

The Book of JONAH

Name means: “dove”

Key Verse: 2:9 “Salvation is of the Lord.”

Date: 785-750 BC

25-50 years before the Assyrians defeated the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 BC

Jonah was first of 2 prophets (Nahum) to Assyria

Jonah is a missionary message to non-Jews

A contemporary of Amos, Prophet to the Northern Kingdom

2 Kings 14:25 is an Introduction to Jonah

During the reign of Jeroboam II

Jonah has 48 verses in 4 Chapters. Obadiah, the shortest book in the Old Testament, has 21.

There is no clearer picture of the bigotry of man and the love of God.

God's love included Assyria, who destroyed the Kingdom of Israel. Nineveh was the capital.

A prophet is a “forthteller” thus says the Lord and a “foreteller” about the future.

Jonah gives a testimony in a narrative. Future significance is that Jesus quotes Jonah.

Some call it Allegory, fairy tale, or fable. Jesus referred to it as a historical fact.

Matthew 12:39-41 & Luke 11:29-30. The Doctrine of the Resurrection

OVERVIEW OF JONAH

1:1-2 **God told Jonah to go preach to Nineveh**, the capital of Assyria.

A wicked and vicious people. Terrorized their enemy.

History records some cities would commit suicide rather than be invaded.

God loves lost people, and will forgive their sin.

1:3 **Jonah went the other way.** Running away from God is always down.

Down to Joppa, down in the ship, down in the sea, down in the fish.

When a person runs from God: 1) He has heard from God, 2) He believes he can escape from God, 3) He is in for a costly journey.

1:4-16 **The Storm at sea**

A Christian away from God: 1) Sleeps while others perish,

2) confuses a lost world, 3) and is ultimately cast aside by both worlds.

1:6, :10 & :15 He lost his prayer life, he lost his testimony, and almost lost his life.

Trying to silence God's call in his life.

1:17 The Lord prepared a great fish. Jonah was in the belly 3 days and 3 nights.

2: **Jonah's Prayer from the fish's belly** (Even in the belly of the fish, God was there)

2:2 "I cried out to the Lord, and He answered me."

2:9 Salvation is of the Lord

2:10 So the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

3: **Jonah Preaches at Nineveh**

3:1 One of the most encouraging verses in the Bible.
 "The word of the Lord came a second time"

3:3 3-day journey through the city. 20 miles a day would be 60 miles across the city
4:11 God said "more than 160,000 people"

3:4 "40 days and Nineveh will be overthrown"

3:5 The people of Nineveh repent

3:6 The king repents "sackcloth and ashes" humility

3:10 God saw that they turned from their wicked ways and did not destroy the city.

4:1 **Jonah is angry at God's deliverance of Nineveh**

4:2 Jonah's bigotry revealed
 There is no clearer picture of the bigotry of man and the love of God.

4:3 Jonah tells God, "Just kill me"

4:5 Jonah has a pity party.

4:6-8 God prepares a shade vine, a worm to destroy it, and
 Vs.6 In the shade, the only time in the book Jonah is happy.

4:10 Jonah had more pity on the vine, than on the people of Nineveh.

God made the speed of light 186,000 miles per second. You can't outrun God.

We are all either walking away from God, walking toward God, or walking with God.