

1. Opening Prayer
2. Delay of God's Judgment in the Old Testament

a. 1 Kings 11:9-12 (Solomon)

9 Then the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, 10 and had commanded him concerning this matter, that he should not follow other gods; but he did not observe what the Lord commanded. 11 Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this has been your mind and you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and give it to your servant. 12 Yet for the sake of your father David I will not do it in your lifetime; I will tear it out of the hand of your son.

b. 1 Kings 21:27-29 (Ahab)

27 When Ahab heard those words, he tore his clothes and put sackcloth over his bare flesh; he fasted, lay in the sackcloth, and went about dejectedly. 28 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: 29 "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the disaster in his days; but in his son's days I will bring the disaster on his house."

c. 2 Kings 13:3-5 (Jehoahaz)

3 The anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, so that he gave them repeatedly into the hand of King Hazael of Aram, then into the hand of Ben-hadad son of Hazael. 4 But Jehoahaz entreated the Lord, and the Lord heeded him; for he saw the oppression of Israel, how the king of Aram oppressed them. 5 Therefore the Lord gave Israel a savior, so that they escaped from the hand of the Arameans; and the people of Israel lived in their homes as formerly.

d. 2 Kings 20:4-7 (Hezekiah)

4 Before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court, the word of the Lord came to him: 5 "Turn back, and say to Hezekiah prince of my people, Thus says the Lord, the God of your ancestor David: I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; indeed, I will heal you; on the third day you shall go up to the house of the Lord. 6 I will add fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; I will defend this city for my own sake and for my servant David's sake." 7 Then Isaiah said, "Bring a lump of figs. Let them take it and apply it to the boil, so that he may recover."

e. 2 Kings 22:19-20 (Josiah)

19 because your heart was penitent, and you humbled yourself before the Lord, when you heard how I spoke against this place, and against its inhabitants, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and because you have torn your clothes and wept before me, I also have heard you, says the Lord. 20 Therefore, I will gather you to your ancestors, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace; your eyes shall not see all the disaster that I will bring on this place.” They took the message back to the king.

- Why did God postpone judgment on those kings?

3. Read Jonah 4

4. Questions

- a. Can you make a simple outline of chapter 4? If you can, how can you make it?
- b. What is the problem of Jonah?
- b. Why did Jonah become angry?
- c. Why do you think Jonah asked God to take his life away? Is there any other prophet who asked God to take away his/her life? (1 Kings 19:4)
- d. In verse 2, Jonah’s prayer describes God. Is it a right description? Compare with Exodus 34:6-7.
- e. How shall we understand God’s response to Jonah, “Have you any right to be angry?”
- f. What was Jonah’s answer to God’s question?
- g. How do you understand God’s response to Jonah in verses 6-8?
- h. To God’s second question, why do you think Jonah answered, “I do”?
- i. Do you know any other story of divine “concern” about people in the bible?

5. Closing Prayer