

The Conversion of Ninevah

by Charles E. Fuller

Dr. Charles E. Fuller explores the story of Jonah and Nineveh, emphasizing the importance of repentance and the relevance of God's message today.

Duration: 56:29

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11, Matthew 8:16, Matthew 10:1, Mark 1:21, Luke 10:17-20, Colossians 1:13

Topics: "Ninevah"

Description

In this sermon, Dr. Fuller focuses on the Book of Jonah, specifically Chapter 3. He explains that Jonah was a prophet who reluctantly delivered a message from God to the pagan city of Nineveh. Dr. Fuller emphasizes that when a person who is spiritually dead hears the Gospel and repents, they are set free from the power of darkness and become a new creation in Christ. He also discusses how Jesus, as the captain of our salvation, confronts and defeats Satan and his works of unrighteousness, including demons, disease, and death. Dr. Fuller encourages listeners to study and understand the teachings of the Bible regarding Satan and demons.

Transcript

Free in Cooperation with Fuller Seminary proudly presents the Old-Fashioned Revival Hour, a broadcast of the Gospel with Dr. Charles E. Coole. Are you prepared for the coming day of judgment? The prophet Jonah from the Old Testament gave the people of Nineveh a warning of judgment by God because of their wickedness and sin. Could that same warning apply to our country today? And are you prepared for God's judgment that is going to come someday without warning? Dr. Charles E. Fuller is going to delve into this story of Jonah's message to the Ninevites and explain how it is applicable for us today.

It's all coming up on this edition of the Old-Fashioned Revival Hour. Christian Heritage Ministry in cooperation with Fuller Seminary proudly presents the Old-Fashioned Revival Hour, an international broadcast of the Gospel by Dr. Charles E. Fuller. Welcome.

Dr. Fuller is continuing his study of the minor prophets in the Old Testament of the Bible. His message today is taken from the book of Jonah, chapter 3. Jonah was a prophet of God who reluctantly carried a message from God to a pagan city 400 years before the birth of Jesus Christ. Dr. Fuller is going to unpack this message to the Ninevites and tell you how Jonah's message clearly has implications for today's generation.

Let's join the Old-Fashioned Revival Hour that is just getting underway. I'll return at the end of the broadcast to tell you how you can receive information on the Old-Fashioned Revival Hour and how to receive a free catalog of the music and other resources available from this ministry. Without further ado, open your Bibles to the little book of Jonah, chapter 3, as the broadcast gets underway.

Our Heavenly Father, we come into thy presence today with thanksgiving and joy, rejoicing in the wonderful hope that we have as Christians and for all the blessings that we do possess. How thankful we are of the certainty of immortality and resurrection. How thankful we are that the labor that we do in the flesh here upon this earth for thee is not in vain.

And Father, we're thankful also that we can come unto thee and call thee our Father. For truly thou hast made us thy sons through faith in Jesus Christ. Today we pray especially that as this broadcast goes out throughout the land that it may strengthen Christians everywhere, especially be with those that are young Christians who are just babes in Christ.

We pray that the sincere milk of the word may be used to strengthen them and to build them up in the most holy faith. And also we pray for those Christians today who are going through times of trial and difficulty. May they be able to resist the devil and may they be able to keep on believing in Jesus Christ.

Also we pray for our rulers in this land of our blessed America. We pray that thou wilt be with them and strengthen them and give them wisdom in these difficult and hard days. We pray that the gospel may continue to be preached throughout this land and into other lands.

And we pray that many may come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior. And so bless this broadcast today in particular. We pray that many who are now on the broad way to destruction may be awakened, that they may repent of their sins and they may believe on Jesus Christ.

For we ask it in his name and for his sake. Amen. And now Mrs. Fuller with a letter to go right ahead, honey.

Greetings to you, friend. A dear friend of ours of many years ago wrote a letter recently. He is Dr. Thomas Mosley, who with his wife was a missionary in Tibet for many years.

He is now President of Nyack Missionary Training School in New York. In memory I can hear his lovely voice singing, Where Jesus is, tis heaven to be. When he used to visit Mr. Fuller's Bible class nearly 30 years ago, he loves this radio ministry and he very kindly wrote to tell us of some of the fruitage of my husband's preaching, of which he heard.

He wrote, A woman was saved in New England listening to your program and two weeks later her husband was converted listening to the same program. They joined the church and later moved to a farm in a new district where they began to testify for Christ. God has blessed their efforts and 37 persons have been converted, 27 adults and 10 children.

Now they are having services in their home and other homes and soon a church is to be started. From Detroit, Detroit, a man writes, Dear Reverend, your program is very enlightening. I shall look forward to the next one.

I'm looking for a new life. I've been a sinner ever since I can remember and now I do accept Christ as my Savior and salvation. From Pennsylvania, a man writes very enthusiastically, a serviceman, Dear

Reverend Fuller, my home is in Texas but Uncle Sam has called again so here I am back in the Navy where I spent six years in the other war.

I then attended your Long Beach broadcast three times and I loved every minute of it. I like to hear Rudy play. I like to hear the audience sing What a Friend We Have in Jesus as well as Heavenly Sunshine.

And I like your chorus and your preaching. I like it all and I hope it is never changed. I only wish there were more down-to-earth preachers like you.

Another man and I managed to hear you aboard ship even if we had to put on earphones to drown out the bull session. I have never been able to understand the Bible so well as when you explain it, Mr. Fuller, and you do it so easy-like. We're looking forward to next Sunday.

A 19-year-old lad in Ireland is so glad that he's heard about the program. He was first told about the hour by an unsaved boy. So by word of mouth, news of the old-fashioned revival hour is circulating all over Great Britain.

A man writes from England. To date, I have heard about six of your programs and I feel sure I am speaking for many other British listeners when I say it is the most beautiful and impressive sacred service that I have ever heard. I am sure that as more and more people over here learn about the program, the numbers of listeners will increase.

I suppose it is a time-worn saying that this old world needs a return to true religion and all that that means. I am nobody of importance, just a tuberculosis case awaiting admission to a hospital, but I am one of the many who are enjoying this program to the fullest and feel that it is most refreshing and heart-searching. And in all sincerity, I hope that its radius will be expanded still farther to bring joy and hope to suffering mankind.

Another man writes from Britain. And may I say that through these foreign stations, the program can receive no support as none can be sent out of those countries. Yet they are tremendously appreciative and are doing their best by word of mouth and other means to make the fact known that the Old Fashioned Revival Hour can be heard.

And moreover, they are praying earnestly. We should be most happy to hear conversions abroad, too, though we do appreciate all of the letters. Here's just a bit from a letter from abroad.

Your service is very spiritual and true to God's word. We appreciate that, but also we love the cheer of it here in Britain, for you all seem to be so happy. It lifts our spirits, too, as we look forward most eagerly to the hour which is the shortest of the week.

And then there's just one more letter I'll have time to read you today. It is a good one, I think, from Scotland. Dear friends, I feel I must tell you of our appreciation of your broadcasts, which are really a blessing.

In our town we have a population of about 15,000, and I earnestly believe that in at least 200 homes they are listening to your messages. And word is going from home to home that people can be blessed by listening. Your broadcasts have certainly put a new zeal into my heart and a deeper desire for the things that really count.

Our town is the most easterly point in Scotland, and the main industry is fishing. Many of these fishermen listen to your broadcasts out in their boats on the North Sea, and your chorus of heavenly sunshine comes to them through the storms all along the coast, and they hear the whole broadcast, music and preaching, with great blessing. We're all so glad that we can hear you and pray that many, many more may hear and be saved.

That is all I shall have time to read today, friends. This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue.

The angels beckon me from heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore. Oh Lord, if heaven's not my home, then Lord, what will I do? The angels beckon me from heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore. They're all expecting me, and that's one thing I know.

I fixed it up with Jesus many years ago. I know He'll take me through, though I am weak and poor, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore. Oh Lord, I have no friend like You.

If heaven's not my home, then Lord, what will I do? The angels beckon me from heaven's open door, and I can't just go and glory land. We'll live eternally, the saints on every hand. I shall be victorious in this world anymore.

I know longing in my heart for Jesus. I know longing in my heart to see His face. I am weary, oh so weary of traveling here below.

I know longing in my heart for Him. I am weary, oh so weary of traveling here below. For He over the river faces I see.

Fair as the morning, looking this way. Fair as the morning, dear ones in glory. Jesus the Savior, bright morning star.

Hear the gladness, Jesus is called. Sinner, come home. Looking this way, yes, looking this way.

Loved ones are waving, looking this way. Fair as the morning, bright as the day. Dear ones in glory, looking this way.

Glad to see so many servicemen here in the auditorium today. And all of you listening in and all here at the auditorium, have your Bibles open to the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark, beginning at the twenty-first verse. He kindly lies on him in certain gloom.

Lead thou me. The night is dark and I am far from home. Lead thou me.

Keep thou my feet. I do not ask to stand still. One step enough for me.

And with the morn those angel faces smile. With joy and love. And love so wild.

Now, I advise you out in the radio audience to get that Bible and open it right away quickly to Mark, the first chapter, verse 21, because I'm going to give many references of God's word today, and I want you to follow me on the subject of demons. The church of Jesus Christ is not taught as well as it should be upon the subject of Satan and demons. I want you to follow carefully because what we're giving will be out of God's word.

Briefly, by the way of review, may we keep in mind that the main theme of Mark is the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. And this wonderful gospel centers around and in the person of God's beloved Son, the Lord Jesus. May I put it this way.

The Lord Jesus is the gospel, and the gospel is the Lord Jesus. And these two are one and inseparable, one and the same. Any other gospel given forth apart from the substitutionary atoning work of Christ and his bodily resurrection from the dead is satanically inspired and out of the pit.

And that brand of wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. Personally, I thank God today that my eternal hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness, that all other ground or foundations are but sinking sand. And when we carefully scan the sixteen chapters of Mark, we see the gospel in action, the captain of our salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ, coming head on against fallen humanity, sold unto sin, sunk in sin.

And the warfare, the greatest warfare of all ages, is on between God and Satan, between the forces of righteousness and the forces of unrighteousness. It is at white heat, this warfare, and Satan knows that his time is short and he is energizing his own, perhaps as never before in the world's history. Nations rising against nations, kingdoms against kingdoms, wars and rumors of wars, men's hearts failing with fear.

And I want you to know that there are two great spiritual laws in operation in this sin-sick, sin-wrecked world of ours. First, the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus and the law of sin and death or Operation Killer. All men, by nature, irrespective of nationality, color or creed, are now under the absolute control and domination of the law of sin and death.

And the only way out from under this law of sin and death is through the redemptive power of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. If and when a natural man, now dead in trespasses and sin, hears the glad tidings, repents and believes the gospel, the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus becomes operative, Operation Life. And that law will make him free and he will be delivered from the power of darkness and be translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son, a new creation in Christ Jesus.

Now, in Mark, we observe the captain of our salvation, God's true servant, in action, in our hand-to-hand conflict with Satan and all of his hosts of darkness. And by comparing Matthew and Luke with Mark, we find Christ the gospel meets head-on with Satan and all of his works of unrighteousness. And Christ meets and defeats three of Satan's most powerful and active divisions, demons, disease and death.

And it's upon the first that I speak today, next Sunday, Lord willing, upon leprosy, the type of sin. The Church of Jesus Christ, as I said a moment ago, is not as well taught or versed about Satan and his work as she should be. Very seldom, if at all, do you hear a sermon on Satan, his origin, his work, his destiny.

And we should know about the greatest enemy of our soul and be strong, clothed upon with the whole armor of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the evil one. Very briefly now, and I can't go into much explanation in the time allotted, Satan, the archenemy of God, the hater of the righteous, a liar from the beginning, was a created being, a being of great beauty and full of wisdom, perfect before his fall, before becoming Satan. And according to Ezekiel 28, 15, we learn that Satan was perfect in all his ways from the day he was created till iniquity was found in him.

He was the anointed cherub that covered, that is, the head officer over the great host of angels and under God appointed to be the head over the vast host of heavenly angels. Then, according to Isaiah 14, 12-17,

we learn that Satan, or Lucifer, the son of the morning, desired to be like God, to have the worship of the angels unto himself, that is, to unseek God. For we read in Isaiah 14 as follows, listen carefully, For thou hast said in thine heart, speaking to Satan, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, I will be like the Most High.

And Satan, in his attempt to dethrone God, to be like the Most High, fell through pride and in his fall drew a host of angels with him. Now follow carefully. Now those angels which followed Satan in his fall are now called fallen angels.

These fallen angels comprise Satan's spiritual kingdom in the heavenly, between earth and heaven itself. He's the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience. And the enforcers of the law of sin and death, operation killer, is none other than Satan and his host.

Truly, great is the mystery of iniquity which is so active in the world today. Again, by a word of further explanation, some of the fallen angels are now in chains of darkness reserved unto the coming judgment of the great white crow. And these fallen angels, or those fallen angels rather, not now in chains of darkness, are in active 24 hours around the clock.

These are termed demons. Is that clear? There is one devil, many demons, or fallen angels. And these demons or fallen angels are constantly seeking entrance into or to be closed upon or to indwell fallen humanity.

I'm not saying that all humanity outside of Christ is demon-indwelled or demon-possessed, but there are scores and millions over the land today that are demon-possessed and have indwelling in them a demon, one of the fallen angels. Now take your Bible and turn to the 8th chapter of Matthew, please. Beginning at the 28th verse, we're going to do some comparing and remembering this, that the entrance of God's Word giveth life.

And you need to know something about the enemy of your soul and his work and the kind of host that he has working under him and with him. Speaking of Jesus, when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him too possessed with devils or demons coming out of the tomb. Now notice it.

He met, Christ met too possessed of demons coming out of the tomb associated with death and the word exceeding fierce. Now that word fierce means furious, perilous and is exactly the same word in 2 Timothy 3, 1 which says, in the last days shall be perilous or fierce or furious a time energized, if you please, by demons. And we go on to note the characteristics of the last days that men will be lovers of their own selves.

Courageous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, juvenile delinquency, if you please, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, cruise breakers, false accusers, incontinent, that is, without self-control, sexual depravity, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, petty, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. That's what the word fierce means. Turn to the 5th chapter of Mark, at the 2nd verse, please.

Something more about these demons and these fallen angels that are trying to be clothed upon with fallen humanity. And when He was come out of the ship, immediately there met Him out of the tombs of man with an unclean spirit. And that word unclean means impure, lewd, foul, vile.

You go home and read chapters 1, verse 18 of Romans, down to the end of the chapter, and you'll see what it means to be lewd and vile and impure. Read it. God unmasks the human heart, energized by Satan and his host of demons or unclean spirits.

Furthermore, note verse 5 of Mark 5. And always, night and day, He was in the mountains, in the tombs, crying and cutting Himself with stones. And we note from this that they are sadists, sadistic in nature. They love to torture.

They love to punish. And some men revel in torturing the human flesh and inflicting cruel, inhuman punishment. And I'll tell you, back of it is demon possession without natural affection.

And you take the 8th chapter of Luke, beginning at the 27th verse. These things need to be put forth, and you need to be warned to be on your guard, to be clothed upon with the whole armor of God. And may I interject this before I read from Luke 8th chapter.

As it was in the days of Noah, there was an outbreak of demonism until the whole earth was filled with violence. And when Jesus came the first advent, another outbreak of demonism. And according to Revelation, three unclean spirits are to come out from the pit.

An unregenerated man who has received the mark of the beast will be energized by such a mass of demonism that the world has never seen. And the only safe harbor of rest and assurance and safety is in the blood of Jesus Christ. The 8th chapter of Luke, 27th verse.

Here it is. And when He went forth to land, there met Him out of the city a certain man, which had demons a long time, and wear no clothes. Why all of this modern day scanty bathing suits, women and men parading almost in the nude? It's energized by Satan.

And Satan and his demon hosts are back of this. And now go back to the first chapter of Mark, verse 21. Oh, how we need to know these things! I have the remedy at the close for all of this.

And they went into Capernaum. And straightway on the Sabbath day He entered into the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at His doctrine.

And so forth. The 23rd verse. And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit.

Even in the synagogue and in the church there are demon-possessed men that are unregenerated. And the pastor talking to him the other day, he remarked, he said, What? Only one demon-possessed man in the church? Well, that is much to say my church has got many of them. Unregenerated church members.

You have a name to be alive, but dead with no witness of the spirit in your heart that you have passed from death unto life. Now notice quickly, in Mark 1, 24, what the demons think of Jesus. They think a lot more of Jesus than some of the modern-day preachers.

Here it is. Jesus of Nazareth, art thou come to destroy us? I know thee, who thou art the Holy One of God. In other words, they confess that Jesus was the virgin-born Son of God.

That is more than some liberal preachers will ever admit. Let's go on. And in Matthew 8, 29 again, we find these words, And behold, the demons cried out, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come hither to torment us before the time? And Satan and his demons know that the time is short and that the lake of fire is prepared for the devil and his angels.

put on a mailing list and no further contact will be made by us unless you request it Here's how to reach us by telephone on a toll-free phone number 1-800-977-6374 Again that's 1-800-977-6374 Or if you prefer to write that address is the old-fashioned revival hour 700 Locust Street, Pasadena, California 9-1-1-0-1 If you use email that address is mail spelled M-A-I-L at O-F-R-H dot com When you contact us request a copy of today's message The conversion of Nineveh available on CD or audio cassette tape If you use the Internet look up the old-fashioned revival our website at O-F-R-H dot com On our website you can get more information on the old-fashioned revival hour And you can listen to the current broadcast at any hour of the day any day of the week We'd also like to let you know that if you enjoyed the music and the preaching of dr.

Fuller today We have a resource catalog which lists much of the gospel music sung on the broadcast as well as any of dr. Fuller sermons These are available on CD or audio cassette tape And while I'm at it I should mention that a few years ago we formed the old-fashioned revival our family program for listeners Who enjoy dr. Fuller's gospel preaching and the music of the old-fashioned revival hour Family members receive a bi-monthly newsletter with articles about the old-fashioned revival hour and any news of upcoming events Why not contact us after the broadcast and join our old-fashioned revival our family There is no cost and we'll send you a sampler of the gospel music of the broadcast along with our resource catalog In case you missed our address information I'll give that to you one more time By telephone on a toll-free number 1-800-977-6374 Or if you would prefer to write our mailing address is the old-fashioned revival hour 700 Loka Street, Pasadena, California 9-1-1-0-1 And the email address is mail at ofrh.com And friends Jesus told us to go into the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation We take this command very seriously and would ask you to pray for this ministry as we endeavor to carry dr Fuller's message of salvation to a world that desperately needs to hear the unbridled gospel message of Jesus Christ Your prayers and support are very much appreciated This old-fashioned revival hour broadcast was produced by Christian Heritage Ministry on the campus of Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California Our technical advisor and studio engineer is Jaloway Ronchon and our broadcast editor is Bob Wakeman And this is your host Kurt Roberts wishing you God's richest blessings until next week when we return with another edition of the old-fashioned revival hour

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