

Part 2 –It’s really NOT too late!

Father really wants to forgive the nations

Are Revelation and Daniel prophecies foregone conclusions?

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Summary:

If the last message didn’t persuade you, please hear this one. The Church says the world needs to repent. True. But how many times have we actually asked Yahweh to bring our nation to repentance and to be merciful to the church and nation? Many who came before us did, so why aren’t we? Was Nineveh a “one off”? Why is there an “us vs. them” mentality? What will the end time Elijah’s message be? Yahweh seeks someone praying “on behalf of the land”. Will you? Can your country still come to repentance? Will you stand in the gap and pray?

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(This is an approximate “transcript”. I recommend you also hear the audio.)

Greetings again, children of our Father’s House. This is Philip Shields, your brother in Christ, with a Part 2 of my last sermon.

Last time I asked you if you ever pray for your city, your country, or even for all nations to have a true awakening, to repent and come to God. I want to address it again and go deeper. Some of you still aren’t convinced that it’s not too late for our nations to repent. Even if you agree or disagree, I pray you will listen carefully to this teaching today.

I’d given the sermon on **Nineveh** and how Jonah just preached a “Warning Message” but apparently didn’t really expect them to repent. But they did. And Yahweh relented from wiping them off the face of the earth as punishment for their serious sins. If you haven’t heard my sermon “Are you a Jonah or a Matthew?” I hope you will.

So that got me thinking: Why can’t that happen again? **Is Nineveh a “one off”, never to be repeated?** I gave a lot of scriptures and reasons in the last sermon to show that Yahweh reserves the right to change what He says He’s about to do – IF – if people repent.

I also showed how ***SO many of those who went before us, prayed for their country to repent and for our Father to be merciful.*** So many. You remember the examples I gave of Samuel, Moses, Aaron, Nehemiah, Daniel, SO many of the prophets – Jeremiah, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Amos - have examples of intercessory prayer for the nation. Esther, thank Yahweh for her, organized a 3-day fast for her court staff to pray for their country. Deborah praised and prayed for the country. In Jehoshaphat’s day – men, women and children all gathered to pray (2 Chronicles 20). So whether you’re a man or woman, if you’re a child who believes, I hope you will hear this sermon and take it to heart. *The future of your family, your church, your city and your country depends on us praying, and I’ll prove it.*

If you believe it's too late, or the world and our country too evil to repent and for God's pronouncements to be changed by Him -- then isn't that being a Jonah? Isn't that saying something's impossible to our Creator? Isn't that saying that though He states over and over that He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, that He can't cause a nation to see its need to repent?

WHY SOME FEEL “IT’S POINTLESS, TOO LATE TO PRAY for the nation”

Some of you did agree last time. Have you started praying for your own repentance, then the church, then your country? We have to go beyond wishing to actually praying.

Others however have concluded it's too late. They are sure the country is not going to repent. Here are some of their reasons:

- **Our understanding that only a few are being called now** has led some to the false conclusion that therefore it's pointless to pray for others. “If Father's not working with them, why pray for them?” Of course, I'd say go tell Paul that then (Romans 10:1-2). And how do you or I *know* which people, which nation for that matter will be the ones Yahweh will lead to repentance – if we would just believe? I believe Father is working with His children long before they – or others – “see” it.
- **Some still believe we're commanded NOT to pray for the world.**

I know these verses, several in Jeremiah, and am not ignoring them. I did comment on that last time. There *were* specific times Jeremiah and others were told not to pray. Certainly in **John 17:9** Yeshua says at that time His prayer was for the disciples, not for the world. He was sending them into the world though (vs. 15, 18), later to make disciples of all nations.

But PAUL prayed for his country (Rom. 9:1-4; 10:1-2) as did so many others I showed last time. Even Jeremiah did. Moses did, even after being told to distance himself from the mob. Sometimes maybe Yahweh is testing our hearts to see if we have a heart for the people of the world.

- **There DO seem to be some clear verses that imply once Yahweh has declared something, His word will be accomplished.** So, we ask – what's the point? We'll explore that more too. I did give several examples last time of Yahweh changing His mind when there was intercession, and I'll show you more today.
- Perhaps another reason some don't pray for national repentance and forgiveness is that **some of us have a “them vs. us” mentality.** We're not part of them or their world. We're part of heaven's world. It can become elitist and exclusivist though and in the end bite us. Some have come so far out of the world that some have developed a very condemning attitude to people, sinners, in the world. But *our Father “sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”* Isn't that somewhere in the Bible? (John 3:17). We'll talk about it.

- I think a major reason we don't pray for the nation is- are you ready for this? – is that **too many of us are a modern day Jonah**. We just want to preach “the Ezekiel warning message”, to cry aloud and show my people their sins, and to announce – like Jonah – that in a short time doom and calamity is coming. But have we missed the last part of the message, that if people turn around and seek the Living God, He is an amazing Father with a heart like no other? Hear my sermon on “Are you a Jonah or a Matthew” for a full explanation of all that.
- Finally we'll talk about **the end-time Elijah's message**. *Why will he come preaching repentance at the end time if there's no point in preaching it!?*

I believe this is a most important sermon for any of you who are children of Yahweh.

Likelihood is Slim, but...

Now I'll be the first to **say the likelihood of any real repentance happening on a massive scale is almost nil**. I know that. I see the wickedness piling on in every direction you look, like you do. In every way possible, we are becoming like evil Sodom of old and Yahweh even calls us modern –day Sodom. So likelihood of any real repentance is almost nil – **but our God is a miracle-working God**. And He derives no joy in punishing the wicked or the death of the wicked, according to HIS own words.

Nineveh, in my view, is not a one-off. There can be more.

Let's review this point of whether or not Yahweh relents if there's a change, once He's pronounced calamity. Of course don't forget Nineveh!

Jeremiah 18:7-9 – Yahweh speaking:

The instant **I speak** concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, **8 if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster** that I thought to bring upon it.

(Let's continue in verse 11)

11 "Now therefore, speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus **says YHVH**: "Behold, I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you. **Return now everyone from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.**"

Are we hearing Yahweh's heart? How did they respond? Could this be you or I?

Jeremiah 18:12

And they said, "**That is hopeless!** So we will walk according to our own plans, and we will every one obey the dictates of his evil heart."

They didn't get it. They thought it was hopeless. So nothing changed. And disaster DID come upon them. These things are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the age are coming. Are we going to heed and learn – or not?

I've been reading through so much of the Prophets lately, though it is clear that Yahweh is royally ticked off, really angry at the whole world by the time we come down to the last 2-3 years before Yeshua lands on the Mt. of Olives, it's also clear that Yahweh keeps coming back to the thought that He really is still hoping people repent.

Praying this way is GOOD for us too!

So don't give up on the possibility. It worked for Nineveh. It can happen again. ***And if it doesn't? I believe this kind of praying will be good for us. Ezekiel 9 says as much.***

I got an email from a dear brother who attends with one of the COG (Church of God) groups here in the west, who did get the message. Here's what he said. There's a message here for us:

"I thank for your last message. I read most of it at four this morning and just finished it. It certainly hit home. Speaking for myself I must admit **that I was very complacent** about what is going to happen to our cities and country. Sort of **it's inevitable** and going to happen regardless of whether I pray or not. **I keep having to remind myself that if you pray for someone you can't be angry with them and so your mind truly benefits regardless whether they repent or not.** Thank you again Philip. I will pass along your sermon."

This man has Father's heart. That's what I'm trying to get across to all of you. Feel our Father's heart's desire and please, fall on your face on the carpet in your home and beg first of all for your own repentance and mercy, THEN that He will be merciful to the Body of Christ that lately hasn't been acting right at all. Then pray for your city, your country – that they will repent, that Father will be merciful.

Even if your prayer does not change the course of prophecy – and if the nation doesn't repent – it still will have changed you to have prayed that prayer. That last gentleman who sent that email – got it.

Last night I was speaking with a kindly widow from back east who said something close to this:

"I wasn't taught this before where I had been attending. We just believed only a few are being called now, the rest are doomed to punishment and there was no point in praying for them. You have really opened my eyes. Thank you".

I believe that what will happen to millions and millions of people around the world will largely depend on what the Elect children of Yahweh do -- - or don't do. How we pray, or don't pray. How we care – or don't care. Remember, "but for the elect's sake, no flesh would be saved alive" – in Matthew 24:22?

Praying for our Father's mercy with the world – if from your heart – will be a good thing in His eyes, whether He's able to honor that request or not. That is actually a major reason to be doing this: it's good for US to be this way too! But it must be from your heart.

Let's look at another reason to do this...

YAHWEH'S LOOKING FOR PEOPLE to SPEAK IN BEHALF OF THE LAND

Now turn to Ezekiel 22:30-31. I wept as I read my Father saying this about us today. The context in verses 22-29 is about Israel's spiritual leaders and how they've not "raised the bar" in obedience, they break the Sabbaths, they don't make a difference between the holy and unholy, the clean and unclean. There were gaps in the wall of spiritual defense. Then Yahweh says this:

Ezekiel 22:30-31

*30 So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and **stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.***

*31 **Therefore** I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says Adonai Yahweh.*

Brothers and sisters – are any of you ready to step up and stand in the gap and defend the land? Speak up for our country and God's church? Anyone?

In the book of Isaiah, after a long statement about how bad things are in the nation, we read: (YHVH is the "tetragrammaton" – the 4 letters in Hebrew for the Creator's name. I usually write it out as Yahweh. It could be Yahuwah, Yahueh, or Yahweh).

Isaiah 59:14-16

*14 Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off;
For truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.*

15 So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.

Then YHVH saw it, and it displeased Him [He was offended!]

That there was no justice.

***16 He saw that there was no man,
And wondered that there was NO intercessor.***

NO INTERCESSOR. NO one standing in the breach. NO one. And it amazed Yahweh.

An intercessor is one who prays for others. It's someone who fills the holes in the defensive wall. It's someone who cares enough to come alongside – a Parakletos – and I gave a sermon on that a while back. Yahweh is telling us – and I gave a ton of scriptures last time and more this time –

Our Father is looking for someone to be an intercessor for the body of Christ – spiritual Israel – as well as for the nation.

There were so many who prayed for the nation who went before us. Why can't we be a Nehemiah or a Daniel or an Esther or a Paul?

What's with our generation that YAH says we aren't interceding for the land, for the nation, for the world? People are people. The ones the prophets were praying for were just as carnal as the people living today. That hasn't changed. But Yahweh says He's amazed that no

one was interceding on behalf of the land! NO ONE. *From this moment on, I will be an intercessor in behalf of the land as long as I have breath. Will you join me?*

Will you read **Daniel 9**, four or five times on your knees – and then pray something like it for your country? Would you read the end of **Nehemiah 1**, and pray something like that for your city, your nation and your church and even the country of Israel? Read **Esther 4:13-17**. If WE don't pray for our nation, He can raise rocks or help will come from another place. So a great woman named **Esther** interceded and the fact she organized a fast and prayer session for all male and female Jews in the area for 3 days saved the Jews in captivity. Remember, we ARE to be praying for the peace of Jerusalem and give Him no rest 'Til He makes Jerusalem a praise in the land (Isaiah 62:7). Remember those who bless Israel – and all its descendants – will be blessed (Genesis 12:3). Yes, I sing "God Bless America" because I believe it.

Your heart and mine - - listen carefully brethren – must not be among those prophesied for the end times where it says "and the heart of many shall wax cold" (Matthew 24:12). Let that not be said of any true child of Yahweh, brethren! **BE** someone standing in the breach! Be someone praying for the land. Be someone with a heart that cares. Be one who will be marked by Yahweh as one who is sighing and crying for what we see going on and begging for Yahweh's mercy (Ezekiel 9).

You see, we've been trained to pray "Thy Kingdom come" – as our Master Himself taught us. But let's not translate that to mean "Hurry up and get here so we can get all this bad stuff You gotta do, over and done with".

"Yes, O King – may your kingdom come. Yes, Master. But remember all of us on this planet are but flesh. We're weak, we're sinful. All that's true, but please, Master - - deal with the whole world with as much mercy as you can, please O Yahweh our Father. And we who are of your household, who should know better, have so much to repent of as well. We are splintered, instead of being one body. We attack one another. We gossip. We divorce the spouse You gave us and then marry someone else. Too many of us are "in" Babylon in so many ways. Forgive the land, Creator – and start with us, your people. Help us stand in the gap. Help us BE that intercessor you want."

Don't tell me it's too late. Go back and read the book of Jonah if you need to. Don't tell me it doesn't matter. Yahweh says if it weren't for us, no flesh would be saved alive (Mark 13:20). He says if the coming Elijah does not turn our hearts back to him, He's striking the earth with utter extinction (Mal 4:6). I'm reading what Yahweh is saying – and we need to listen, to wake up. *I'm not here to preach smooth things to you, and really you're not here to listen to smooth things either.*

Another thing about being an intercessor: let's not be guilty of just praying and doing nothing. James warned against the "Be warmed, be filled" syndrome (**James 2:15-17**) – "**Good thoughts going your way**" we say, **but no action to relieve the suffering.** Find a way to proactively help a problem be solved - - now. It's easy to be against things. How about being *for* some positive things and doing something to help?

For example, most of you say you are against **abortion**. How about being *for* life in active ways? How about helping financially support the Clinics who actually do something, who help abandoned young women who are pregnant and need that help so badly? Down the road from me is a clinic with pictures of some of the 1,200 babies whose lives they've rescued from certain abortion. Children of the LIVING God, let's support those clinics, let's encourage and love those girls who messed up but want to do the right thing for their baby going forward. Support them, pray with them, and financially help them. And thank Almighty El Shaddai there are people standing in the gap for these scared pregnant teens and young women.

Do you get the difference? It's much easier to condemn them for whatever sin and then just walk away. That's being a Jonah. But is that what being a light is all about? Is that what Jesus did in John 8 with the woman caught in adultery (where was the man)? Sure, he told her to sin no more but He also said the loving words, "*Neither do I condemn you*". There was something about this sinless Son of God that allowed even terribly sinful women, even the woman at the well in John 4, to feel comfortable around Him. Can a pregnant teen feel that same loving acceptance from you, of that same kingdom that Christ is from?

That's an example of standing in the gap and fighting for something positive. This is just one example. (I said more in the audio).

We have not been called to just sit back and wait for the time we get to flee to a place of safety but could care less really about this world. That's not our Father's or Savior's mindset.

Pray for your future kin

Praying for our future brothers and sisters will be good for us. **Your neighbors and friends at work are your future brothers and sisters – they just don't know it yet.** You know that, because you know the Plan of Salvation, and each one in his time to be called (**1 Cor. 15:20-24**, especially verse 23). They don't know yet that they're your future brothers and sisters – and that's why they sometimes act the way they do towards us. But they will someday be brought to repentance, will be brought into the same family you're already privileged to be a part of, and then you'll fully see them for what they are: your kin!

That's what our Big Brother **Yeshua did on the tree: He interceded for them.** "They know not what they do, forgive them, Father." His mind in us will help us pray the same way.

I saw a floral arrangement with the words "**Kindom of God**" rather than "Kingdom of God". I thought that was profound. Father's Kingdom is a "kin-dom". Satan has kidnapped some of our kin and need to be praying for them.

When you see the world as your future kin – you gotta love them and hope the best for them. This hearkens back to the attitude I mentioned earlier of "**them vs. us**". Get rid of that. It's all of us vs. Satan, who kidnapped the family and sold them into spiritual slavery. Well, they're going to persecute us soon, but they just don't know better, so we'll pray for them anyway. We're told to pray even for our enemies, right? How about our future kin?

YAHWEH LOVES THE WORLD, not just the Church or modern Israel

Another reason perhaps some don't pray fervently "for the world" is that we feel in our heart that God loves His church and the Israelite nations – but maybe not the world so much. God hates the ways of this world, but loves its people. We all grew up with **John 3:16**, how He loved the people of the world so much that He sacrificed His own Son for those who would accept Him. *Sometimes it seems we COG people and Hebrew Roots people forget that.*

All humanity is made in Yahweh's likeness. There is no white, black, brown, green or purple or polka dotted with Him. It must be the same for us. His Son died for the sins of a teenager in Peru as much as He died for your sins or mine. He died for gays or straights in Tel Aviv – which I've been told has about the highest ratio of gays of any city in the world. Yeshua died for those men and women too. *My Father sent His Son to die for Buddhists, Muslims, pagans, Hindus as well as billions who say they are Christian but who sure don't live it.*

You who are reading or hearing this and who may be Hindu, Buddhist or Muslim or even a tired Christian: if the one Living God is working with you, please understand how unique, how special, how loved you are by Him.

He loves everyone. Yeshua prayed for people who would crucify Him. If we are part of that family, why wouldn't we? Sure, when you read the prophets, Yahweh is clearly "ticked off" at the world - **and the whole world is going to feel His wrath.** But at the same time, He died for the whole world and loves the whole world, not just Israel and not just the church.

Many of you are pro your church, or pro America, or Pro-Israel – and against just about everyone else, especially if they're Gentile. Don't be!

Remember when Yeshua got angry at the Jews for keeping Gentiles out of the temple worship? Yeshua quoted **Isaiah 56:6-7** – where Yahweh calls the Gentiles to come worship before Him and to bring their sacrifices to Him on His altar. That was impossible in Yeshua's day! But Gentiles certainly helped build the temple. Don't you remember the cedars of Lebanon, and King Hiram (1 Kings 5:7-12), and the artisans from the various countries? Remember it was Gentile Herod the Edomite (Idumean) who built the temple Yeshua went to.

So Yahweh has a deep love for Gentiles, just as He does Jews and Israelites. In fact Yeshua was raised in Galilee of the Gentiles (**Matthew 4:15**)! In the Millennium, Micah 4:2 says many nations will come to Jerusalem to worship. Zechariah says all nations will come to Jerusalem to keep the feasts. Yahweh finally will be able to welcome His Gentile family also. The marriage of Ruth and Boaz was a picture of this.

So if you're reading or hearing this in a foreign country – in China, Peru, Russia, Iran, Mexico or Thailand or the Philippines – yes, you are loved very, very much by your Maker and He wants you to be praying for your own repentance and forgiveness first, then for your church, then for your nation and the world. I hope you will. Go to my website and contact me if you are in a foreign country hearing this. I'd love to hear that Yahweh has spread His message of calling all nations to you and your ears too.

Let's stop the exclusive elitism we have been subtly preaching – and reach out to see a whole world that needs your love and prayers, even as you recognize the sins of our nations.

WHO IS REALLY “GOD over all the earth”?

I believe yet another reason some of us don't feel like praying for the world or our nation is that we have bought into the notion that Satan is the god of the *world* – and we think this “planet”, this earth. ***But according to scripture, the real “God over all the earth” is not Satan – but God Almighty, Yahweh.*** I think being a little confused on this has been another reason we have distanced ourselves from the folks “out there”. Let me explain.

Satan IS the prince of this world, this age (Eph. 2:2; John 12:31; 14:30). He IS the god of this **age** (2 Cor. 4:4). He is the father of his children – those who follow his ways (John 8:41-45; 1 John 4:4-6). Satan indeed has deceived everyone (Rev. 12:9) **and the whole world is under his sway (1 John 5:19).** But though he's called the “god of this age”, there really is only one true God – and it's Yahweh (John 17:2-3; Isa. 45:21 – no other God besides me”).

So Satan is the god of so many in the world who don't even realize that fact. But the God of the EARTH is not Satan. We have been told so long that Satan is the god of this *world* (2 Cor. 4:4, KJV) that we can forget it should be translated “age”. That's an example where KJV has it so wrong. ***What Satan is “god of” is only a temporary time period. Satan's a frustrated God-wannabe.*** He still has to get permission from Yahweh before he can do what he wants. Remember the book of Job? It's still Yahweh who appoints the kings of the earth, not Satan (Romans 13:1). He's not really god of this world but of this **AGE**. That's what 2 Cor. 4:4 says.

Maybe if we re-educated our thinking to who the One true God is, and that Yahweh is God of all the earth – we will pray more willingly for the people of this world.

I think we'll be more inclined to be actively praying for our earth, for the people on it, when we really understand who is the true God over heaven and earth. It's not Satan, though he wants us to think that.

You can see that phrase – *Yahweh* is “God of the whole earth” in **Micah 4:13; Zechariah 4:14; Rev. 11:4** – meaning the globe, the land, the earth. Remember Yahweh is looking for someone to intercede for the land. Yahweh is not just God of Israel, or just God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Sure, few recognize Him as God or lord/master over them, but He still is supreme, whether they recognize Him or not, over the heavens and earth.

Genesis 24:3 – “Yahweh, the Elohim of heaven and **Elohim of the earth...**”

Rev. 11:4 – “these are the 2 olive trees and 2 lampstands standing before the **God of the earth**”. The Greek means the globe, the earth, the land (**Zechariah 4:14**).

Isaiah 54:5 – “Your Maker is your husband! Yahweh of Hosts is His name; Your redeemer is the holy one of Israel, **He is called God of the whole earth.**”

So yes, Yahweh is the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – but He ultimately is God over all the earth.

WHAT DOESN'T CHANGE: GOD'S HEART! What He IS.

Someone told me Yahweh can't change what He said because Mal 3:6 says "I am Yahweh (the LORD), I do not change". I won't spend a lot of time on this except to say that there are simply too many examples, which I gave last time and will do so again today, where Yahweh did change his mind. Let's read **Malachi 3** in context. It begins with a discussion of His imminent return in verses 1-5.

Malachi 3:6-7

6 "For I am Yahweh, I do not change;

[Too many quit reading and stop right here]

Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

7 Yet from the days of your fathers

You have gone away from My ordinances

And have not kept them. [NOW listen to YHVH's plea]

Return to Me, and I will return to you,"

Says Yahweh of hosts. "But you said, 'In what way shall we return?'

He's actually using the fact that He is today what He was yesterday and will be tomorrow as proof that He can change His mind IF we would return. What doesn't change is His nature – what and who He is. His forgiveness. His love. "It's because I am Yahweh that I'm showing you mercy". That's the context when we don't pull the phrase "I change not" out of context.

What changes not is His promise after promise after promise that if our people repent with all our heart He will forgive us. Why can't we believe in Him enough to pray the prayingest prayer of our lives for our own repentance and forgiveness first, then for the called out ones and then finally pray your heart out for your country?

OUR confidence is based on who and what HE is; His mercy, His merits, on what *He* is. Not on our goodness or our country's merits – but because HE changes not what HE is.

Let's shift gears once more. One more "proof" I have that we are to pray for the repentance of the world is this: what is the coming Elijah's message going to be?

Coming Soon: "The Days of Elijah". And what will his Message be?

Before that great and dreadful Day of YHVH (of Yahweh), there will be a figure who will come in the spirit of Elijah. He comes *just before* that dreadful day – see Mal. 3:1-3; 4:4-6.

What's the END time Elijah's message going to be? Let's find out! Mal. 4:1-3 speak of "that day" – the end time, when Yeshua returns. Let's pick up in verse 4 now.

Malachi 4:4-6

4 **"Remember the Law of Moses**, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb (Sinai) for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

5 **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet *before* the coming of the great and dreadful day YHVH.**

6 *And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,
And the hearts of the children to their fathers,*
Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

The word "curse" in verse 6 is the Hebrew word *cherem*, for utter destruction.

If this Elijah to come is not successful in restoring our relationship with our Father, then with family relationships and obedience to God's laws, Yahweh says, "It's all over." So when that man is revealed, we should be ready to heed and support His ministry.

So this end time Elijah's message – after he reveals the name of our Father and the true worship – is to repent! Turn around. Get back to a heartfelt obedient relationship to Yahweh.

If it's too late for the country or the world to repent, why is the end-time Elijah going to be preaching repentance? Surely our Father isn't into playing games with our emotions. If there's no chance of real repentance, why send a Jonah to Nineveh, if you see what I mean?

I don't personally believe this end time Elijah has done his work yet. John the Baptist was a type of the end time Elijah. Yeshua said regarding John the Baptist: "Elijah has come", but then later added "and shall come" – showing there a future fulfillment yet. Read Mark 9:11-13 carefully to see the "shall come" and "has come".

Mark 9:11-13

11 And they asked Him, saying, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"

12 Then He answered and told them, "**Indeed, Elijah is coming first and restores all things**. And how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt? 13 But I say to you *that Elijah has also come*, and they did to him whatever they wished, as it is written of him."

John came just before and overlapped a bit into Yeshua's ministry. That's what "just before" means in Malachi 3 and 4. The Elijah to come will restore worship and obedience to Yahweh's laws and turn our hearts back to Him and to each other.

What was the original Elijah's message? Wasn't it "repent, turn back to the true Yahweh Elohim, and forsake your worship of ha-Baal (ha-Baal in the Hebrew translates to "the Lord") and start worshiping Yahweh." Just read his message in 1 Kings 18 on Mt. Carmel.

John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Luke 1:17). What was *his* message? It was "repent"! (See also Matthew 3:1-2).

Mark 1:4-5

4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and **preaching a baptism of repentance** for the remission of sins. 5 Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, **confessing their sins**.

And what's the 3 fold message of the final Elijah yet to come? REPENT. Obey the Torah of Yahweh. Turn your hearts back – first to Yahweh our father, then to those who went before us – the Fathers – and also to the fathers of our homes and families. And fathers, turn your hearts to your children. Care about them and be involved.

Elijah means “My God (Eli) is Yah”. That was this prophet's very name! And that is what He did: he restored the name of the true God to “Yahweh” from ha-Baal – which could be translated “the Lord”. Elijah basically said on Mt. Carmel – if translated into English – “Today let's decide if we should worship the Lord (that's what ha-Baal means), or Yahweh” (I Kings 18: 20-21). But in our Bibles, when Elijah asks the people in 1 King 18:21, even in our own Bibles our translations mess it all up – and our English says “If **the LORD** is God follow him, but if Baal (the Lord), follow him.” How terrible! The translators changed the name of the true God from YHVH to “the Lord” instead of keeping it YHVH, while they kept the pagan god's name Baal intact! He actually said, “**If YAHWEH is Elohim, follow Him; but if ha-Baal (the Lord), then follow him.**”

I Kings 18:21

20 So Ahab sent for all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together on Mount Carmel. 21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “**How long will you falter between two opinions? If Yahweh is God, follow Him; but if ha-Baal (the Lord), follow him.**” But the people answered him not a word.

You see, our Creator's name is Yahweh – not “the LORD”. He IS Master, Lord, ruler and all that, but that's not His name. Hear my sermon on “What is the Creator's name?” for a full explanation. Whether or not a person wants to say Yahweh, it certainly should not be translated “the LORD”. Yahweh does not *translate* to “the Lord”, does not *mean* the Lord, nor does it *sound like* “the Lord”. His name is Yahweh. Elijah came to restore that.

The end-time Elijah will also be restoring the true God's name. When Elijah began his serene but powerful prayer on Mt. Carmel, here's what he said (I have kept the original Hebrew name where it is in scripture – YHVH, instead of the bad translation “the LORD”):

I Kings 18:36-37

36 And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, “**Yahweh**, Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. 37 **Hear me, Yahweh, hear me, that this people may know that You are Yahweh Elohim, and that YOU have turned their hearts back to You again.**”

Notice the turning of the hearts back to the father(s) is – here – back to Yahweh Himself! **Elijah started by getting Israel to quit worshipping “the Lord” (ha-Ba'al) and start worshipping Yahweh.** He is the Father we start with in this matter of hearts turning back. He is the Father we turn our hearts back to. Father has first turned His heart to the children – us – by sending the message of repentance, which He will do with and through His end time Elijah. So we start with

getting His name right, then turning our hearts back to Him as we obey Him and keep His commandments and laws.

What was John the Baptist's message again? Remember that he was also a type of Elijah: "Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is nigh" – we read that already.

Luke 1:14-17 about John the Baptizer's birth

14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 For he will be great in the sight of YHVH, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 **And he will turn many of the children of Israel to YHVH their God.** 17 **He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for YHVH.'**

Are you hearing it? Turning the hearts starts with turning back to our Yahweh. *We've got to worship the true God, by His true name, and turn our hearts first back to Him* in response to His showing us where His heart is – towards us, wanting to forgive, wanting us to repent, wanting us to intercede for the land.

The Elijah to come is going to focus on RELATIONSHIPS, not just intellectual doctrine.

He will focus on relationships – with Yahweh first, then with our families, with the one Body of Christ – and a total unity that comes with that, to harmony between men and women, harmony between husbands and wives, harmony between fathers and children. All the while there will be a terrible attempt from Satan to destroy the family.

We MUST come together. We must work on our marriages. We must work on our relationship with kids and grandkids and grandparents. We must pray for people all around the world to come to Yahweh – and we know that this prayer will be good for you and me, and that thousands will come back to Yahweh in the last days.

WHAT'S OUR NEXT STEP?

Last time I mentioned the prayers of Paul, Peter, Nehemiah, Daniel, Moses, Abraham, Jeremiah, Joel, Ezekiel and others who prayed for their countrymen. Remember Joel? He said basically "I don't care even if you've just gotten married! *Leave your wedding chamber*, get out here with the rest of us, fast and pray and repent for yourselves and your country!" (Joel 2:15).

I'd like to hear from some of you. **Let's declare a fast for our own repentance before Passover,** and for the state of the Ekklesia of God, and then for our nation. **What day would work for most of you?** I'm thinking late March or early April 2012. Let me know if your heart is in this and let's have brethren from many of the organizations come together in prayer and fasting as the one body we are. You can stay with your organization. My goal only is to have Yahweh's children fasting together, coming together and being one together in Him.

Joel 2:15-19

Blow the trumpet in Zion, **Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly;**

16 Gather the people, Sanctify the congregation, Assemble the elders, Gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, And the bride from her dressing room.

[Watch what comes next: Joel tells the priests, the ministers to start doing some interceding! We're still in Joel 2.]

17 Let the ***priests, who minister to Yahweh***, weep between the porch and the altar; ***Let them say, "Spare your people, O YHVH, and do not give your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them.*** Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

18 ***Then*** Yahweh will be zealous for His land, and pity His people.

19 Yahweh will answer and say to His people, "Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, and you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.

[Spiritually v. 19 could mean spiritual food and a new dose of the Holy Spirit!]

Ministers of Yahweh, pastors of congregations of Yahweh's sheep – start preaching this. Yah is speaking directly to you and me. Joel 2:17 commands ministers to be preaching this. Ministers of Yahweh, it says to WEEP before Him and beg him to spare His people. That's what it says.

Remember that the repentance starts with our OWN

Though I've been saying how we must pray that the nations repent, I want to remind you that we must first repent ourselves, and then pray for repentance and forgiveness for the Body of Messiah, which is not in good shape right now.

So we start with repenting over our own condition. It reminded me of what they say on air flights. "IF the oxygen masks pop down, put your own mask on first, then help your child." We can't be much help or much of an example if we continue in sin. And there's been a lot of sin in the body of Christ.

Yahweh tells His children – that's the body of Christ: "come OUT of Babylon, come out of her, my people" (Rev. 18:4). That's very graphic, very strong, very plain language that leaves no doubt what He means when Father says to "come out of that whore". Father is telling us we're fornicating with the world's systems. Terrible sins that we must repent of! Don't be offended at my graphicness – that's Father speaking to His kids! The Bible is actually incredibly graphic in places.

Number 1, we start with our own sinful condition and then #2, we pray for the Body of Christ – the Bride. We're in such sad shape that we're splintering – hardly the "one body" Scriptures speak of. When our Bridegroom says He feels like throwing up when He thinks of some of those in the end time who hope to be part of His Bride, there's something terribly, terribly wrong (Rev. 3:21). ***I will not preach sweet things to you, brethren. The Church is NOT in good shape right now.***

1 Peter 4:17 says **judgment begins with the House of God**. Who's that? That's the church (1 Tim. 3:15). The House of Yahweh was the Temple, which *we* are today, housing the very presence of the Shekinah glory of Yahweh Himself. So we're being judged right now. *When was the last time you realized you're in court, before the Judge, right now? There's a lot to repent of.*

Remember I read Ezekiel 9 last time where Yahweh tells the angel to mark those who sigh and cry – *and He says to begin at the sanctuary and those who are worshiping there. Are you listening? (See Ezekiel 9:5-7). That's referring to those worshiping!*

The Body of believers is a mess right now, divided, splintered, and not zealous. Judgment has already begun with us.

MORE SCRIPTURES about Yahweh RELENTING on what He said He would DO

I want to conclude by reading even more scriptures about Yahweh's desire to change the course of even His own prophecies – if we would but repent.

I got this from a friend of Light on the Rock in western Canada. He wrote this:

"I've been reading Amos 5:6, 14-15:

Amos 5:6 Seek Yahweh and you shall live, lest He break out like a fire on the house of Joseph and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Bethel

Now v 14-15

14 Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so Yahweh, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as you have spoken. **15** Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate. **It may be that Yahweh God of hosts will be gracious** to the remnant of Joseph.

Believe it. Amos did. Amos got it. It's all the way through the Bible. No wonder Paul said it was his constant prayer, that all Israel would be saved (see Romans 10:1-2).

We don't need to understand exactly HOW. All we need to know is WHO. If you know our Father, you will have faith that everything is possible. His heart is plain on this matter. He takes no delight in the death of the wicked! 2 chapters later, Amos again has this to say:

Amos 7:1-3

Thus Adonai Yahweh showed me: Behold, He formed locust swarms at the beginning of the late crop; indeed it was the late crop after the king's mowings. 2 And so it was, when they had finished eating the grass of the land, *that I said:*

"Adonai [my Master] Yahweh, forgive, I pray! Oh, that Jacob may stand, For he is small!" [Amos is interceding!]

3 So Yahweh relented concerning this. "It shall not be," said Yahweh.

Are you letting that sink in? The Hebrew word in verse 3 for "relented" is also "repented" in some translations. He turned around from the direction He was heading in. The word has a hint of sighing, of consoling, of feeling pity. **One man Amos, prayed, and look what happened.** If

a thousand or two thousand of those in the “kin-dom” of God folks prayed that prayer right now, I am convinced we would see dramatic things happen! I’m convinced of it. Don’t let nay-sayers stop you.

What if Amos had been like so many of us, and hadn’t bothered to pray for his country? “After all”, he could have reasoned,” they deserve punishment. They’re set in their ways. They won’t listen, they won’t change. They’re too far gone.” But because Amos was *not* like so many of us, he did pray for his country and Yahweh heard and decided not to do what He said He would do.

In fact, immediately on the heels of what we just read, it happens again! Once again, Amos intercedes and once again notice Yahweh’s reaction:

Amos 7:4-6

4 Thus Adonai Yahweh showed me: Behold, Adonai Yahweh called for conflict by fire, and it consumed the great deep and devoured the territory. **5 Then I said:**

"O Adonai Yahweh, cease, I pray! Oh, that Jacob may stand, for he is small!"

6 So Yahweh relented concerning this.

"This also shall not be," said Adonai Yahweh (Master Yahweh).

Maybe, just maybe, if you doubted that Yahweh’s mind could be turned by a mere mortal praying their heart out for their country – maybe you’re beginning to believe the Scriptures now?

Now it’s true, if you continued reading in Amos, a whole host of punishments are pronounced on Israel. But even there, by the time you get to the ending verses of Amos 9, there are some very inspiring changes of heart in Israel prophesied.

I could go on all day with His words about what He would prefer to do! In this next verse, look who is being addressed: those who come to worship in the House of God. WHO is that? It’s the **church. The body of called-out believers, the ekklesia, called out to be Kadosh, holy – that’s the House of God (1 Tim. 3:15).** He’s talking to us, those who are worshiping, as well as to the national and physical Jews and Israelites in his prophecies. We are the Israel of God, *we* are spiritual Jews according to Scripture – but there are also physical Jews and Israelites.

Jeremiah 26:2-3

2 "Thus says Yahweh: 'Stand in the court of Yahweh’s house, and **speak to** all the cities of Judah, which **come to worship in Yahweh’s house**, all the words that I command you to speak to them. Do not diminish a word. **3 Perhaps** everyone will **listen and turn from his evil way, that I may relent concerning the calamity which I purpose to bring on them** because of the evil of their doings.'

Yahweh isn’t kidding. He isn’t bluffing. He isn’t blowing smoke. He means it!

Spread the word. Pray the word. Pray for mercy. Pray our Father leads millions of

Brethren, join me in falling down before our Maker – and let’s give ourselves to Him fully. Let’s stop the infighting. Let’s stop the splintering. Let’s insist on visiting all your brother and all

your sisters regardless of man-made church organizations that have played into Satan's hands to keep God's children apart. Visit other church groups from time to time. Have Passover this year with brethren from many groups – together, as one. Don't abandon any repentant brother or sister. Come together. And together, let's pray for forgiveness and pray for our nations – that God will bring them to repentance and not have to spank too hard. Let's pray for His mercy. In fact, I feel a need to pray with all of you hearing this, right now—let's pray together to our Abba, together, as we conclude this message: [Philip Shields' closing prayer]

O Yahweh, before whom the mighty angels and elders in heaven prostrate themselves, before whom entire mountain ranges crumble and oceans roar at your Word, Our Great and awesome and merciful Abba, we *claim* your power, we *claim* your promises, we *claim* your mercy, we *claim* your heart, we *claim* all this because of who and what you are. You are our amazingly merciful Abba, our dear Father. Before anything else, I beg you have mercy on me, Father, and forgive me of my many sins. Forgive *each* of us Father and may those we have hurt, be able to forgive us also, for their own healing and for their own sakes too.

Then, Father, please have mercy on us who are the Body of Messiah. Bring us to holy *echad* – to set-apart oneness, to being truly one, truly unified in *you* and by *your* righteousness. Yeshua told us the secret to being one, in His prayer in John 17: we have to be one in you, Abba. In Christ we can become one again with each other and with you.

In Messiah, O Father – see us veiled and covered by your holy Son Yeshua. Please O Yahweh; delight in us once again, as we no longer want to live to the flesh but to your Spirit. Make us holy, *kadosh*, set apart for your holy use. Open doors for us to make disciples of all nations. Give us courage to attack the very gates of hell itself. Help us see the straight paths you have set for us to walk in and give us the desire and power to walk in your love and by your Holy Spirit. See your own holy Son living in us and over us and because of what and who HE is, let us hear your words in our hearts, please Abba, please let us hear you say, as you forgive us – “These are my delightful children, in whom I am *well* pleased.”

Then, Father – help us remember you've called us to do a job you've given us to do. You have called us to represent you on earth. You made us a part of your family – and have sent us out to *speak of your love and of who you are and then to* demonstrate your love by a life changed by your Spirit. Burn away the chaff in our lives as you meet us on your threshing floor. You wanted us to be lights of your way of life – evidenced by our own changed life and the **profound love we have for one another.**

But Abba, we have failed to represent you properly, we failed to demonstrate your profound love by which all would know we are your followers. For that we beg your forgiveness. We beg you for another chance to – as your children – do the job you've given us to do. To proclaim who and what you are, the amazing God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who is sending Yeshua back real, real soon.

Then please, dear God of heaven and earth, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob-- have mercy on your people Israel, on the remnants of Israel – and even to all the

people of the all the earth. We are but flesh, Father. We are all of Adam, the dirt of the ground. We are but flesh. Bring us to repentance as a nation.

We love our countrymen, Father. You yourself said that *you* so loved the world that *you* sent **Yeshua** to die for us here on earth. You sacrificed your own Son in order to covenant with us. WE broke our solemn oath of covenant with you, and for that we pray you bring your people to repentance and forgive them, even as you forgive us.

You so loved the world and then You put that love for all people into our hearts and so we pray *your own words* back to you, Father. O beloved Yahweh, our Abba, our God, please love America, Britain, Canada, Australia, and all your scattered descendants of Israel wherever they are and for matter any human being made in your likeness, whatever their race or nationality. Love them Father, love them. Love them, Abba, don't give up on them. Our nations have done evil and turned their backs on you. You have every right to be angry. But love them Father - so much so that you once again **will send the world an Elijah who will turn their hearts back to You.** Open our eyes to see who that is when the time comes - and to support Him when you reveal him.

Have mercy on our cities, have mercy on our nation, and have mercy on our leaders.... **Savior, remember your own words on Calvary when you pleaded with Father** so astonishingly, after what we all, all humankind, had done to you. ***You said those amazing words of your love: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do". Yeshua, you're amazing.***

Yeshua, our thoughts are not your thoughts, so we ask for a miracle. Come inside of us, give us your thoughts, and make us think like you do. Let your mind be our mind and let us love the world as you loved them. We lift our hands to you and pray back ***your own words*** to you. **Have mercy on them and on us, Yeshua, for we've all fallen way short of your glory.** Have mercy on them and on us, Father -have mercy on us, who deserve no mercy. We can only claim all this because of who and what you are. Thank you, thank you Abba, thank you.

Brethren. Leave everything else and go pray. Go pray your heart out for your own repentance. Go pray right now for God's church, for your family, and for your nation. In Yeshua's merciful name, this has been Philip Shields, your brother and co-heir of all the promises.