

JONAH

Introduction:

1. Outline

Chapter 1 – God calls Jonah and Jonah seeks to run away from God

Chapter 2 – God gets Jonah’s attention in the belly of a great fish

Chapter 3 – God calls Jonah again who warns Nineveh of God’s judgment and they repent

Chapter 4 – God teaches Jonah a lesson about His love and mercy

2. Major Themes

A) God’s Sovereignty

> Over Jonah

> Over all of Creation

He uses a storm for His purposes (Jonah 1:4)

He uses a great fish for His purposes (Jonah 1:17)

He uses a gourd for His purposes (Jonah 4:6)

He uses a worm for His purposes (Jonah 4:7)

He uses a scorching east wind for His purposes (Jonah 4:8)

> Over the kingdoms of this world

His right and ability to judge and destroy Nineveh

His right and ability to forgive and have compassion on Nineveh

B) God’s Mercy

> Toward a disobedient son named Jonah

God’s call to service was an act of mercy

God providing a great fish was an act of mercy

Giving Jonah a second chance was an act of mercy

Bringing about a revival through Jonah’s ministry was an act of mercy

> Toward some reluctant unnamed sailors

They entered the story as idolaters who would face the judgment of God

Their lives are spared when God calms the raging sea

They leave the story as God fearers who worship the God of heaven and earth

- > Toward a wicked but repentant city of 120,000 people
 - Sending Jonah to sound a warning was an act of mercy
 - Accepting their repentance was an act of mercy
 - Removing the judgment they deserved was an act of mercy

3. Practical Lessons

A) The potential foolishness of the “open door” philosophy of determining God’s.

- > God reveals his will through His Word not open doors

B) It is impossible to escape the reach of God or thwart the purposes of God

- > How far can God reach? (Psalm 139)
- > Who can stop the purposes of God? (Ecclesiastes 1:15; 3:12-15; Daniel 4:34-35)

C) God’s Word is powerful

- > Imagine Jonah writing a how to manual for revival.
- > Jonah’s message is simple and direct – proclaim God’s message

The response is overwhelming (Jonah 3:6-9)

Paul’s confidence in the power of God’s Word (Romans 1:16)

D) God’s ways are right – even if I don’t like them or understand them

- > How amazing is Jonah’s response to God’s mercy? (Jonah 4:1-4)

He didn’t want the Ninevites to be saved

He didn’t want God’s will – if it meant showing mercy

- > Jonah had to deal with at least two realities

As a prophet of God he had to deal with the fact that his prophecy did not come true

As an Israelite he bore the shame of being instrumental in the salvation and preservation of Israel’s enemy

Nationalism is an ugly part of Jonah’s theology

Do we desire God’s mercy for our enemies as much as we want it for us?