

Series "Fixed On 66"

"Jonah"

Book-32

Key Passage – Jonah 2:8-9; 4:2

2 Kings 14:25 identifies Jonah as a real person.

Our Lord considered Jonah a historic person and pointed to him as a type of His own death, burial, and resurrection (**Matthew 12:41; Luke 11:32**)

Jonah The Minor Prophet is unique in 2 ways:

- 1. The focus of this Minor Prophet is not the message but the messenger.
Jonah 3:4**
- 2. Jonah is the only Prophet sent to the Gentiles, and the only prophet who attempted to conceal his message.**

The Author – Jonah 1:1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah

When Written – 760 B.C. Jonah's contemporaries, **Hosea** and **Amos**, both courageously denounced the wickedness of the rulers, priests, and fall of Israel (Samaria).

Where It Was Written – Possibly written outside the city of Nineveh, capital of Assyria.

Purpose – God raises up a Jewish prophet to warn the Assyrians (Gentiles) of Nineveh's future judgment.

Theme – Jonah – "*Salvation To The Gentiles*" The Book of Jonah is about the love of God and how we share it with others. The book is also about the will of God and how we respond to it.

Key Words – "Lord" **23 times**, "God" **17 times**, "To the Lord" **8 times**, "From the Lord" **5 times**, "Lord Said" **5 times**

Key Chapter – Jonah 3 The Bible records the greatest revival that has ever been recorded. The entire city places its faith in God. There were as many as 600,000 people.

Key Passage – Jonah 2:8-9; Jonah 4:2

Outline –

- 1. Jonah 1:1-17 God's Patience With Jonah**
- 2. Jonah 2:1-10 God's Mercy Toward Jonah**
- 3. Jonah 3:1-10 God's Power Through Jonah**
- 4. Jonah 4:1-11 God's Ministry To Jonah**

1. Jonah 1:1-17 God's Patience With Jonah:

Jonah 1:1-3 Jonah's Disobedience: Jonah 1:1

The opening word "**The**" is also translated "**Now, And**" Jonah is one of fourteen Old Testament books that open with the little word "**and.**" These books remind us of God's "continued story" of grace and mercy.

Though it's comprised of sixty-six different books, the Bible tells only one story;

Jonah - "*dove*"

His father's name was **Amittai** - "*truthful, faithful*"

Jonah 1:2-3

So he went down to Joppa,
Jonah took a 60-or-so mile trip from **Gath-Hepher.**

Joppa to Nineveh is 500 miles Northeast.
Jonah opted to go to Tarshish (Spain) which is 2000 miles West.

But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

Jonah's Wrong Attitude Towards God In 4 Areas:

- 1. Jonah's wrong attitude toward God's will stemmed from a feeling that the Lord was asking him to do an impossible thing. (Never!)**
- 2. Jonah had a wrong attitude toward the will of God.**
- 3. Jonah also had a wrong attitude toward The Word of God.**
- 4. Jonah had a wrong attitude toward circumstances; he thought they were working for him when they were really working against him.**

Jonah 1:4-10 Jonah's Indifference: Jonah 1:4

The LORD hurled a great wind on the sea

God called the Jews to be a blessing to all the nations of the earth (**Genesis 12:1-3**), but whenever the Jews were out of the will of God, they brought trouble instead of blessing.

Jonah lost the voice of God.

We don't read that "the word of the Lord came to Jonah"

was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up. God was speaking to him through His works

Jonah 1:5 This is a false peace that Jonah was experiencing.

Jonah 1:6 If Jonah did pray, his prayer wasn't answered.

Jonah 1:7-10 Jonah Lost His Testimony:

Jonah - means "*dove*," and the dove is a symbol of peace. Jonah's father's name was **Ammitai**, which means "*faithful, truthful*," something that Jonah was not.

Jonah 1:11-17 Jonah's Impenitence: Jonah 1:11-12

Martyrs die for the glory of God, but Jonah offered to die because, **selfishly, he would rather die than obey the will of God!**

Jonah 1:13-14

We cannot disobey God without in some way affecting others for ill. Nor can we obey God without affecting them for good.

Jonah 1:15-17

This very passage was used by Jesus to teach His death, burial, and resurrection. **Matthew 12:39-41**

2. Jonah 2:1-10 God's Mercy Toward Jonah:

Jonah 2:1-2 God Hears His Prayer:

Jonah 2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the **stomach of the fish**, It is in the belly of the whale that Jonah alludes to several Psalms. **Psalms 3:8; 37:39; 42:7; 69:1**

His prayer was born out of affliction, not affection.

Jonah 2:2 and he said, "I called out of my distress to the LORD, Jonah saw the will of God as something to turn to in an emergency, not something to live by every day of one's life.

And He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol;

Jonah 2:3 He Disciplines Him: Jonah 2:3 "For You had cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, he was acknowledging that God was disciplining him and that he deserved it.

How we respond to discipline determines how much benefit we receive from it, according to **Hebrews 12:5-11**

Jonah 2:4-7 God Honors Jonah's Faith: Jonah 2:4-6

Jonah 2:7 "While I was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, And my prayer came to You, Into Your holy temple.

What saved Jonah? His faith in God's promise. Which promise? The promise that involved "looking toward God's holy temple" (**2 Chronicles 6:29, 26-27**)

Jonah 2:8-9 Jonah Yielded To God's Will:

Jonah 2:8 "Those who regard vain idols Forsake their faithfulness,

Jonah 2:9 This is a quotation from **Psalms 3:8; 37:39** and it is the central declaration in the book. It is also the central theme of the Bible.

Jonah 2:10 God Restores Jonah's Ministry: Jonah 2:10

3. Jonah 3:1-10 God's Power Through Jonah:

Jonah 3:1-2 The Gracious Lord:

Jonah 3:1 word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time,
The Lord gave me another opportunity.

We need to remember three things about second chances.

- 1. God's will is going to be accomplished.**
- 2. Jonah's disobedience merited discipline, not rejection!**
- 3. Jonah would have avoided the terror of being thrown into the sea and being swallowed by the great fish if only he had been willing to do God's will when he first learned it.**

Jonah 3:2 God is more concerned about His workers than He is about their work

Jonah 3:3-4 The Obedient Servant: Jonah 3:3 Jonah now obeys and finds himself back on the coast of the Mediterranean, right where he started.

Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days' walk.
That would make the city over 60 miles in length.

Jonah 3:4 "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown."

In Hebrew, the message consists of only 5 words.

How could one man (Jew), confront thousands of people (Gentiles) with his strange message, especially a message of judgment?

Jonah was a sign to the people of Nineveh. **Luke 11:30**

forty days – To look up this term in the Bible and you will see how it is used for testing.

Jonah 3:5-9 The Repentant People: Jonah 3:5-9

Jonah 3:10 The Postponed Judgment: Jonah 3:10 When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way This has to be the greatest evangelistic response in the history of mankind.

Jonah 4:11 If this reference is to children, then it is believed that the population was about 600,000 people.

The fact that Jesus used the Ninevites to shame the unbelieving Jews of His day is further evidence that their response to Jonah's ministry was sincere (**Matthew 12:38-41**).

God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.

"God relented," that is, changed His plan.

4. Jonah 4:1-11 God's Ministry To Jonah:

Jonah 4:1-4 God Hears Him: Jonah 4:1 But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry. Jonah is angry over the compassion of God. The remarkable thing is that God tenderly dealt with His sulking servant and sought to bring him back to a place of joy and fellowship.

Jonah 4:2 Being a good theologian, Jonah knew the attributes of God, that He was "a gracious and compassionate God.

Jonah 4:3 Once again, Jonah would rather die than not have his own way.

Jonah 4:4 The LORD said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?" Where is your heart? What are you mad about?

Jonah 4:5-8 God Comforts Him: Jonah 4:5-8

A simple test of character is to ask:

"What makes me happy?

What makes me angry?

What makes me want to give up?"

Jonah 4:9-11 God Teaches Him:

Jonah and Nahum are the only books in the Bible that end with questions, and both books have to do with the city of Nineveh.

Nahum ends with a question about God's punishment of Nineveh (Nahum 3:19), while Jonah ends with a question about God's pity for Nineveh.

Application:

1. Jonah Learned That It Is impossible to Succeed In Running From God.
2. There Is No Limit To What God Can Use To Get One's Attention.
3. Failure Does Not Disqualify Us From God's Service.
4. Disobedience To God Creates Turmoil In The Life Of The Believer.
5. Patriotism Should Never Stand Between The Believer And The Will Of God.