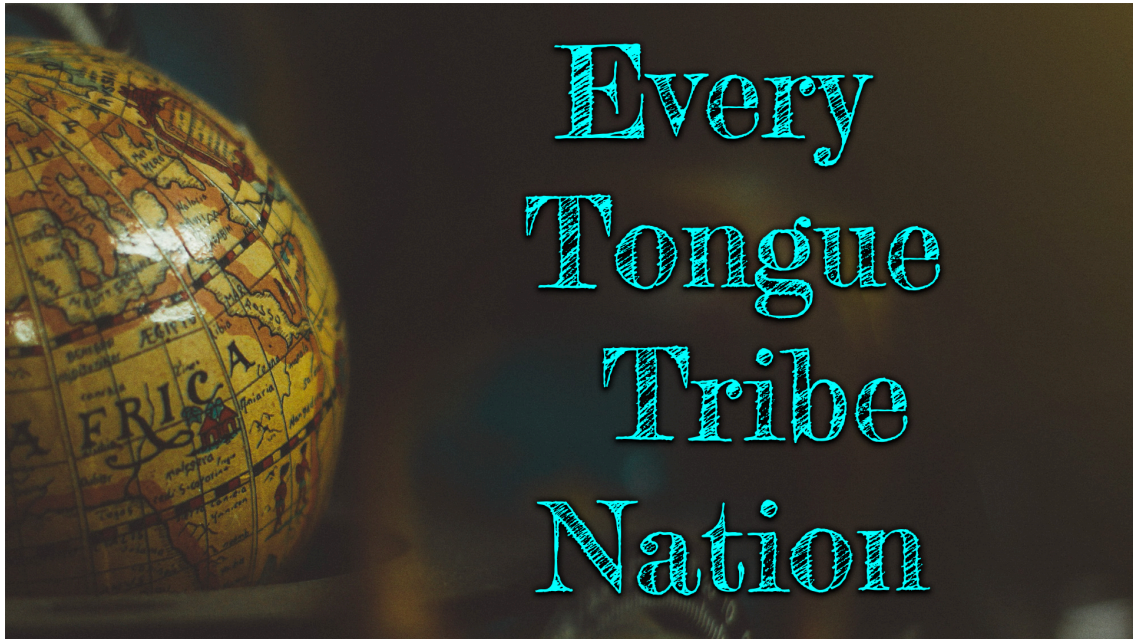


**5-Day Devotional  
based on Sunday's message:**



**GOD'S GLORY IN ALL NATIONS**  
*Part 1: Every Nation, Tribe, and Tongue*  
*Revelation 7:9-12*

Provided by



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## Revelation 7:9-12

After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a great roar, "Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!" And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living beings. And they fell before the throne with their faces to the ground and worshiped God. They sang, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength belong to our God forever and ever! Amen."

# Day 1: When Hearts Run Away

## Devotional

Have you ever felt God nudging you toward something that made you uncomfortable? Maybe it was reaching out to someone who hurt you, or stepping into a role that felt too big for your abilities. Jonah understood this feeling all too well. When God called him to preach to Nineveh, Jonah didn't just hesitate, he ran in the opposite direction. What's fascinating is that Jonah wasn't running from God because he doubted God's power or existence. He was running because he knew exactly who God was, merciful, compassionate, and loving even toward his enemies. Jonah didn't want his enemies to receive God's grace. He preferred judgment over mercy. This reveals something profound about our relationship with God. We can attend church, read our Bibles, and even serve in ministry, yet still harbor hearts that resist God's will when it challenges our preferences or prejudices. Our physical presence doesn't guarantee spiritual alignment. The beautiful truth is that even when our hearts run away, God doesn't give up on us. He pursues us with patient love, not to punish us, but to draw us back into His purposes. God's calling on our lives isn't just about the task at hand. It's about transforming our hearts to reflect His character. Today, consider where your heart might be running from God's call. Is there someone you're reluctant to forgive? A step of faith you're avoiding? Remember, God's grace is big enough to handle our resistance and redirect our hearts toward His loving purposes.

## Bible Verse

'When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened. This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. So he complained to the LORD about it: "Didn't I say before I left home that you would do this, LORD? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people. Just kill me now, LORD! I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen.'" - Jonah 3:10-4:3

## Reflection Question

What area of your life might you be running from God's call? What fears or prejudices could be driving that resistance?

## Quote

Your feet can't take you away from God, but your heart can.

## Prayer

Lord, search my heart and reveal where I might be running from Your call. Help me trust that Your ways are always good, even when they challenge my comfort zone. Transform my heart to align with Your loving purposes. Amen.

# Day 2: God's Sovereignty in Our Disobedience

## Devotional

Sometimes we think our failures can derail God's plans. We imagine that when we mess up, miss opportunities, or outright disobey, we've somehow limited what God can accomplish. Jonah's story teaches us otherwise. When Jonah boarded a ship heading away from Nineveh, God didn't abandon His mission. Instead, He used Jonah's disobedience as an opportunity to reveal His power to an entirely different group of people, the sailors on that ship. Through the storm that followed Jonah, these men witnessed God's sovereignty over nature and ultimately vowed to serve Him. This doesn't mean God approves of our disobedience or that we should sin so grace can abound. Rather, it reveals the incredible scope of God's sovereignty. He can weave even our mistakes into His greater tapestry of redemption. Our failures don't catch Him off guard or force Him to create backup plans. Think about the times you've felt like you've blown it. Maybe you missed a chance to share your faith, failed to show love when it mattered, or chosen your way over God's way. While consequences may follow our choices, God's ultimate purposes remain intact. He can use even our detours to accomplish His will in ways we never imagined. This truth should both humble us and encourage us. Humble us because it reminds us that God's plans don't depend on our perfection. Encourage us because it assures us that our past failures don't disqualify us from future usefulness in God's kingdom.

## Bible Verse

"The LORD gave this message to Jonah son of Amittai: "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Announce my judgment against it because I have seen how wicked its people are." But Jonah got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the LORD. He went down to the port of Joppa, where he found a ship leaving for Tarshish. He bought a ticket and went on board, hoping to escape from the LORD by sailing to Tarshish. But the LORD hurled a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart. Fearing for their lives, the desperate sailors shouted to their gods for help and threw the cargo overboard to lighten the ship. But all this time Jonah was sound asleep down in the hold. So the captain went down after him. "How can you sleep at a time like this?" he shouted. "Get up and pray to your god! Maybe he will pay attention to us and spare our lives." Then the crew cast lots to see which of them had offended the gods and caused the terrible storm. When they did this, the lots identified Jonah as the culprit. "Why has this awful storm come down on us?" they demanded. "Who are you? What is your line of work? What country are you from? What is your nationality?" Jonah answered, "I am a Hebrew, and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land." The sailors were terrified when they heard this, for he had already told them he was running away from the LORD. "Oh, why did you do it?" they groaned. And since the storm was getting worse all the time, they asked him, "What should we do to you to stop this storm?" "Throw me into the sea," Jonah said, "and it will become calm again. I know that this terrible storm is all my fault." Instead, the sailors rowed even harder to get the ship to the land. But the stormy sea was too violent for them, and they couldn't make it. Then they cried out to the LORD, Jonah's God. "O LORD," they pleaded, "don't make us die for this man's sin. And don't hold us responsible for his death. O LORD, you have sent this storm upon him for your own good reasons." Then the sailors picked Jonah up and threw him into the raging sea, and the storm stopped at once!" - Jonah 1:1-15

## Reflection Question

How might God be using a past failure or detour in your life to accomplish something greater than you originally imagined?

## Quote

God can even use our disobedience for good. Because of Jonah, God displayed his power for the sailors to witness. Then they vowed to serve God.

## Prayer

Father, thank You that Your plans are bigger than my failures. Help me trust in Your sovereignty even when I can't see how You're working. Use even my mistakes for Your glory and the good of others. Amen.

# Day 3: Beyond Our Comfort Zones

## Devotional

God's love has a way of stretching us beyond what feels comfortable or familiar. For Jonah, this meant going to Nineveh that is a city filled with people he considered enemies, people he believed didn't deserve God's mercy. Yet, God's heart was already turned toward these very people. This challenges us to examine our own comfort zones. Who are the people we struggle to love? What groups do we secretly hope God won't extend His grace to? Perhaps it's that difficult family member, the neighbor with different political views, or people whose lifestyle choices we don't understand. God's love doesn't operate within the boundaries we create. His mercy extends to places and people we might write off as hopeless or undeserving. This isn't just about tolerance or being politically correct. It's about recognizing that God's heart beats for every person He has created. When we allow God to expand our hearts beyond our comfort zones, we begin to see people the way He sees them. We start to understand that His love isn't limited by our prejudices, past hurts, or cultural barriers. Every person matters to God, regardless of their background, mistakes, or current circumstances. The beautiful truth is that when we step beyond our comfort zones in obedience to God, we don't just impact others, we're transformed ourselves. Our hearts grow larger, our faith deepens, and we experience the joy of participating in God's redemptive work in the world.

## Bible Verse

'Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ' - Acts 10:34-36

When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened. This change of plans greatly upset Jonah, and he became very angry. So he complained to the LORD about it: "Didn't I say before I left home that you would do this, LORD? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a merciful and compassionate God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people.'" - Jonah 3:10-4:2

## Reflection Question

Who in your life or community might God be calling you to love beyond your natural comfort zone? What first step could you take toward them?

## Quote

He is showing us that his love is bigger than our comfort zones. He is always working for mercy, not punishment.

## Prayer

Lord, expand my heart to love like You love. Help me see beyond my comfort zones to the people You're calling me to reach. Give me courage to step into uncomfortable places where Your love needs to be shared. Amen.



# Day 4: The Power of Simple Obedience

## Devotional

Sometimes we overcomplicate what God is asking of us. We think we need elaborate plans, perfect words, or extraordinary circumstances to make a difference. Jonah's experience in Nineveh shows us otherwise. When Jonah finally obeyed God's call, his message was remarkably simple; just eight words about impending judgment. He didn't preach for hours, perform miracles, or use sophisticated arguments. Yet this brief, straightforward message resulted in an entire city's repentance, from the king to the common people. This reveals the power that flows through simple obedience. When we align ourselves with God's will and speak His truth, He amplifies our efforts in ways we could never accomplish on our own. It's not about our eloquence, charisma, or perfect timing. It's about God working through our willingness to obey. Perhaps God is prompting you to have a conversation with someone, offer help to a neighbor, or take a step of faith in your career or relationships. You might feel inadequate or worry that your efforts won't matter. Remember Jonah's eight words that changed a nation. Your simple act of obedience, that word of encouragement, that gesture of kindness, that step of faith, can have ripple effects far beyond what you can see. God specializes in using ordinary people doing ordinary acts of obedience to accomplish extraordinary things. The key isn't perfection, but availability. When we make ourselves available to God's purposes, He takes our simple offerings and multiplies them for His glory and the good of others.

## Bible Verse

'Then the LORD spoke to Jonah a second time: "Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh, and deliver the message I have given you." This time Jonah obeyed the LORD's command and went to Nineveh, a city so large that it took three days to see it all. On the day Jonah entered the city, he shouted to the crowds: "Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!" The people of Nineveh believed God's message, and from the greatest to the least, they declared a fast and put on burlap to show their sorrow. When the king of Nineveh heard what Jonah was saying, he stepped down from his throne and took off his royal robes. He dressed himself in burlap and sat on a heap of ashes. Then the king and his nobles sent this decree throughout the city: "No one, not even the animals from your herds and flocks, may eat or drink anything at all. People and animals alike must wear garments of mourning, and everyone must pray earnestly to God. They must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence. Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change his mind and hold back his fierce anger from destroying us." When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, he changed his mind and did not carry out the destruction he had threatened.'" - Jonah 3:1-10

## Reflection Question

What simple act of obedience has God been prompting you to take? What's holding you back from taking that step?

## Quote

One man's obedience changed an entire nation. Destiny change just like that.

## Prayer

God, help me trust that You can use my simple acts of obedience in powerful ways. Give me courage to step forward in faith, knowing that You will work through my willingness to serve You. Amen.

# Day 5: Eternal Ripple Effects

## Devotional

Every choice we make sends ripples through eternity. This truth becomes vivid when we consider how Jonah's story connects to God's ultimate vision of every nation, tribe, and tongue worshiping before His throne. What started as one man's reluctant obedience in an ancient city contributes to this magnificent eternal reality. Our daily decisions matter more than we realize. When we choose to obey God's promptings, sharing our faith, showing compassion, speaking encouragement, we're not just affecting the immediate moment. We're participating in God's grand mission that spans generations and reaches into eternity. Think about the people who influenced your spiritual journey. Perhaps it was a parent's faithful prayers, a friend's timely encouragement, or a stranger's simple act of kindness. Their obedience created ripples that eventually reached you, and now you have the opportunity to create ripples that will reach others. This perspective transforms how we view our everyday interactions. That conversation with a coworker, that act of service in your community, that moment of forgiveness in your family aren't just nice gestures, but eternal investments that contribute to God's kingdom purposes. Jonah's story reminds us that we're part of something much bigger than ourselves. Our local faithfulness fuels global worship. Our individual obedience contributes to the cosmic celebration that awaits when people from every corner of the earth gather around God's throne. As you go through your day, remember that your choices matter eternally. You have the privilege of participating in God's mission to draw all people to Himself.

## Bible Verse

'After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a great roar, "Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and from the Lamb!"' - Revelation 7:9-10

## Reflection Question

How does knowing that your obedience creates eternal ripple effects change the way you approach your daily interactions and decisions?

## Quote

"You see, when we obey God's prompting, when we speak that word of encouragement, when we share our faith with another people, when we show compassion in the name of Jesus - He uses it to move his mission forward. Obeying God's leading in your life... That's how obedience becomes global. That's how local faithfulness fuels global worship."

## Prayer

Lord, help me live with eternal perspective, knowing that my choices today matter forever. Use my obedience to create ripples that draw others to You and contribute to Your kingdom purposes. Amen.