

- I) V1 INTRO: *Then* Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the fish's belly
 - a) Jonah (Dove) was a prophet who served the LORD around 8 centuries before Jesus
 - 1) HE IS OFTEN CALLED: The reluctant, or disobedient prophet
 - 2) This is because after his *initial call*, he chose to *flee* rather than to *fulfill* the commission

- II) GOD HAD A MESSAGE FOR NINEVEH: The ancient capital city of Assyria
 - a) Ch 1:2 The message was simple: It was a message of impending judgment

- III) NOTE: This revealed that God is not a Tribal God but a the God of *the entire earth*
 - a) Each tribe had its own version of a god that went with them
 - 1) 2 Ki 17:29-31 However every nation continued to make gods of its own, and put *them* in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made, *every* nation in the cities where they dwelt. The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima, and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

- IV) FACT: The God of Israel declared Himself to be the God of the whole earth
 - a) Ps 97:5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
 - b) Ps 47:2 For the LORD Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth.
 - c) Is 54:5 For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.

- V) UPON RECEIVING HIS MARCHING ORDERS: Jonah fled from the presence of God
 - a) Rather than going to Nineveh, he fled in the opposite direction, to Spain
 - 1) WHY: Jonah *hated* the Ninevites because they were violent and cruel

- VI) WHEN HE FLED: We read concerning what happens when we are disobedient

- VII) JONAH 1:4 God sent a storm after the fleeing prophet demonstrating His sovereignty
 - a) Ps 107:25-26 For He commands and raises the stormy wind, Which lifts up the waves of the sea. They mount up to the heavens, They go down again to the depths; Their soul melts because of trouble.

- VIII) THE SAILORS: Knew that their ship was going to sink
 - a) Their response: They prayed and cried out for divine help
 - 1) QUOTE: Non-Christians never look better than when compared to some Christians!

- IX) V12 JONAH CONFESSED: That he was the reason for the storm and was eventually tossed overboard
 - a) After seeing the great power of the God Jonah served, they were not anxious to anger Him
 - 1) They finally tossed him overboard!
 - 2) JONAH: Demonstrated a conscience being convicted

- X) INTERESTING: The sailors were converted and we can see the steps that led to this
 - a) V5 Tells us that at first, they *feared* the storm
 - b) V10 says they *feared* that he was a Hebrew who had fled from the LORD
 - c) V16 CLOSES: By saying that they finally Feared the LORD
 - 1) Instead of continuing praying to their own gods, they offered to Jehovah praise and thanksgiving after they are delivered from the storm

- I) V17 GOD HAD *PREPARED* A GREAT FISH: He had arranged for the fish to be there at that time

- a) God orchestrated these events to fulfill His purposes
 - 1) Like Jesus telling Peter to cast his net to catch a fish with a gold coin in its mouth, or to cast the net on the other side of the boat to catch a great catch of fish
 - 2) INTERESTINGLY: Animals are often more obedient than humans!
- II) CH 2 WHILE IN THE FISH'S BELLY: Jonah prayed to the Lord His God
 - a) This prayer seems to be a prayer of thanks for deliverance and not a request for deliverance
- III) NOTICE: After three days of obstinate rejection of the Lord he finally praises Him
 - a) NOTICE HOW GOD DEALT WITH HIM:
 - 1) He allowed him to fear
 - 2) He allowed him to come to the end of himself
 - 3) He genuinely repented, and remembered the great God he served
- IV) KEY: The prophet's expected death did not occur
 - a) He was in danger, God delivered him, and he was eternally grateful
- V) V3 FOR YOU: Cast me into the deep into the heart of the seas and the floods surrounded me
 - a) He knew God had chastised him, and he responded to the spanking
 - 1) Ps 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Your word.
 - 2) Heb 12:5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;
- VI) V4-5 THEN I SAID: I have been cast out of Your sight; *Yet I will look again* toward Your holy temple
 - a) He went to the bottom of the sea, with the water pressure encompassing him, and sea weed
 - 1) I feared that You had forsaken me, and it drove me to repentance
- VII) V6 I WENT *DOWN*: To the moorings of the mountains; the earth with its bars closed behind me forever
 - a) He went *down* to Joppa, *down* to into the boat, and went *down* into the lowest part of the ship
 - 1) Now he went *down* to the bottom of the sea: this is where running from the Lord ends up
 - 2) He had to sink down to the bottom before He would look up and be rescued
- VIII) V7-9 WHEN MY SOUL FAINTED WITHIN ME: *I remembered the Lord* and my prayer went up to You
 - a) V8 HE REPENTED: How do we know that it is true repentance?
 - 1) FIRST: He acknowledged that all that occurred was his own fault
 - 2) SECOND: He did not asking for anything from God (no hidden motives)
- IX) KEY: Sometimes one of the worst disservice we do to people is excusing their condition
 - a) Bad news comes before good news
 - 1) V8: In fleeing from God's call to preach he had forsaken God's mercy *for him*
- X) V9 BUT: I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving I will pay what I have vowed
 - a) He will pay what he had promised
 - 1) Ps 50:14-15 Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High. Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."
- I) INCIDENTALLY: Is this a true event or simply a story?
 - a) Jesus made it clear that it was an actual event

- 1) Mt 12:40 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.
 - 2) Lu 11:30 As Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation.
- II) V10 SO: The Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land
 - a) CHASTENED: God now vomits him on the shore
 - 1) More than likely at Joppa: Begins all over again at the point he fled from
- III) CH 3:1-4 JONAH'S SECOND CHANCE: Jonah is a new man: He is fortunate to be alive!
 - a) He has realized that he is greatly loved, and has been greatly chastened
 - 1) THE PURPOSE OF CHASTENING: Was to make him more useful for God's work
 - 2) Heb 12:11 No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening--it is painful! But afterward there will be a quiet harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.
- IV) V1 NOW: The word of the LORD came to Jonah *the second time*
 - a) Jonah now receives his second chance, something that we often see in Scripture
 - 1) Moses: After slaying Egyptian
 - 2) Peter: After denying Jesus
 - 3) John Mark: After deserting Paul and Barnabas
- V) PERHAPS: There are some here who have run from God's calling
 - a) How long are you willing to remain in a fish's belly?
- VI) V2-4 ARISE: Go to Nineveh that great city and preach to it the message that I tell you
 - a) NOTICE: Everything is still the same: the Same prophet, same city, same basic message
 - 1) EXCEPTION: *Jonah* is changed: He goes in obedience to the command of the Lord
- VII) JONAH IS TO GO AND PREACH: The message God gives to him
 - a) IMPORTANT: He does not create a message, but gives God's message
- VIII) KEY: We cannot improve on the message of repentance that leads to salvation
 - a) We are simply commanded to preach it, even if it makes no sense to the unsaved
 - 1) 1 Co 1:18 I know very well how foolish the message of the cross sounds to those who are on the road to destruction. But we who are being saved recognize this message as the very power of God.
- IX) V5-9 SO: The people of Nineveh believed God proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth
 - a) INCREDIBLE RESPONSE: The entire city repented
- X) THEY BELIEVED GOD: By listening to what the prophet communicated to them
 - a) They knew that this message was not originating from an angry Jewish man
 - 1) 1 Th 2:13 And we will never stop thanking God that when we preached his message to you, you didn't think of the words we spoke as being just our own. You accepted what we said as *the very word of God*-which, of course, it was. And this word continues to work in you who believe.
 - 2) The entire city repented of their evil, desiring to avoid the judgment that was coming upon them
 - 3) The exhibited what would be called the fruit of repentance
- I) REPENTANCE: Metanoia: Literally, A change of mind; a change of view, regarding one's self
 - a) Sin is recognized for being sin against God, not simply a *mistake* or *an error* of judgment

1) Ps 51:3-4 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are proved right when You speak and justified when You judge.

II) NORMALLY: Mourning, or genuine sorrow over sin occurs and there is an obvious fruit, or response

III) V5-6 NOTICE: The response of the people of Nineveh and the king

a) They fasted, and put on sackcloth, and put on ashes which are outward signs of sorrow over sin

1) The king called on the entire land to repent, turning from their evil ways and their violence

IV) TRUE REPENTANCE IS: An inward turning of your heart toward God, through a decision of the Will

a) IT INCLUDES:

1) V5 HUMBLING ONESELF: Fasting, sackcloth

2) CONFESSION: 1 Jn 1:9

3) FORSAKING SIN: Pr 28:13 He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

4) TURNING TO GOD, *IN FAITH*: Is. 55:7 Let the wicked *forsake his way* and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

V) V10 THEN GOD: Saw their works that they turned from their evil way and God relented from the disaster

a) GOD'S RESPONSE: He spared the city because God desires to show mercy

1) This outward repentance was not permanent, but was enough for the Lord to act compassionately

VI) KEY: This gives evidence to the Jews that God is also the God of the Gentiles, and desires them saved

a) Is 45:22 Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I *am* God, and *there is* no other.

b) Lu 11:32 The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and, behold, a greater than Jonah is here.