

Communion Meditation – Jonah

Jonah 1.7 (read 4 to 8)

“Casting Lots”

April 28th, 2013

Casting Lots to Promote Fairness

- **Josh 18.10** ~ Joshua divides land **1 Chr 24.4-5** ~ Priestly duty assignments
- **1 Chr 26.13** ~ Gatekeepers assigned **Neh 10.34** ~ Bringing wood for altar
- Casting lots was a way of being “*fair*” to all concerned ~ to not “*play favorites*”
- **Pro 18.18** ~ “Casting lots causes contentions to cease, and keeps the mighty apart.”
- **Acts 1** ~ Apostles replace Judas with Matthias
- **Pro 16.33** ~ “The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision *is* from the Lord.”
- We do it too ~ “I’ll flip you for it. . .” (*friends contending over last snack*)
- Ill: “While You Were Sleeping” ~ Cutting card deck / “High card gets Lucy. . .”

Casting Lots to Determine Blame

- **Lev 16.7-10** ~ Aaron c/scapegoat / one dies and the other goes free
 - Here the lot results in life or death (*but only for a goat*)
- **1 Sam 14.37-46** ~ Saul casts lot to determine blame / lot fell to Jonathan
 - Saul would have killed him but the people defended Jonathan

Reread vss 7 and 8

- **v7** ~ “Let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble . . .”
 - “Why do they trust in this method?” | superstitious lot (**v5** – “each - his god”)
 - Simple – but quick and effective
 - “Why do they doubt when Jonah is chosen?”
 - They ask the very question of Jonah the lot was supposed to resolve
 - **v8** ~ “Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us?”

God Answered

- This method of determining blame is flawed ~ It was with Saul & Jonathan
- Yet God used this flawed process with superstitious sailors to promote His will
- Yet this doesn’t give sanction to us to do the same

God has given us laws (principles) to guide our thinking

He’s also illustrated application of the principles through case laws

We must use God’s means to attain God’s ends / not cast all upon “fate”