

THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JONAH

OVERVIEW OF CHAPTERS 1 - 4

TAPE NUMBER SM-462 OCTOBER 13, 2002

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“JONAH-THE SINKING PROPHET”

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Sovereignty, God’s Will, Human Responsibility, Ministry

INTRODUCTION

to the text

Jonah

From Jonah’s house, Ninevah lay to the East, Tarshish was far to the West, over 2,000 miles opposite one from the other. Jonah was in the middle! Called by God to preach to the wicked Ninevites, the prophet knows that God’s mercy is always connected to any message delivered. Jonah turns down the assignment and heads in the opposite direction towards Tarshish (or Spain today). But God has His plan...

782-753 B.C.

According to ancient historians “the act of repentance recorded in Nineveh was during the reign of King Asurdan III in 773 – 755 B.C.

It is believed that preceding Jonah’s arrival, God had first prepared the Ninevites to listen by allowing the two great plagues of 759 B.C. and then in 763 B.C. a full solar eclipse which caused extreme panic and doubt toward their pagan God’s.

✓ ***Who was Jonah?***

✓ ***Where did he come from?***

✓ ***Why was Jonah the way he was?***

How does Jonah's life, ministry, and mission apply to us today?

Jonah is one of the books of the Bible known as the Minor Prophets.

Not because they were second string prophets, but because their writings are considered "smaller" in size to say the book of Isaiah.

What we learn from this book will be of great help in how we view God. This book clearly and with authority, **dismantles the heretical view** that the God of the Old Testament is a God of Wrath, and the God of the New Testament is a God of Love. It is a perfect book to communicate **the balance of the testaments** and is a model of the **eternal nature of God**. He is **loving**, kind and **gentle**. He is also **holy**, **righteous** and **perfect**. Only God **loves perfectly** and **judges perfectly**. Only he can extend **forgiveness perfectly** and bring **wrath perfectly**. This book will challenge our view of God and will demand of us a more complete understanding of His nature.

JONAH – THE SINKING PROPHET

1.) *The Man Jonah*

The reluctant prophet or disobedient prophet, was a man who was called by God to be a preacher of righteousness.

His Hebrew name is "Yonah" means "dove"

1a.) *Jonah's Historical Past*

2 Kings 14:25

King Jeroboam II restored the territory of Israel from the entrance of Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which He had spoken through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet who was from Gath Hepher.

Gath Hepher

Was three miles north of Nazareth in Galilee. The Pharisees were wrong when they had said that “No prophet has arisen out of Galilee”. Jonah had and was a symbolic type of Jesus Christ.

Some Jewish Tradition say

(we cannot prove this)

“Jonah was the son of the widow to whom Eligah had raised from the dead”

1 Kings 17:8-24

1b.) Jonah’s Current Struggle

The Assyrian Evils

the Assyrians were Wicked Beyond Wicked and Ninevah was the Capitol of Assyria. They were known for their extreme violence. They lived physically abusive lives in their communities and in their campaigns.

Jonah’s Village?

1c.) Jonah’s Future Ministry

The Mercy of God

This book disspells the heretical view that the God of the Old Testament is a Diffirent God then that of the New...

Jonah’s Idea

Was to run away from what God had wanted him to do. He thought that ignoring would help accomplish that. Then he would try a little “I’m going to do my own thing”. Then finally, he ran. And running led him to all kinds of troubles. Yet God never left him, nor did God give up on him, neither did God replace him – God hung in there!

What About Our Future Ministry?

- ✓ ***God will Dampen his independent spirit
By having him cast into the sea***
- ✓ ***God will Protect Jonah by preparing a great fish
To carrying him through the sea***
- ✓ ***God will Deliver the Prophet from himself,
By having him be deposited on the shore of God's intended Destination***
- ✓ ***God wanted His Message Preached
Even if it meant preparing the preacher***

He is Right Now Preparing Us

JONAH – THE SINKING PROPHET

2.) The Mission of Jonah

2a.) He was Called by God

Jonah 1:1

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai,
saying,

2b.) He was Commissioned to Go

Jonah 1:2a

"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city...

2c.) He was Commanded to Preach

Jonah 1:2b

"...and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

Jonah 3:4-8

And so Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, **"Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"** ⁵ So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. ⁶ Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. ⁷ And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. ⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.

An Eight Word Sermon

The shortest sermon recorded in scripture with the biggest results

JONAH – THE SINKING PROPHET

3.) *The Miracles of Jonah*

***The Single most Important Reason Why we should listen to
Jonah today is this;
He is the Only Prophet in all of the Bible that Jesus
personally identified Himself with.***

Matthew 12:39-41

But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹ "The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.

Jonah's Message and His Life's experience Is a Living Parable of Death and Resurrection

Jesus Himself Endorsed the Accuracy and History of Jonah being a real life individual and an effective evangelist.

3a.) There was a Miraculous Storm

Jonah 1:4

But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.

3b.) There was a Miraculous Fish

Jonah 1:17

Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Not a Whale, but a Fish

3c.) There was a Miraculous Plant

God's Grace is Seen Here When
God Creates a Plant, A Gourd for Jonah's Comfort

Jonah 4:5-6

So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city. ⁶ And the LORD God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant.

3d.) There was a Miraculous Worm

Jonah 4:6-8a

And the LORD God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant. ⁷ But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered. ⁸ And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head

3e.) There was a Miraculous Result

Jonah 3:4-8

And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵ **So the people of Nineveh believed God**, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. ⁶ Then word came to the king of Nineveh; and he arose from his throne and laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth and sat in ashes. ⁷ And he caused it to be proclaimed and published throughout Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; do not let them eat, or drink water. ⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.

The results of Jonah's preaching, a huge spiritual success!

It is the single largest recorded act of conversion in human history.

It was the most successful message ever delivered.

There has never been a crusade like it since

600,000 people were living in Ninevah plus 120,000 little children

JONAH – THE SINKING PROPHET

4.) The Mess of Jonah

4a.) He was Walking in Rebellion

Jonah 1:1-3

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." ³ But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish so he paid the fare and went down...

***he was hardening his heart against
the Nature of God***

In This Book

We will see that the non-believer will have more integrity and decency than believing Jonah

4b.) He was Sinking in Depression

Jonah 1:5-6

Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep. So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What do you mean by this, arise O sleeper?, call upon your God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.

How Could He be Asleep?

spiritual rebellion leads to physical depression

Jonah 4:8

And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

Rebellion Brings on Stress

Stress often causes illness and certain depression

4c.) He was Seated in Revenge

Jonah 4:1-3

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. 2 So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. 3 "Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!"

He wanted his enemies judged by God

The Jews and It's Prophets

Didn't see that God would save the gentiles by the preaching of the Gospel

Jonah wanted the wicked dead

Because they were not the chosen people. The Ninevites didn't have an Old Testament and couldn't get one!

They worshiped pagan deities and did strange things...

Keys to the Book

Key Themes

- ✓ *Repentance*
- ✓ *Obedience*
- ✓ *Mercy*
- ✓ *Forgiveness*
- ✓ *Love*

Key Verses

Jonah 2:8-9

“Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own Mercy. ⁹ But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.”

Jonah 4:2

So he prayed to the LORD, and said, “Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.

Key Chapter

Chapter Three

Is a detailed account of the greatest evangelistic crusade in human history.

A Unique Note

Jonah is the only book that exclusively focuses on the redemption of a gentile, nation and its great city, Ninevah.

...It has no counterpart until the book of acts
two books where god does the calling of his people to go
to a lost world!

It was a five hundred mile walk, and a five week journey from
the shores of the Mediterranean to Ninevah

Jonah was a walking Sign

Luke 11:30

"For as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation.

A walking object lesson in the flesh. Baldheaded, bleached out and determined, Jonah delivers the goods...