

Use God Warnings to Change God's Mind

(September 20, 2020; By Rev. Anthony Menzel)

The Lord Jesus doesn't want anyone to suffer...

Ezekiel 18:21-32

21 “But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. **22** None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live. **23** Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord God, “*and* not that he should turn from his ways and live?”

24 “But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked *man* does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die.

25 “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? **26** When a righteous *man* turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. **27** Again, when a wicked *man* turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. **28** Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. **29** Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not fair.’ O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair?”

30 “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,” says the Lord God. “Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. **31** Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die,

O house of Israel? **32** For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,” says the Lord God. “Therefore turn and live!”

That’s why the story of Jesus Christ is called the Gospel, which means Good News...
God wants the best for all of us...
I repeat that He does not want us to suffer...

John 3:16-17

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

The Lord may permit suffering so that we can grow spiritually, but He does not enjoy seeing us suffer...

James 1:2-4

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces ^[a]patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be ^[b]perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

If the Lord Jesus allows us to suffer, it is to bless us in the end...

Hebrews 6:10-12

¹⁰ For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and ^[d]labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. ¹¹ And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² that you do not become ^[e]sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Thus, when the Lord sends us a word of prophecy that is very negative, it is generally a warning...

He is giving us a wake up call...

If we listen to that wake up call, we can usually change His mind...

Jonah 3

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.” **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*. **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!”

The People of Nineveh Believe

5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. **6** Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered *himself* with sackcloth and sat in ashes. **7** And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his [b]nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. **8** But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. **9** Who can tell *if* God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?

10 Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.

Our church had received a word in April of this year that another plague, perhaps with mosquitoes, was going to follow COVID....

If this word doesn't come to pass, I believe it's likely to be because churches like ours have been repenting...

Some people might say it's repetitive for us to intercede for spiritual awakening... But it's not repetitive to the Lord Jesus as long as the prayer comes from the heart...

1 Samuel 1:1-18

Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of [a]Elihu, the son of [b]Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. **2** And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. **3** This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the Lord, were there. **4** And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. **5** But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the Lord had closed her womb. **6** And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the Lord had closed her womb. **7** So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the Lord, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.

Hannah's Vow

8 Then Elkanah her husband said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? *Am* I not better to you than ten sons?"

9 So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the [c]tabernacle of the Lord. **10** And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and [d]wept in anguish. **11** Then she made a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give

Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.”

12 And it happened, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli watched her mouth. **13** Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. **14** So Eli said to her, “How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!”

15 But Hannah answered and said, “No, my lord, I *am* a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord. **16** Do not consider your maidservant a wicked[e] woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now.”

17 Then Eli answered and said, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him.”

18 And she said, “Let your maidservant find favor in your sight.” So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer *sad*.

The Lord Jesus was pleased with Hannah’s prayers because they came from her heart...

She kept praying until she received confirmation that her prayers were answered...

Genesis 32.24-30

24 Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the [g]breaking of day. **25** Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He [h]touched the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. **26** And He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.”

But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!”

27 So He said to him, “What *is* your name?”

He said, “Jacob.”

28 And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but [i]Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

29 Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell *me* Your name, I pray.”

And He said, “Why *is* it *that* you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there.

30 So Jacob called the name of the place [j]Peniel: “For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.” **31** Just as he crossed over [k]Penuel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip. **32** Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which *is* on the hip socket, because He [l]touched the socket of Jacob’s hip in the muscle that shrank.

That is why we keep praying variants of the same prayer for spiritual awakening...
We are not going to let God go until He blesses us...

Through Sister Lorena, our church has recently received two words of warning from the Lord...

((They are in Spanish, so they will be translated orally at this time; then we will pray for spiritual awakening, as well as for personal needs, according to...

Matthew 8:5-10

⁵ Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, ⁶ saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”

⁷ And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”

⁸ The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this *one*, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does *it*.”

¹⁰ When Jesus heard *it*, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!

