

05/03/2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL Section Review

SOCIAL TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH

Fulfilling Our Obligations to Family and Community

- **April:** We learned of the Church's responsibility to obey the law, pray for government leadership, to protect and uplift children and to honor the institution of marriage

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ
05/03/2026

By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent

SOCIAL TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH

Fulfilling Our Obligations to God and Society

Christian Expectation of Grace

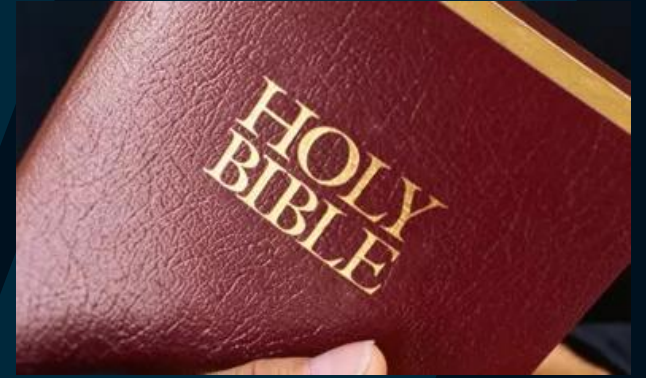
Jonah 3:1-5; 4:6-11

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*Context Text

JONAH 1:1 – 2 (NKJV)

¹ The Lord gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: ² “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are.”

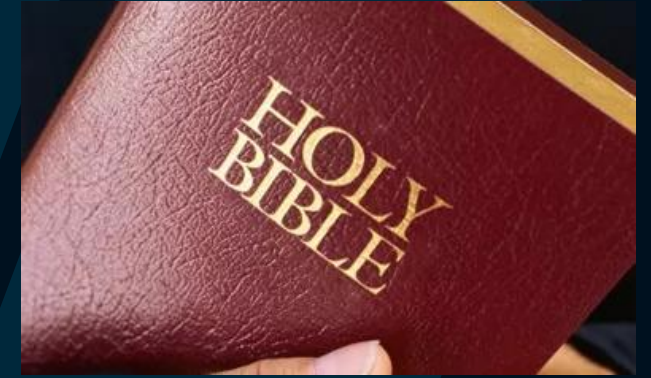


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*Context Text

JONAH 1:3 (NKJV)

³ But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish.



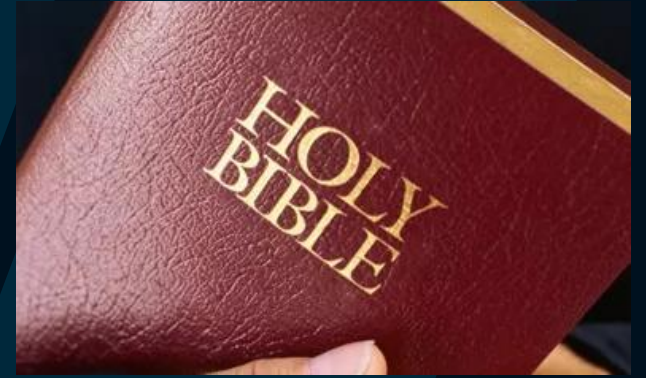
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Lesson Text

JONAH 3:1 – 2 (NKJV)

¹ 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.”

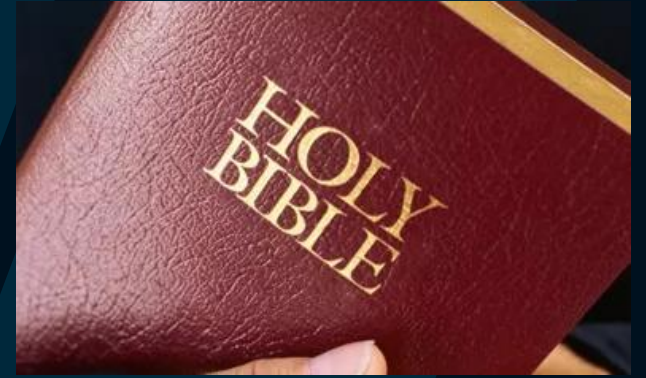


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Lesson Text

JONAH 3:3 (NKJV)

³ So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, [a]a three-day journey in extent.

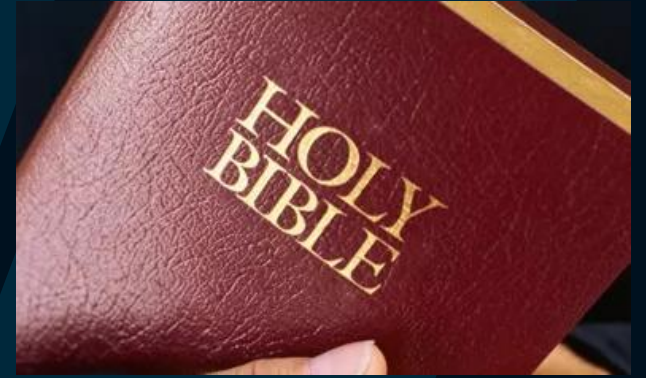


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Lesson Text

JONAH 3:4 (NKJV)

⁴ 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!"



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Lesson Text

JONAH 3:5 (NKJV)

⁵ So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

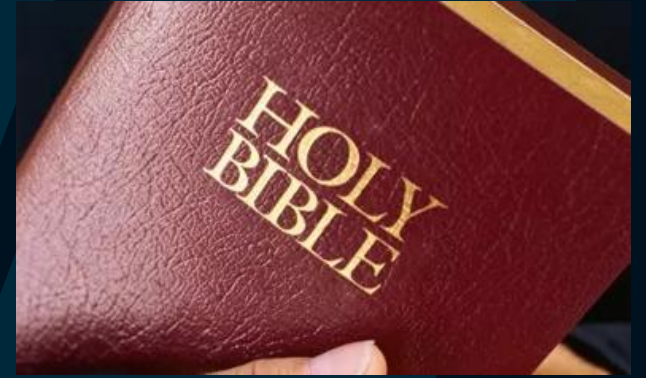


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*Context Text

JONAH 3:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, **he changed his mind** and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.

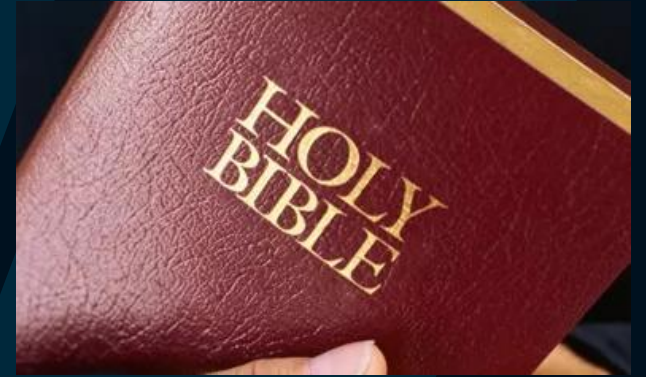


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*Context Text

JONAH 3:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, **he changed his mind** and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.



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Commentary: God's Sovereignty

- People often cite verses like **Malachi 3:6** ("I the LORD do not change") or **Hebrews 13:8** ("Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever") to defend a stance they have about God but we see in Scripture times where He clearly does in terms of outcomes and judgments

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Commentary: God's Sovereignty

- Just as a court judge does today, while he acknowledges and judges a defendant guilty of the charges filed against them and there can be guidelines on what the penalties should be, the judge has the right to levy whatever judgement they see fit or to waive the judgement altogether.

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Commentary: God's Sovereignty

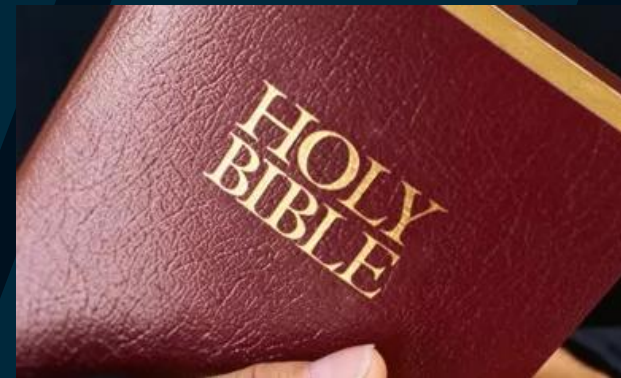
- Being sovereign, God reserves the right to change whenever He wants
- What does not change is:
 - His **Righteousness**
 - His **Love**
 - His **Mercy**
 - His **Justice**
 - His **Forgiveness**

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*Context Text

JONAH 4:1-2a (NLT)

¹ This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. ² So he complained to the Lord about it: "Didn't I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? **That is why I ran away to Tarshish!**"

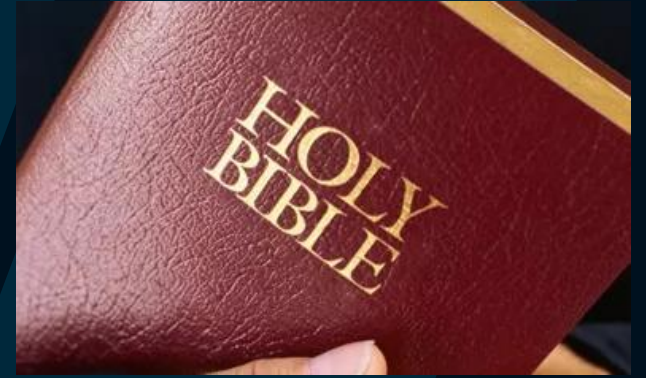


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*Context Text

JONAH 4:2b (NLT)

² I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are **eager to turn back from destroying people.**



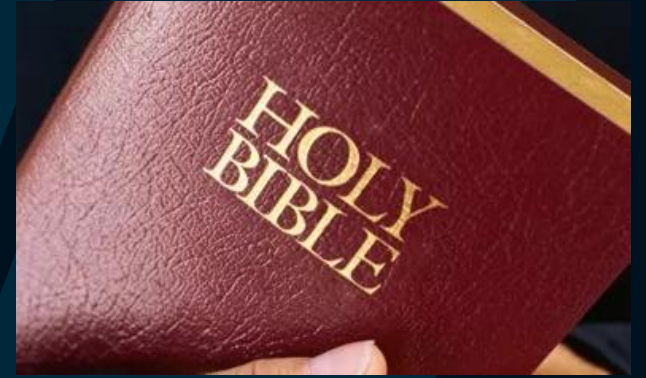
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*Context Text

JONAH 4:3 – 4 (NLT)

³ Just kill me now, Lord! I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen."

⁴ The Lord replied, "Is it right for you to be angry about this?"



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Commentary: “Why You Mad Bruh?”

- If we're honest with ourselves, the mercy of God can anger us.
- This is can be due to our sense that the one receiving mercy does not deserve it or that the person is 'faking' humility to appeal to God's compassion
- It can also be due to our own self-righteousness, which itself is problematic

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Commentary: “Why You Mad Bruh?”

- This attitude in Jonah was also in ‘The Prodigal Son’s’ “good brother” who was angry when his father received the prodigal son back
(**Luke 15:28 – 32**)

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Commentary: “Why You Mad Bruh?”

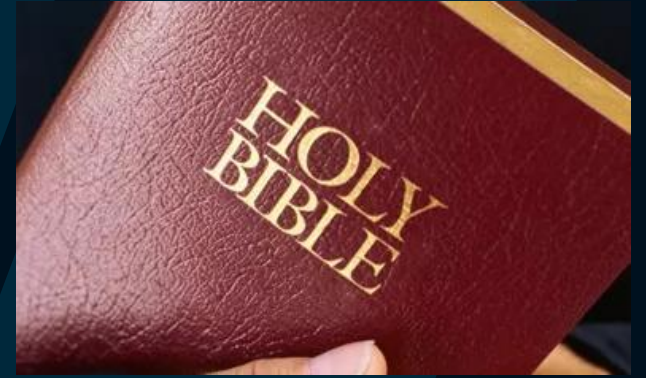
- It is not up to us to determine the sincerity of one's repentance, but our hate can blind us when the evidence is in front of us
- We must remember the grace and mercy God grants us every day... that we have all sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God (**Romans 3:23**)

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Lesson Text

JONAH 4:6 (NKJV)

⁶ And the Lord God prepared a [a]plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah [b]was very grateful for the plant.

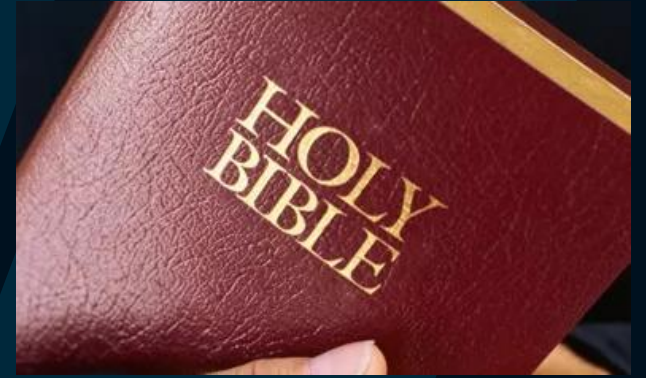


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Lesson Text

JONAH 4:7 (NKJV)

⁷ But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered.

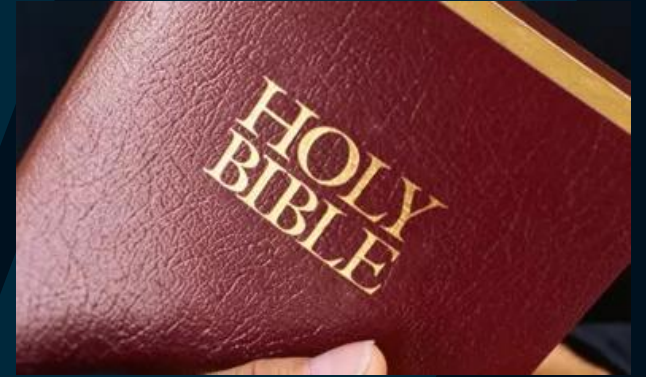


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Lesson Text

JONAH 4:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."



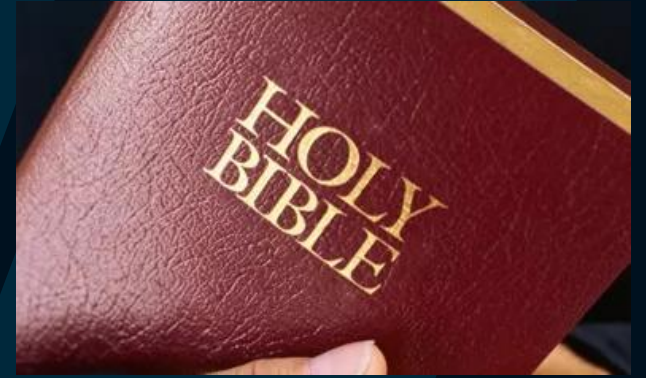
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Lesson Text

JONAH 4:9 (NKJV)

⁹ Then God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

And he said, “It is right for me to be angry, even to death!”



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Lesson Text

JONAH 4:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ But the Lord said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which [c]ame up in a night and perished in a night.

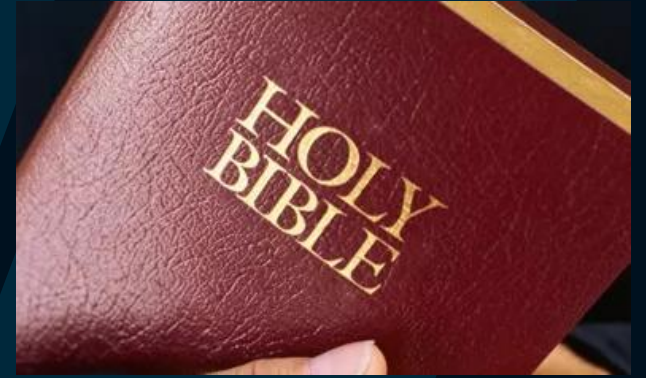


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Lesson Text

JONAH 4:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?”



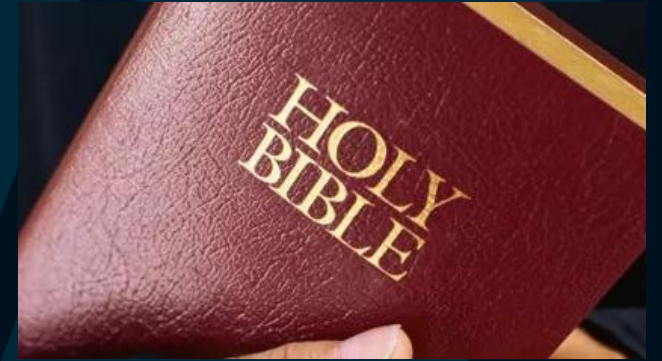
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Commentary: Selfish Priorities

- In verse 4:3, we see Jonah was driven by ego as he was embarrassed that what he said did not come to pass. It was not about the people but about himself
- This was also shown in his concern for the plant over the that of the people and livestock in Nineveh. We put possessions over people

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Scripture References



Refer to Lesson

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Church School Creed

Our Church School must grow & grow
And we must help to make it so
Every member a Christian
Every Christian a worker
Every worker trained
A worker that will not be ashamed
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

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Church School Benediction

We have come

We have studied

We have learned

So until our next coming together

To study God's word

May His rich blessings reside with you

And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN