE to the MESSIAH.

It’s important that we seek another reference in the WORD that this fasting of YOM KIPPUR is of the SOUL and not the STOMACH. The Pharisees do not see this day as having anything to do with a wedding / intimacy. They come to question Y’shua / Jesus as to why his disciples are NOT FASTING!! Y’shua / Jesus tells them clearly that you do not fast at a wedding.

We are Sons of the Covenant, as priests we enter in and are in the presence of the Groom. We do not fast...

Mark 2.18-20 Also Yochanan’s talmidim and the P’rushim were fasting; and they came and asked Yeshua, “Why is it that Yochanan’s talmidim and the talmidim of the P’rushim fast, but your talmidim don’t fast?” 19 Yeshua answered them, “Can wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is still with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, fasting is out of the question. 20 But the time will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them; and when that day comes, they will fast.

What are the **life lessons** that we need to grasp and apply in our lives? How does afflicting / humbling our souls take us into the Tabernacle? What must we understand and DO to make this Feast day a spiritual highlight in our annual calendar?

Leviticus 23:26-32 ADONAI said to Moshe, “The tenth day of this seventh month is Yom-Kippur; you are to have a holy convocation, you are to deny yourselves, and you are to bring an offering made by fire to ADONAI. You are not to do any kind of work on that day, because it is Yom-Kippur, to make atonement for you before ADONAI your God. Anyone **who does not deny himself on that day is to be cut off from his people**; and anyone who does any kind of work on that day, I will destroy from among his people. You are not to do any kind of work; it is a permanent regulation through all your generations, no matter where you live. It will be for you a Shabbat of complete rest, and you are to deny yourselves; you are to rest on your Shabbat from evening the ninth day of the month until the following evening.”

IS THE WHALE JUST A STORY?

If we were to ask the average reader whether he believed anything of the story, then I suggest without exception most people will agree that the inclusion of the whale just makes this entire story unbelievable.

1. The “Princeton Review” (October 1927)

Records two incidents, one in 1758, and another in 1771 where a man is swallowed by a whale, and is vomited up a little while later with minor injuries.

2. In the publication “63 years of Engineering” two scientists investigate and report an incident, near the Falkland Island in 1891.

Further research will reveal that these stories are just that, merely stories—imaginative minds that made up something for the people to read.



AND ANOTHER EVENT.

Chicago, IL – An Arkansas man is alive after being swallowed by a whale on Saturday while visiting the Shedd Aquarium. Jonah Anderson, 24, is being treated for mild dehydration at Chicago’s Mercy Medical Center after being regurgitated early this morning.

The incident happened while viewing the Beluga Whale exhibit at Shedd. Witnesses say the whale, Puiji, came out of the pool, grabbed Anderson, and proceeded to swallow him whole. Anderson remained unharmed inside the whale until this morning when he was spit back onto the viewing platform.

“This is the first time any of our whales have exhibited aggressive behavior,” Shedd’s vice president of communications Andrea Smalec tells us. “We frequently allow special guest to interact with the whales, our staff even occasionally swim with the whales. This is completely unexpected.”

Animal trainers tried unsuccessfully to extract Anderson from the whale during the three days. Anderson was able to communicate with outsiders through text message during the stay. Friends and family tell us that Anderson remained positive and relaxed during the time.

“He seemed really upbeat,” Jonah’s girlfriend Mary, who was with him on the trip, tells us. “Of course this is not the first time something like this has happened. We were on a boat tour outside San Francisco last year when a whale snatched him from the side. That one scared him a bit, this time it all seemed routine. Not sure why this keeps happening.”

Doctors expect to release Anderson from the hospital later today. He hopes to return to Arkansas to visit his cousin Daniel who is in critical condition following a fall into the lion exhibit at the Little Rock ZOO”.

So where does this leave us now?

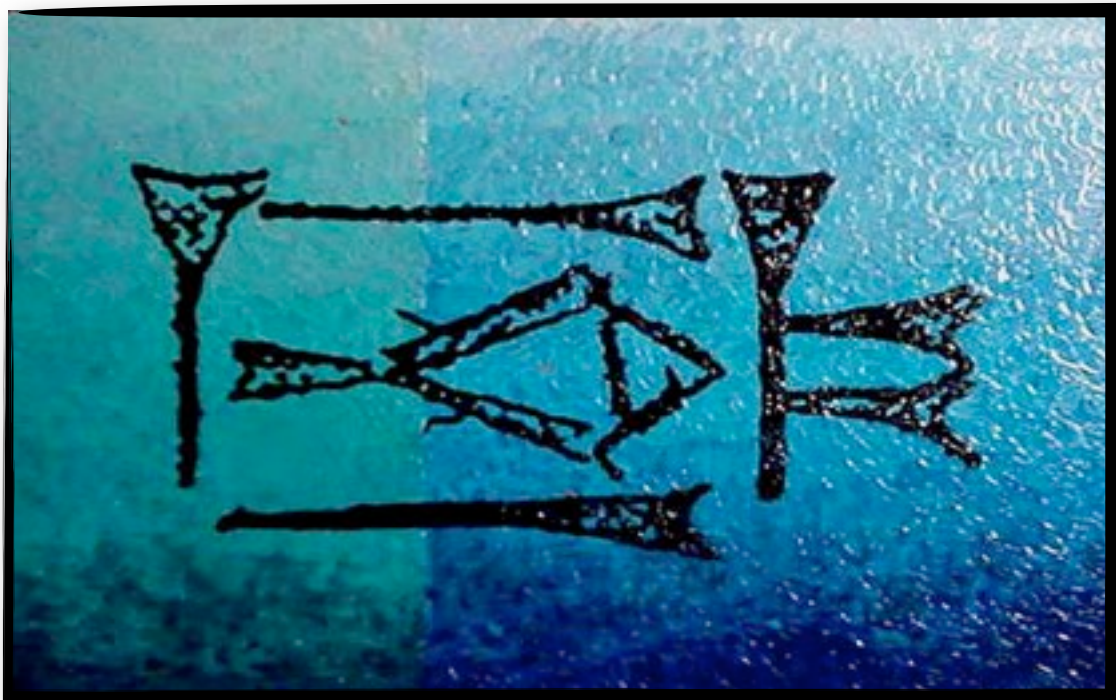
Does this make the Jonah whale real? I don't know—but it's certainly a possibility isn't it?

So if being inside a whale for a while is possible, is it not possible that the city of Nineveh repents and changes its lifestyle if only for a short while?

QUOTE FROM AN ARTICLE:

“One of the legends that surround this nation is that a *legendary fish-man god* “Yanush” came out of the sea hundreds of years prior to Jonah’s arrival.

The cuneiform sign for Nineveh is a house with a fish on the inside.



And the name **Nineveh** breaks up into two words:

“Nun” = fish

“Neveh” = dwelling place

Can you now image how people known to be serving pagan gods, wicked in all manner of things, as described below, react when they see a man whose skin has been bleached by stomach acid into the grayish colour of a fish and would they not think their “god” has come to visit in person?

In this passage below, we see that the repentance only lasts a short while—they return to their old ways.

Interestingly, God says of Nineveh—“**call out against it, for their evil has come up before Me.**” (Jonah 1.1)

God describes **two of the cities IN THE SAME WAY—Sodom and Gomorrah!!**

And the prophet Nahum, tells us why!!

***Nahum 3:1-4** Woe to the **city of blood**, steeped in lies, full of prey, with no end to the plunder! The crack of the whip! The rattle of wheels! Galloping horses, jolting chariots, cavalry charging, swords flashing, spears glittering — **and hosts of slain, heaps of bodies; there is no end to the corpses; they stumble over their corpses.** **4** Because of the continual whoring of this whore, this **alluring mistress of sorcery**, who sells nations with her whoring and families with her sorcery.*

Recently a British academic from Oxford University published research suggesting that the actual site of the Hanging Garden of Eden is in reality –Nineveh.

The picture below shows a mound with part of this city ruins. This mound is close to the modern day Mosul – **a city still plagued by ethnic and religious violence, in fact it would seem that nothing has changed since the prophet Nahum spoke!!**



A. WHOSE FAULT IS IT WHEN STORMS RAGE?

As we read through the first chapter of Jonah, we note a word that is repeated. The passage speaks of a storm—but then goes on to use the word “**tempestuous**” three times.

The Hebrew word for “**tempestuous**” – Strong’s 5590 means:

- 🍷 To be violently shaken—whirlwind
- 🍷 To be tossed by adversity
- 🍷 To be agitated
- 🍷 To toss about / to scatter / dispersed (as chaff)

You and I sometimes experience major storms, very often we look for the fault somewhere else—

- 🍷 some attack from the kingdom of darkness
- 🍷 some deep generational sin that we have in the family

The story of Jonah teaches us that we also need to *look at another source*.

God gives us a **calling**—a space to live life in where we interact with our own community, but also with:

1. The bigger world community (interacting for example, with those who display anti-Semitic actions),
2. As well interacting with people in the pagan society, and
3. Generally, with all other people who reject God in totality.

At times this calling of yours may have less glamour than other callings (for example, the worship team, or the pulpit)... In other words, your calling is NOT just a walk of obedience in your day-to-day lifestyle—But that’s still a calling! It is the most important one, simply because that is where the majority of “strangers” will interact with the Body of Messiah.

Have you noted that in the “reading” of the celebration of the Feasts - at every harvest time, and in ordinary business, when we have to account for our tithes, that the Bible asks whether we have **reached out to the stranger** in our midst? This calling of living God’s Will and reflecting His Glory in day to day activities is a CRITICAL one!!

Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

Jonah accepted his calling - he just **did not like the people that God wanted him to visit**.

(So think carefully - when storms come again in your life, are you living your life as a worthy witness reflecting God's Glory fully— as a Menorah shining in the community where God wants you to be?)

LET US DEFINE THE BASIC CALLING THAT WE ALL HAVE TO ASPIRE TOO.

In the words of the prophet Micah we are given the attributes that will set us apart from others - attributes that will reflect God's love. And it is only by reflecting these attributes while we perform *mitzvahs* / good deeds, that we will be living our calling out fully.

Micah 6:8 *Human being, you have already been told what is good, what ADONAI demands of you — no more **than to act justly, love grace and walk in purity with your God.***

So let us make a sort study of these three **words that seem to be the mirror to the world, of whether you and I are really walking in our calling.** You see, we can sound holy, act pious, and yet we may not meet this standard.

And, in fact, many of the actions / deeds that are associated with believers, do NOT necessarily fall into one of these Godly attributes. In fact, many good deeds are done with a selfish motive. And it is only really **God** that will know what the intent of the heart is.



Consider the following words - these are God's benchmark of righteousness.

Please take careful note of the sequence of this story. Exactly WHO is it that brings the storm...? It's God, and hopefully you realized that!! God creates these storms to tell you that you should STOP and LISTEN. And then do whatever you were told to do.

The Hebrew word for "**Justice**" - Strong's 4941:

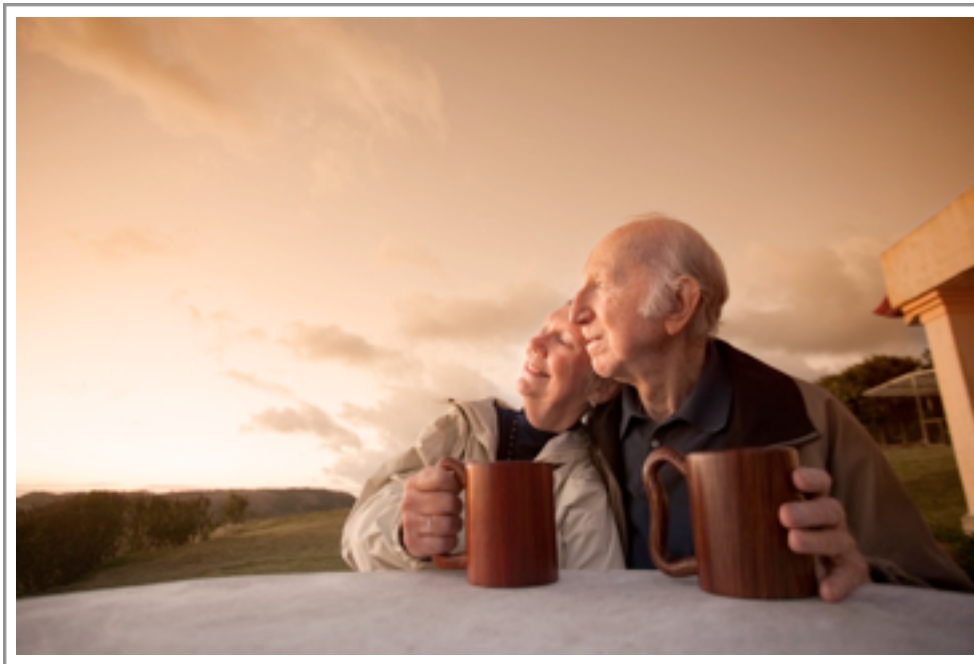
- 🕒 The act of judging in terms of a body of divine law
- 🕒 The right, that which is just, lawful, according to the law

The Hebrew word for “**Compassion**” - Strong’s 2617:

- 🕒 In a good sense – zeal - kindness or benevolence
- 🕒 Mercy and pity to those in misfortune
- 🕒 Actions of faithfulness towards another

The Hebrew word for “**Humbleness**” - Strong’s 6800:

- 🕒 To act submissively,
- 🕒 To be modest.



If you now think back on the events that you read about the story of Jonah, ASK yourself, *does he reflect the evidence of his calling in these Godly attributes?*

Justice, Compassion, and Humbleness?

- 🕒 Knowingly, he departs from the presence of God.
- 🕒 Knowingly he involves innocent people in his journey away from the temple.
- 🕒 Knowingly he places people at risk.
- 🕒 Knowingly he causes these people to fear for their lives, to live with anxiety.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatever task comes your way to do, do it with all your strength; because in Sh'ol, where you will go, there is neither working nor planning, neither knowledge nor wisdom.

And then let us contemplate these two verses—they tell us something:

Many storms are at the Hand of God, simply because we fail to walk in our calling—and at this time of the year, we should be afflicting our souls so that we can know how to walk / where to walk forward in our calling.

***Isaiah 45:7** I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the LORD, who does all these things.*

***Jeremiah 18:7-11** At one time, I may speak about uprooting, breaking down and destroying a nation or kingdom; but if that nation turns from their evil, which prompted Me to speak against it, then I relent concerning the disaster I had planned to inflict on it. Similarly, at another time, I may speak about building and planting a nation or kingdom; but if it behaves wickedly from My perspective and doesn't listen to what I say, then I change My Mind and don't do the good I said I would do that would have helped it. **11** So now, tell the people of Y'hudah and those living in Yerushalayim that this is what ADONAI says: 'I am designing disaster for you, working out my plan against you. Turn, each of you, from his evil ways; improve your conduct and actions.'*

It is easy to say that we have a calling. It is easy to step into that calling and try to serve God. However, we get hurt / wounded as we go through life—collective hatred—anti-Semitism—hurtful jokes, and so forth.

When we do, **it's a natural reaction for man to build walls.**

Walls are meant as a position for the watchman to occupy - so that we can **keep** and **guard** the Garden.

Sometimes we turn these same walls into places that we can hide behind.

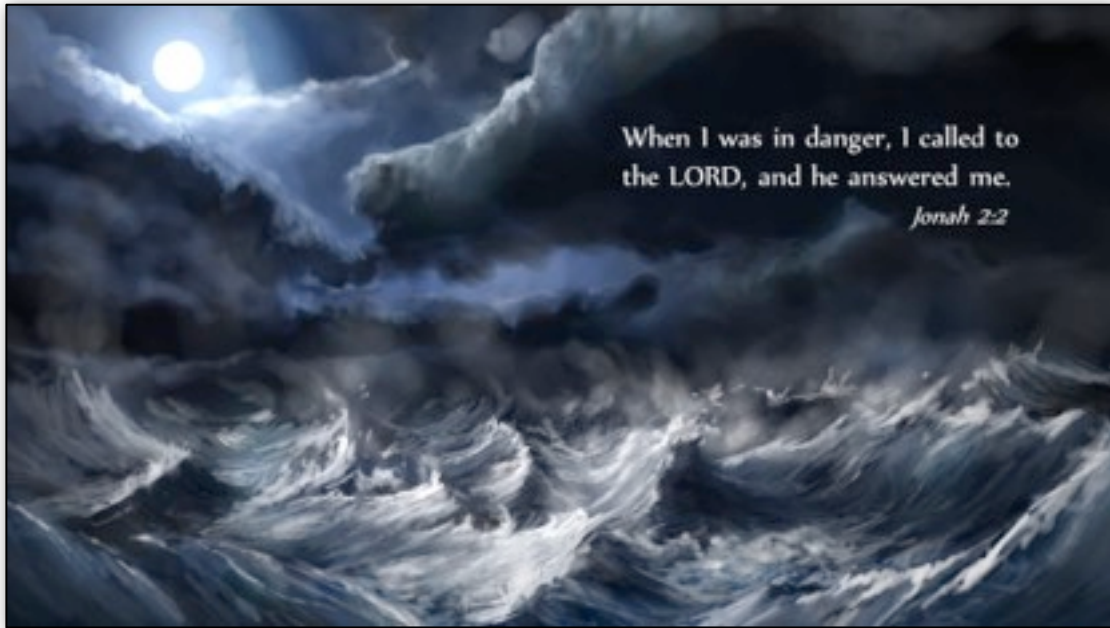
When we get into that position, every single calling that God wants us to perform is put into a box and locked away.

And that's when we draw away from THE PRESENCE OF GOD.



B. WHAT DO WE NORMALLY DO WHEN STORMS RAGE?

As we study this story of Jonah, we start to see why we should be afflicting our souls.



And this next section makes that all the more clear. The Bible says **Jonah went from the presence of God**. Can this be true?

Unfortunately, it seems that this **type of action is inbred into man** since the earliest of days. I would go as far as to say—its source is from the sin of Adam and Eve.

Let us look at **two examples from that time**:

1. Adam and Eve

Adam and Eve sin, they think they are naked and they try to hide / **move away from the presence of God**. Moving away is man's natural reaction.

Genesis 3:1-18 (Read the whole passage)

They heard the Voice of ADONAI, God, walking in the Garden at the time of the evening breeze, so the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of ADONAI, God, among the trees in the garden. ADONAI, God, called to the man, "Where are you?"

2. Cain and Abel

Not long after this we read of the argument between Cain and Abel. After Cain sins by killing his brother, we note the same pattern of behaviour... **he moves away from the presence of God**.

Importantly, unless there is an act of repentance, of restitution with God, we will find that this act of walking away from God lasts forever.

Genesis 4:1-16 (Read the whole passage) *So Kayin left the presence of ADONAI and lived in the land of Nod [wandering], east of 'Eden.*

Strangely, it is the unbelievers in the story of Jonah who turn to God. When the storm is at its worst, when they have no other options—the captain and the sailors turn to God.

Sometimes we need a storm, that is caused by someone else, to cause us to open our eyes and realize that we are spiritually 'lost'.

C. WHEN STORMS RAGE - AFFLICT YOUR SOUL.

A key word / thought that pops out of these passages of Jonah, are:

-  Prayer
-  Crying out to God
-  Calling on God

All of these words create the idea that as we turn to God, our circumstances will change.

The passages below stress the idea that man can turn to God, in our moment of need, and be heard.

It is an idea that is repeated a few times:

1. To make sure that we understand the principle, and
2. To make sure that we understand that everyone (believer or unbeliever) can call out to God—and He listens.

Psalm 57:1-5 *Show me favor, God, show me favor; for in You I have taken refuge. Yes, I will find refuge in the Shadow of Your Wings until the storms have passed. I call to God, the Most High, to God, who is accomplishing His purpose for me. 4 He will send from Heaven and save me when those who would trample me down mock me. (Selah) God will send His grace and His Truth. 5 I am surrounded by lions, I am lying down among people breathing fire, men whose teeth are spears and arrows and their tongues sharp-edged swords.*

Romans 8:15-17 *For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to bring you back again into fear; on the contrary, you received the Spirit, who makes us sons and by whose power we cry out, "Abba!" (that is, "Dear Father!"). The Spirit himself bears witness with our own spirits that we are children of God; and if we are children, then we are also heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with the Messiah — provided we are suffering with him in order also to be glorified with him.*

But our deeds can become so wicked. God calls Jonah again - He gives him *another chance* to go to Nineveh. And this time he listens and **does** what God asks of him. But probably not with the best attitude or the right spirit.

What happens if you reject your calling the second time? How can we know for sure exactly how many chances we get ...? Whatever the number.... what happens when we go past the point of no return?

Micah 3:4 *Then they will call to ADONAI, but He will not answer them; when that time comes, He will hide His Face from them, because their deeds were so wicked.*

DO YOU KNOW WHOM TO CALL UPON?

It is not for nothing that we are given these passages to meditate on. They give us hope in the times of the greatest storms. All that is required is that we **need to recognize our “lack of obedience”**. **Even more clear, the sooner we decide to repent and call upon God the better!! Just think about it - if Jonah had been quicker to repent then he could have been out of the whale’s belly in just one day!!!**

Jonah 2:4-7 *I thought, ‘I have been banished from Your sight.’ But I will again look at Your Holy Temple. The water surrounded me, threatened my life; the deep closed over me, seaweed twined around my head. I was going down to the bottoms of the mountains, to a land whose bars would close me in forever; **but You brought me up alive from the pit, ADONAI, my God!** As my life was ebbing away, **I remembered ADONAI; and my prayer came in to You, into Your Holy Temple.***

Think about this—are you asking God for the “right” thing? Often we ask to be delivered from the storm, but we fail to ask for courage to go out and “*preach to Nineveh*”. Are you looking for a circumcised heart? Are you making sure that all of the self / old man has been crucified?

James 4:3 *Or you pray and don’t receive, because you pray with the wrong motive, that of wanting to indulge your own desires.*

People who know who they are in the Covenant i.e. we are Sons / Daughters of Abraham through the completed work of the Messiah, and are grafted into the NATURAL OLIVE TREE and we draw our strength from the Root—the Messiah - **will know that they have a calling.**

If we are mature believers, then we will know that each person is allocated to a particular place around the camp, each person is allocated with a unique gifting that places us in a special position in the Body.

We will then also know, whom to turn to when storms arise around us as a result of our own actions in NOT being the Light that we are called to.

The following passages highlight what God does when we repent, return to our calling:

Psalms 57:2-4 *Show me favor, God, show me favor; for in You I have taken refuge. Yes, I will find refuge in the Shadow of Your Wings until the storms have passed. I call to God, the Most High, to God, who is accomplishing His purpose for me. He will send from Heaven and save me when those who would trample me down mock me. (Selah) God will send His grace and His Truth.*

Romans 8:15 *For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to bring you back again into fear; on the contrary, you received the Spirit, who makes us sons and by whose power we cry out, “Abba!” (that is, “Dear Father!”). The Spirit Himself bears witness with our own spirits that we are children of God; and if we are children, then we are also heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with the Messiah — provided we are suffering with Him in order also to be glorified with Him.*

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ARE UNREPENTANT AFTER GETTING A SECOND CHANCE?

Jonah goes to Nineveh and delivers the prophetic word. The king responds and makes a commitment to change. Importantly, he has enough leadership ability to lead all of his people to repentance.

This passage in Jonah is written in a very particular style, the purpose of which is to highlight for us what the most important point is in the passage.

Let us look at this portion - **the purpose of the vine is to highlight to Jonah that his anger has no foundation (he has no reason to be angry at all) in the greater order of God's plan to save all nations.**

Literary Unity of **Jonah 4**

- A. A great evil came upon Jonah (his anger) (4:1-2b)
- B. The LORD's compassion (reported by Jonah) (4:2c-d)
- C. Jonah's response: "I am better off dead" (4:3)
- D. The LORD's question: "Do you do well to be angry?" (4:4)
- E. Jonah built a booth to wait for God's anger (4:5)

X. THE GROWTH AND DESTRUCTION OF PLANT (4:6-7)



- E. God appointed the scorching east wind which brought anguish (4:8)
- D. God's question: "Do you do well to be angry?" (4:9a)
- C. Jonah's response: "I do well to be angry—unto death" (4:9b)
- B. Jonah's compassion (reported by the LORD) (4:10)
- A. The LORD justifies His compassion for Nineveh (4:11)

Yet Jonah is **angry and unhappy**.

Jonah 4:9-10 God asked Yonah, "Is it right for you to be so angry about the castor-bean plant?" He answered, "Yes, it's right for me to be so angry that I could die!" ADONAI said, "You're concerned over the castor-bean plant, which cost you no effort; you didn't make it grow; it came up in a night and perished in a night."

Jonah makes / builds a shelter for himself, what we would call a *sukkah*¹ / temporary shelter (**Jonah 4:5**). God decides that He will build / provide a better shelter / sukkah, and this time a vine. (**Jonah 4:6**)

¹ a Temporary shelter covered in natural materials, and used especially for meals during the Biblical Feast of Succoth.

Think about this for a minute. *God provides a covering for you when you live out your calling. Some questions:*

- * *Do you walk with a covering from God today?*
- * *Have you recently destroyed your covering?*
- * *Have you ever had God's covering in your life?*

Jonah is happy with the plant / covering that God makes, but his heart is wrong. He wants to sit in the shade and watch Nineveh burn.



How does this fit in with this Scripture? Would this attitude cause you to want to afflict your soul?

1 Peter 3:8 Finally, all of you, be one in mind and feeling; love as brothers; and be compassionate and humble-minded, not repaying evil with evil or insult with insult, but, on the contrary, with blessing. **For it is to this that you have been called, so that you may receive a blessing.**



For many years this plant has been wrongly identified as the “Cucurbit / Gourd” - name of the plant²).

In fact, a study by the Agricultural Research Organization-Neve Ya'ar Research center in Israel, will tell you that the real plant is the “**qiqayon**” – or more commonly known as the castor plant.

When Jonah sees that God's plan is going ahead he becomes angry!!! And wants to die!!

It is now that we begin to see why it is that we have to afflict our souls.

- 🕒 How can you be angry when God does what He says He will do?
- 🕒 Do you have the elements of Justice, Compassion and Humbleness?
- 🕒 Are you COVERING your good actions by ministering in the self / ego / old man?

When God gives you a second chance at something that you failed on the first time around —*what should you do?*

- 🕒 Surely you think about it and decide to learn some lessons?
- 🕒 Surely you make plans not to fall into the same trap again?
- 🕒 Surely you make sure that you don't go around the mountain one more time?

****NUGGET!**** When God removes His covering, then the heat and the wind of tribulation will beat down on you.

SO WHAT DO THE WORM AND THE WHALE HAVE IN COMMON?

God gave ***both of them purpose:***

- 🕒 The **whale** was meant to save Jonah in the **physical in major crises**.
- 🕒 The **worm** was intended to make Jonah **uncomfortable / irritable** in the **spiritual domain**.

² The **Cucurbitaceae**, also called **cucurbits** and the **gourd family**, are a [plant family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cucurbitaceae) consisting of ca 965 species, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cucurbitaceae>

Jonah 1:17 *ADONAI prepared (appointed-assigned—ordained) a huge fish to swallow Yonah; and Yonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.*

Jonah 4:7 *But at dawn the next day God prepared a worm, which attacked the castor-bean plant, so that it dried up.*

There is something more to consider about the worm. We see that God provides the “manna” in the wilderness, much like He provided the vine for Jonah.

However, if the people gathered too much and tried to store up—to keep more than they needed, then worms would appear and the manna would stink. Is it also not interesting that the “worms” and the “hot” sun are also found together?

Exodus 16:20 *But they didn't pay attention to Moshe, and some kept the leftovers until morning. It bred worms and rotted, which made Moshe angry at them. So they gathered it morning after morning, each person according to his appetite; but as the sun grew hot, it melted.*

What do you think of Jonah's behaviour - **do you not think that it was stinking?**

The Bible is clear—there will come a day that our deeds will be evaluated - some are going to be chaff and others gold and precious stones. This passage tells us that, with regard to your actions and in respect of your willingness to accept and function in your calling, that God's evaluation thereof will be revealed to you in your lifetime.

The following questions help you to think about whether you are serving in your calling or not!!

1. Has your God-given shelter / vine / *sukkah* been removed, do you still sense His covering?
2. Has the sun started to shine its greatest heat on you recently, are you experiencing an uncomfortable time ?
3. Have strangers that you know received a miracle from God while you stand unhappy by on the sideline - is there a bad smell about your work in the Kingdom?

If you can identify with any signs then just maybe you should come into the Tabernacle and “afflict your soul” - this would be the time to repent, think about the strangers in your midst, and ask God to give you a second chance...

Worms teach us that:



and consume it.

1. When we lust after things to keep them for ourselves, then we will fail. We have been given a calling—if we keep it for ourselves / for a special group, then the worms will come

Psalms 10:3 *For the wicked boasts about his lusts; he blesses greed and despises ADONAI.*

2. When we keep a calling for ourselves, our acts of disobedience will bring death and destruction, as that which is supposed to be a blessing becomes putrid and stinks.

Colossians 3:6 ... for it is because of these things that God's anger is coming on those who disobey him.

3. When we sow in every place that God requires, then our calling (even if it is small) will be like "manna", fresh every morning.

Psalms 37:25 I have been young; now I am old; yet not once have I seen the righteous abandoned or his descendants begging for bread. All day long he is generous and lends, and his descendants are blessed.

A worm mentality is revealed in the following:

Worms love the earth—**so does the "old-man" love the earthly things.**

Amos 2:6-7 Here is what ADONAI says: "For Isra'el's three crimes, no, four — I will not reverse it — because they sell the upright for silver and the poor for a pair of shoes, grinding the heads of the poor in the dust and pushing the lowly out of the way; father and son sleep with the same girl, profaning My Holy Name."

IS THERE A CONNECTION THAT WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT?

We read that we must afflict our souls. As I sit back and consider this story, I cannot help but connect the story of Jonah, together with David, Goliath, and Samson (**Judges 16**).

In all three stories we find that the god **Dagon** represent the enemy. Is there any connection that is important for us to consider at this Feast?

Dagon is a god - provider of grain, a fertility ritual pagan religion. But the Hebrew word '**dag**' means **fish**—and for some reason gets translated into the fish-god.

The priest in this pagan religion wear the skin of a fish, the head of the fish goes over the head, and the scaly tail drops down the back to form a cloak.

Interestingly these priests are called "your highness" and have their hands "kissed" and serve in a temple called the "house of the Star".

I am sure that as you read these words you recognize the symbols / habits of modern day religions.

I asked –what do we have to afflict our souls with?

As I look at this Dagon connection, I realize that many believers today honestly think that they serve God IN PURITY and Love. HOWEVER, we are often guided by traditions, rituals from the past that are not supported in the Bible in any way.

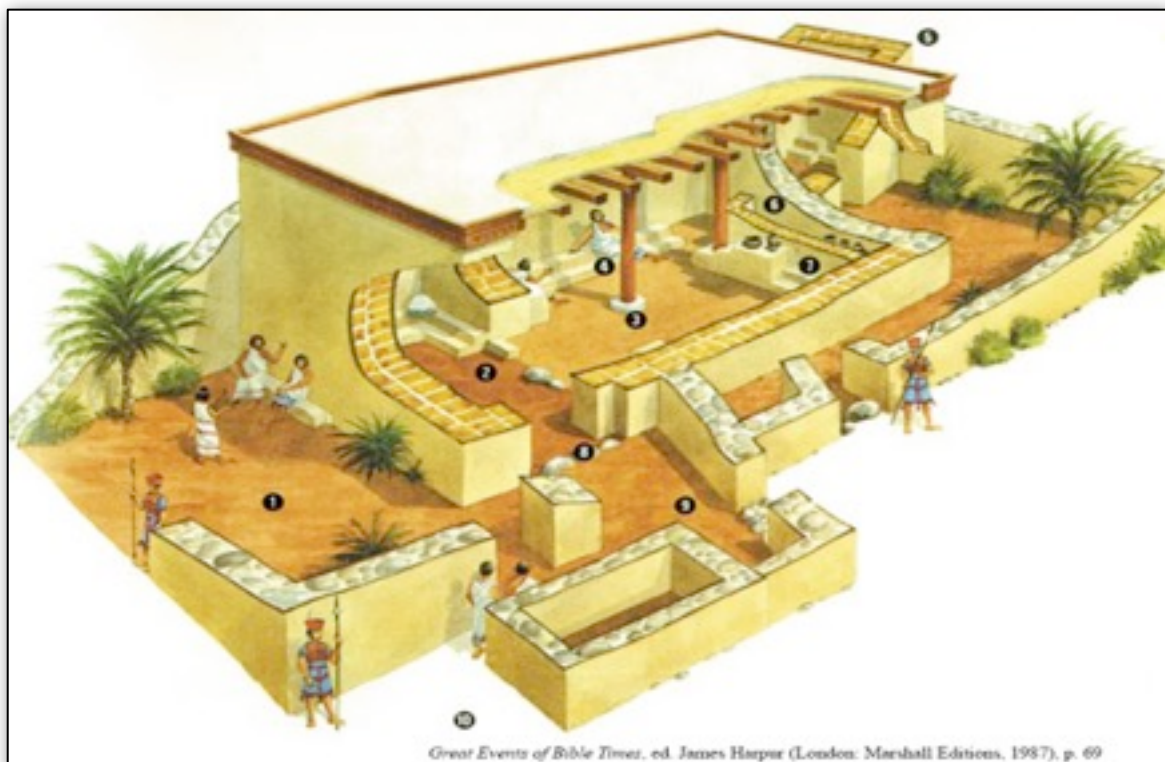
These habits, although seemingly innocent, could very easily have their roots in some strange and foreign pagan ritual.

- Do you take the “word” of other leaders / teachers without careful evaluation?
- Do you allow traditions to become a minimum standard in your worship?
- Do you regularly make elements of the world system a part of what you do (for example—do you search for leaven at Passover to teach the children a principle, or is it merely a ritual—remember we should be searching for the spiritual leaven of malice and so on).

If we have twisted “religious” beliefs - a mixture of God’s Standard and some pagan ideas, and some of our own thoughts, then we are “unclean” and must be outside of the CAMP.

I suggest that part of the afflicting of your souls, is to evaluate how much of the “world system” we have allowed to filter into our worship of God.

Samson, has this opportunity. It is while he is imprisoned in Gaza. He has lost his physical sight, but as he goes through these final hours, his “spiritual sight” is returned to him, and he takes the opportunity to destroy those things, which he allowed to enter his life. Below is an illustration of what they think the smaller temple in Ashdod looked like.



I have been asking whether **we have allowed the “things” of the world to influence our Godly value system and values?**

There is an interesting story that deserves to be highlighted here. You will recall that the Philistines take the ARK and place it in the presence of Dagon. Dagon falls over and its arms and head are cut off.

Have you noticed the following verse?

1 Samuel 2:5 *This is why the priests of **Dagon** and all who enter the house of **Dagon** do not tread on the threshold of **Dagon** in Ashdod to this day.*

Have you ever wondered why these priests would **not tread on the threshold** of their own temple?

Dagon: Hebrew Strong's 1712

Dagon = "a fish"

1. A Philistine deity of fertility; represented with the face and hands of a man and the tail of a fish.

Tread: Hebrew Strong's 1869

To tread, bend, lead, march

Threshold: Hebrew Strong's 4670

A stretcher, i.e. a sill:—threshold.

****NUGGET!**** The priests are acknowledging the fact that “their god” no longer rules over this piece of ground and that they have **NO** authority over this temple space.

The people of Nineveh repent, but their god remains standing in their temples, their repentance will not last—and it does not.



A FINAL THOUGHT

God does not want to bring affliction on us!!

Lamentation 3:33 *This is why the priests of **Dagon** and all who enter the house of **Dagon** do not tread on the threshold of **Dagon** in Ashdod to this day.*

God does want us to fulfill our calling!

However, the choice remains ours.

- 🕒 Are you walking in obedience to His Commandments?
- 🕒 Are you walking in the fullness of your calling?
- 🕒 Are you reflecting the fruit of your calling?

If this is where you are, then you have no need to afflict your soul.



If this is where you are - then you are living the symbol of the DOVE.

SHALOM.

The Priestly Blessing ...

Numbers 6:24-26

“²⁴ The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: ²⁵ The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: ²⁶ The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

The Priestly Blessing ...

Hebraic Translation³

"YHVH will kneel before you presenting gifts, and
He will guard you with a hedge of protection,
YHVH will illuminate the wholeness of His Being
toward you, bringing order, and He will provide
you with love, sustenance, and friendship, YHVH
will lift up the wholeness of His Being and look
upon you, and He will set in place all you need to
be whole and complete."

³ Translation by Jeff A. Benner, for more information, please see http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/12_blessing.html

The Priestly Blessing¹

יְבָרֶכְךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמְרֶךָ:

and may he guard you the LORD may he bless you

May the LORD² bless you³ and keep you⁴

יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיַּחֲנֶנֶךָ:

and show you favor on you his face the LORD May he shine

May the LORD make His face⁵ shine⁶ upon you and be gracious⁷ to you

יִשָּׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם:

peace for you and establish on you his face the LORD may he lift up

May the LORD lift up⁸ his face to you and give you peace⁹

¹ This blessing is (ritually) recited (by the kohanim) during synagogue services during *Nesiat Kapayim* ("the Raising of the Hands"), though it is also recited over children on Friday night before the start of the Shabbat meal or as a bedtime blessing.

² The name *YHVH* (יהוה) represents God's attributes of love and mercy (מִדַּת הַרְחָמִים), in contradistinction to the name *Elohim* (אֱלֹהִים), which represents God's attribute of justice and power as our Creator.

³ בְּרַכָּה (*b'rachah*). Jewish tradition considers this both material and spiritual prosperity. Pirkei Avot 3:15 says, "If there is no flour, there is no Torah," by which is meant that material benefits are intended to help you pursue study of Torah. The first occurrence of the word "blessing" in the Scriptures pertains to *pru urvu* (פְּרוּ וּרְבוּ), "be fruitful and multiply" (Gen. 1:22).

⁴ שָׁמַר (*shamar*): To guard, protect, heed, as in the exercise of diligent care. Only God has the power to secure the conferred blessing and keep it from turning sour or from fading away.

⁵ The word for "face" (פָּנִים) is plural with the 3rd person singular ending. It is considered metaphorical since God is incorporeal. The plural form is thought by some to indicate God's revealed and hidden attributes in creation.

⁶ The hiphil verb (יָאֵר) comes from the word "light" (אֹר), and is thought to refer to God's wisdom. "May God enlighten you" with His wisdom, i.e., the Divine Light that preceded the work of creation (Gen. 1:3).

⁷ May God grant you grace or favor (חֵן), i.e., to understand the "breadth and length and height and depth" of God's love (Eph. 3:18). Grace refers to the bestowal of an undeserved gift. The blessing is bestowed even though unearned or unmerited.

⁸ Since one's face is an indication of the heart's attitude, Rashi says that this means God will suppress His anger by "looking at you" (if God is angry at you, He "turns His face away" and refuses to admit your presence). The "lifting of face" also pictures God lifting you up as a father might lift up his child in joy. The "showing of face" indicates spiritual intimacy.

⁹ All of the other blessings are useless without the establishment of inner peace, and therefore it is the seal of the blessing. Shalom (שְׁלוֹם) is not simply the absence of strife, but a balance and harmony between the finite and infinite, the temporal and the eternal, the material and the spiritual realms. Shalom is a gift from Sar Shalom (שַׂר שְׁלוֹם), the Prince of Peace.