

Dancing with God

Jonah 3: 6 When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. 7 This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

“By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Jonah 3: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. 8 But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.

Jonah 3: 9 Who knows? God may yet **relent** and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

10 When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he **relented** and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

God must remain consistent.

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His consistency anchors us.

Hebrews 13: 7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Malachi 3: 6 “I the Lord do not change...”

I Samuel 15: 29 He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind.”

1 Samuel 15: 10 Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel: 11 “I **regret** that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.” Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the Lord all that night.

Exodus 32: 13 Remember your servants
Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you
swore by your own self: 'I will make your
descendants as numerous as the stars in
the sky...14 Then the Lord **relented** and did
not bring on his people the disaster he had
threatened.

How can God say he never
changes, yet
changes His mind frequently?

When humans “repent” from evil,
they “shuv” (shooove)

“to turn around”

When God “repents” from
bringing evil on evil people

He “nikhams” (to relent)

“Nikham”

To Regret (reflexive)

To Comfort (active)

Jeremiah 18: 7 If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, 8 and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then **I will relent (nikham)** and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. 9 And **if at another time** I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, 10 and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then **I will reconsider (nikham)** the good I had intended to do for it.

God relents on His threats
based on someone's response.

God never relents on His will
and good purpose.

In appealing to God to change
we appeal to God to be
consistent.

1 Kings 21: 25 There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, urged on by Jezebel his wife.

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27 When Ahab heard these words, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly.

1 Kings 21: 28 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: **29 “Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me?** Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son.”

You must repent
for God to relent.

Jonah 3: Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. 8 But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on **God (elohim)**. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.

Unlike the sailors, the Ninevites
did not repent unto salvation.

Repentance without conviction
is a reflection of belief, not
faith.

Matthew 3: 8 Produce fruit in keeping with
repentance.

Knowing God
is to be changed by God.

The way of the world is to repeat.

The way of the world is to repeat.

The way of God is to change.

Romans 8: 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, **the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.**

The grace extended at the cross

more than covers the extent of
our sins.

James 4: 7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 **Come near to God and he will come near to you.** Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Grieve, mourn and wail.

James 4: Change your laughter to
mourning and your joy to gloom. 10
Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he
will lift you up.

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