

“The Unreasonable Compassion of God”

Judges 10:6-16

February 16, 2020

I. Same Old, Same Old...Sort of – Judges 10:6-16

- A. Israel wickedly turned to idols, again (though more so!).
- B. God sent oppressors, again.
- C. Israel cries out for help, again.
- D. Yet, this time God says “no”, and deservedly so!
- E. God’s compassion is stirred again, nonetheless, leading to Jephthah.

II. Other Displays of God’s Admittedly Shocking Compassion

A. Compassion for King Ahab

1 Kings 21:25–26 - ²⁵ Surely there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife incited him. ²⁶ He acted very abominably in following idols, according to all that the Amorites had done, whom the Lord cast out before the sons of Israel.

1 Kings 21:27 - It came about when Ahab heard these words, that he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and fasted, and he lay in sackcloth and went about despondently.

1 Kings 21:28–29 - ²⁸ Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, ²⁹ “Do you see how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the evil in his days, but I will bring the evil upon his house in his son’s days.”

B. Compassion for the Ninevites

Jonah 4:1–3 - ¹ But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, “Please Lord, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity. ³ “Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life.”

Jonah 4:11 - “Should I [God] not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?”

C. Compassion for Non-repentant Israel in Hosea’s day

Hosea 11:8–9 - ⁸ How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I surrender you, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart is turned over within Me, All My compassions are kindled. ⁹ I will not execute My fierce anger; I will not destroy Ephraim again. For I am God and not man, the Holy One in your midst, And I will not come in wrath.

D. Compassion for Us

Psalm 103:10 - He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

III. Proper Responses to God's Compassion

A. Love and Loyalty to God

Romans 12:1 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Titus 2:11–12 - ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

B. Compassion for Others

Colossians 3:12 - So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience