



Scriptures and Doctrine :: False Prophets: Isaiah & Jonah??

False Prophets: Isaiah & Jonah??, on: 2007/4/11 14:44

Were Isaiah and Jonah false prophets? Was Jesus Christ a liar? Does your theology allow Isaiah and Jonah to be true prophets? Does your theology allow Jesus Christ to be truthful?

Here is a chart I made answering some of these questions:

<http://openairoutreach.com/albums/adobe/OpenTheismProphecy3.sized.jpg>

Re: False Prophets: Isaiah & Jonah??, on: 2007/4/11 16:11

I find the title of this thread insulting.

Re: False Prophets: Isaiah & Jonah??, on: 2007/4/11 16:29

Hi Jesse,

I have a little sympathy with Compliments' reaction to your title.

Let me add though, that as Jesus quotes 'the sign of the prophet Jonas' and Matthew regularly quotes Isaiah - just two small points to consider - if the whole weight of scripture is included in your deliberations, you are being unnecessarily provocative here.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

(NKJV) Hebrews 1

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son,

John 6:51

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

The word is alive.

God made the world, then decided to flood it. No longer was it vegetated and populated as at first.

This is the whole story of scripture, that an eternal king was promised to David's line, and when He came, His genealogy was peppered with such distinctions as - Rahab, Ruth, and no earthly father. This was God fulfilling His own word, but *not* how mankind would have attended to it.

Re:, on: 2007/4/11 16:42

I'd be very insulted if someone claimed that Isaiah and Jonah were false prophets!

But unfortunately, there are some "orthodox" theologians today who say that if Jonah and Isaiah gave unfulfilled prophecies, then they were false prophets.

So I made that chart to reconcile how neither Isaiah nor Jonah were false prophets, because their prophecies were totally true at the time, but God decided to change His plans.

Re: - posted by iansmith (), on: 2007/4/11 16:52

Lazarus, I don't think God ever changed his plan, however to us who think chronologically it appears he did.

As CS Lewis once suggested, to understand how God sees time, draw a line with two ends in a blank sheet of paper, then look at the entire paper. We see the line as a progression, but God sees it as a whole. We live within time, but God is eternal and separate.

'Change' is a charged word. God gives all men free will, and the prophets simply stated what would happen to these people if they chose to sin and be separated from God. But the men of Nineveh repented and were spared. Does this mean God changed his plan? Not necessarily. Does it mean the prophets prophesied in error... that would be a wrong assumption as well.

Frankly put, this isn't about prophesy, this is about the nature of God, he is a merciful God. He CANNOT change... he is always merciful, but also just. Always loving, but also jealous.

God did not change his mind, that would say that God was imperfect in the first place. God extended mercy to those whom he chose to show mercy. This is in line with the character of God.

He gave them the opportunity to repent through prophets... and they repented. I cannot help but think about David and the prophet Nathan. God still killed David's child, which showed God's justice. But with David's repentance, God showed mercy to him and Israel.

Good read would be AW Tozer, Knowledge of the Holy.

Re: - posted by vico, on: 2007/4/11 19:35

Quote:

-----So I made that chart to reconcile

"you don't need to walk before a lion with a sword" ~Charles Spurgeon, in response to a request to join a society for the defense of the Bible.

"My word shall never pass away" - Jesus

Just because we can't reconcile two truths does not make either of them untrue. Our understanding is limited, and often times trying to figure God out can be a dangerous thing. I've seen people fall into deep error trying to figure God out. His ways are above our ways and His works are beyond our comprehension. Rom 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

I'm not rejecting all you had to say there though. :-)

The Lord bless you brother as you seek God.

1Corinthians 1:11-16 "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

- 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
- 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
- 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.
- 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2007/4/11 20:42

Hmmmm... a rather pointless thread.

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2007/4/12 11:30

Quote:
-----But unfortunately, there are some "orthodox" theologians today who say that if Jonah and Isaiah gave unfulfilled prophecies, then they were false prophets.

In case anyone doesn't know, Jesse is promoting open theism with this post.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_theism) Open Theism

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2007/4/12 11:34

Well, wouldn't surprise me if he was. I pray not though. Are you sure?

Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/4/12 11:41

Jesse, you are clearly and unapologetically promoting Open Theism. The title of your chart "OpenTheismProphecy3" just proves that.

I am seriously concerned about your doctrine. I love your passion to see people come to a knowledge of Christ, but if you preach an 'Open Theism' God then you have strayed from the truth of scripture.

I admire your zeal, but I will caution you with Paul's words in Romans 10:2, "For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge." Brother, the God of the Bible knows all things and does not change His mind. God does present some 'If you do this, this will happen' scenarios, but He does not change His mind.

Blessings Brother.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2007/4/12 11:46

Hmmmm... I didn't notice the title of the link. Pretty sad.

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2007/4/12 17:53

I hadn't noticed the title of the link either. You could agree the chart without giving way to Open Theology but to title the chart as Jesse has is something of a giveaway!

Over here supporters of Open Theology tend to come from the supporters of Finney's theology. There can be a logical link between the two.

However this does not mean that God is impervious to our prayer or our repentance. "At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them." (Jer 18:7-10 KJVS)

and the classic...

“And Jonah began to enter into the city a day’s journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.”

(Jonah 3:4 KJVS)

“And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.”

(Jonah 3:10 KJVS)

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2007/4/12 18:47

Where Open Theism falls apart is that it fails to really take seriously into account that God's predestined plan and foreknowledge are perfectly in keeping with man's free will. For, God has known what man will do and the choices he will make, and God has thus planned accordingly. So, God foreknew that man would fall, planned before the foundations of the world the means by which he would restore mankind. It's really not very complicated.

If you think about it, Open Theism is in some ways like Calvinism. Whereas Calvinism exalts the sovereignty of God at the cost of the man's free will, Open Theism exalts man's freedom of choice at the cost of God's sovereignty.

Sadly, I can't say it surprises me that Jesse holds to Open Theism. His preaching so far as I have heard on the web and read in his newsletter, has for quite some time exalted the individual and their ability to make a choice for God. This is in right keeping with his adoption of Finney's theology. And even though I'm an Arminian in my theology and believe that choice is important, I must say, I often wonder where faith truly comes into Jesse's theology. And I mean a faith that is grounded in a personal revelation of Jesus Christ as Lord, as One who is alive from the dead. I fear such is not the crux of Jesse's preaching. Rather, he's simply seems to be a mere preacher of morality-- as so many campus preachers these days are-- instead of a preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/4/12 18:52

Quote:
-----If you think about it, Open Theism is in some ways like Calvinism. Whereas Calvinism exalts the sovereignty of God at the cost of the man's free will, Open Theism exalts man's freedom of choice at the cost of God's sovereignty.

May I ask you to rephrase this to say: "Open Theism is in some ways like Hyper-Calvinism. Whereas Hyper-Calvinism exalts the sovereignty of God at the cost of the man's free will..."

Because I am a Calvinist and I agree with your earlier statement:

Quote:
-----Where Open Theism falls apart is that it fails to really take seriously into account that God's predestined plan and foreknowledge are perfectly in keeping with man's free will. For, God has known what man will do and the choices he will make, and God has thus planned accordingly. So, God foreknew that man would fall, planned before the foundations of the world the means by which he would restore mankind. It's really not very complicated.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2007/4/12 19:06

Jay,

Sure, I agree with your rephrasing :)

Re: - posted by vico, on: 2007/4/12 20:21

In recent happenings i have noticed something that grieves my heart, indeed i believe that grieves many hearts, those hearts that are set aflame for God's glory. A great attack on the Word of God is taking place in our day, and lately it seems to have been getting worse, or maybe its just now that i've been noticing it so much. The light in the lives of those that truly love God and have shone out above most, have been somewhat dimmed by a subtle and deceptive assault on their relationship to the Word of God.

This attack is widespread among the brethren, and many have been allured into the assailant's trap. The enemy has sought to divide the Church, the body of Christ, by dividing the Word of God.

I hear it all the time, "what do you believe about this doctrine?" or, "where do you stand on this theology?" and there are usually two opposing sides that claim to have their beliefs backed up with scripture, and they will spend hours if you are willing to explain why they and others like-minded with them are the right ones. It has divided many fellowships, friendships, and individual hearts. Why???

What ever happened to Jesus? You know, he used to be the centre of Christianity! Now the centre of it all is your understanding of Him.

It not so much a question anymore of whether you are saved or not, the angels can celebrate over that. We want to know what your understanding of Salvation is. It doesn't matter if you are free from sin, no one will rejoice over that anymore. We want to know, is it possible for a Christian to sin? Or, are we now morally perfect? How do you understand this freedom????

Predestination or Eternal Security? Sinning Saints or Moral Perfection? Pre-trib or Post-trib? KJV only or anti-KJV? Dispensationalist or Replacement theologian? and the list goes on and on and on. There are so many arguments that split and divide us, and the crazy thing is it doesn't really matter. But nevertheless we gauge one another's holiness and spirituality by the doctrine they believe and by the standards they uphold. What ever happened to Jesus? Christ our Saviour seems to be lost in all of this, and of those who do seek Him many do it for personal gain.

It was after a night spent discussing differing doctrinal views with some brothers that God revealed to me a truth in His word that blew me away. I was discouraged pondering these thoughts and seemingly contradictory doctrines when it seems that God spoke to me. Not with an audible voice but with a scripture that came to mind But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (John 14:26)

And with that came another scripture, But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. (1John 2:27)

And then i happened upon this passage of Scripture in 1Corinthians 2 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

We need not that any man should teach us because we have been given the Spirit of God. He will teach us all things and bring to our remembrance the things of Christ. No one can teach us the things of God because no one knows God except the Spirit of God, He searches out the deep things of God and reveals them to us. If we have the Spirit of God in us (which you do if you are truly saved) then He has promised to do this. Our problem is that we too often follow after what man has said, and man's interpretation of the Bible. This is not to say that we are not to regard what man has said but that

in all things that we read or listen to should be through the Spirit and He will teach us through a man. So in all things listen to the Spirit only!

Many of the arguments that are brought up today have two or more very opposing views. But in reading through the Bible with this new light (Having the Spirit guide and direct my reading and disregarding all things that I might have heard on the passage I am reading) I have found that usually neither side of the division is correct, and is usually only half of the truth. I would usually study each argument and decide rationally or see which had the most scripture to back it up, and I would follow that and then adopt it as my own. But I now see how enemy has split up the Word of God and we have gone right along with it, we run over to one side hold up one half of the truth and disregard the other, and those that uphold it.

Listen, just because we can't reconcile two seeming opposing ideas does not mean that it isn't true. Truth does not need us to understand it in order for it to be truth. Nevertheless, if we cannot come up with a good reasonable explanation for a seeming contradiction, we grab one side of it and throw down the other. We lean too much on our own understanding. We want to be able to figure things out, we want to put God and His Word in a box and put them on a shelf along side of other things we've been able to wrap our understanding around. But you can't! and if you think that you have ever grasped any aspect of God or His nature, know this, you have failed! Because you can't! 2 And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. (1Corinthians 8:2)

God is so much higher than we are, His ways are past finding out. the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! (Romans 11:33)

Another thing, why is it that once again Men of God from the past are being criticized and labeled??? What is wrong with Charles Finney? ok, so maybe I don't agree with all of his doctrine, but that didn't stop God from using him. Funny isn't it how we are more picky than God when it comes to the exactness doctrine! Not just Finney, but others as well. Lately I have heard criticism of many great men of God. John Wesley, Martin Luther, both men who had shortcomings, but God used them nonetheless. Not too long ago I heard someone label Andrew Murray and Watchman Nee as Heretics! What?!?! Brethren, beware of what you say about men that God has used. They were not perfect, but they were definitely closer to the heart of God than most of us will ever be, despite their seeming error. So I ask you once again, beware what you say, we will all give an account of our words before God.

We may not agree with everything brother Jesse has to say, but let us stop this needless dividing of God's Word. In plain words I tell you that many of these arguments that we, even I have debated are against the Word of God, and irrelevant to it. We have added so many things to His Word, we have pulled it apart and destroyed it for the purpose that God has intended it for. After all this is the WORD OF GOD, and many of us have no idea what that means, that these are the very words of God, we have no right to form our own opinions about them. Let's listen to the Spirit and be guided by Him in it at all times. Oh, the Word of God is so precious!

It is this very thing of dividing the Word God that has divided us. This is not the will of God.

Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (1Corinthians 1:10) Seems kind of impossible eh? With God all things are possible.

Let us pray that God would reveal His own word to us, apart from our own knowledge and understanding and from men's teachings and doctrines.

God bless us all with fresh revelation in the knowledge of HIM! May our gaze be upon the Saviour. After all, it is all about Him.

I love you Lord.

the least of all,
~vico

Re: - posted by JaySaved, on: 2007/4/12 20:45

Vico, I appreciate your heart felt words on this matter but you must know that there is nothing wrong with healthy debate on doctrine. It is possible to grow closer to God through this interaction because I am proof.

It is when the debate gets heated and nasty that we all lose.

Re:, on: 2007/4/12 21:05

So... where do dinosaurs fit in all this?

Hehe.

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2007/4/13 2:43

Quote:
-----Another thing, why is it that once again Men of God from the past are being criticized and labeled??? What is wrong with Charles Finney? ok, so maybe i don't agree with all of his doctrine, but that didn't stop God from using him.

As I am probably the most outspoken concerning Finney on this forum I thought I ought to respond to this comment.

I have never criticised Finney, I criticise his teaching. I have never questioned the authenticity of the work accomplished under him, I question his reasoning and his methodology. I have never questioned his motives, his character, his devotion to God; but I do question his whole approach to theology and the scripture.

Re:, on: 2007/4/13 6:58

Quote:
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I will agree that pointless arguing about God's Word is just not profitable, and posting a thread on here just to prove that we are right and everyone else is wrong, is contentious and prideful.

But there is absolutely nothing wrong with pointing out false doctrine and defending correct doctrine.

My reason:

If I came on this forum about 10 or 11 years ago, when I was a younger Christian, I would have been heavily influenced by someone like Jesse. He is very zealous for the ministry, and he is courageous in preaching open-air like he does. Simply by looking at what he does, I would have thought that what he was saying must be true. I would have thought, "Hey man he's out there doing it, he must know what he's talking about."

Unfortunately, because his theology is man centered and depends so much upon the strength of man, it would have influenced me in a negative way. I used to read Finney back then. I used to listen to tape after tape of mainly "revival" preachers. (This of course was before the internet...at least in my world)

I lived under condemnation! I had no power to walk with God. It was not until I started reading Charles Spurgeon and hearing the Gospel, that I started getting free. It was not until the ministry that I was under started really preaching about who we are in Christ that I started to walk with God in freedom.

Yes I sought God by myself, but I have learned we are not an island and we do need good teachers (dead or alive) in our lives that lead us in the Word properly.

My point:

I thank God for those that come on here and defend the Truth...Those that defend correct doctrine, without pride or contention. It is necessary, because this forum is accessible world wide and I am sure there are many young believers that come on here and can be very easily influenced.

Re: - posted by vico, on: 2007/4/13 17:57

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Maybe i should clarify a few things.

My point was not to say that we shouldn't debate, or even dispute what the truth is. For example, here in the book of Acts;

Stephen, disputing with religious authorities

Ac 6:9 Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

The Apostles disputing among themselves

Ac 15:7 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

Paul Disputing with all kinds of people

Ac 19:8 And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

Ac 19:9 But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

My main point was to say that often we do not read the Word of God as a whole. Rather we learn from men who have split the Word, and we take only the part of it that they represent, resulting in a split body of Christ.

I also did not wish to condone any false teachings, nor was i implying that we should listen to false teachers. And i do firmly believe in defending the truth, and revealing to others lies in false doctrines (just ask the people that know me. i'm us

ually the first one to stand and object when i see things that are contrary with scripture.)

And i do not agree with what brother Jesse was saying either. but some of the comments that were made, and certain recent events inspired my post.

just making sure all is clear. my post was not intended as a rebuke. but rather as an edification for truth.

Blessings to all.

the least of all,
~vico

Re:, on: 2007/4/13 18:24

Understood...thank you for taking the time to clarify your post.