

“The Merciless Prophet”

Jonah 1:1-17

- I. Overview of the book of Jonah
 - A. The Story of the Book of Jonah
 - B. The book of Jonah is largely seen to be a fishy tale
 - C. Primary Focus of Jonah - God's Character
- II. The Call & the Disobedience
 - A. Jonah the Son of Amittai – Prophet to the Northern Kingdom, 793-753 BC
 - B. Arise & Go to Nineveh (v/2)
 - 1. Nineveh the Capital of Assyria
 - 2. Why did God Send Jonah to Nineveh?
 - (1) To display God's mercy and grace toward sinners
 - (2) God wished to expose Israel's calloused hearts and wicked hatred toward the Gentiles.
 - (3) The Lord intended to use Nineveh's ready response to rebuke Israel
 - (4) To delay the destruction of Israel by Assyria
 - (5) To show a type of Christ
 - C. Jonah's Merciless Actions
 - 1. Jonah did not like God's Compassion – Jonah 4:2
 - 2. Chartering a Boat – in Hebrew is literally “Paid its [the ship's] wages”
- III. The Storm (v/4-9)
 - A. God determined to make sure Jonah knows that he has incurred God's punishment
 - 1. God hurling the Storm at the Ship – 1 Sam. 8:11
 - 2. Gentiles call on their god's
 - 3. Jonah's Indifference
 - B. Casting lots to prove the genuineness of the God's wrath
- IV. The Response (v/10-13)
 - A. Fear and trembling in the sight of a prophet of Yahweh (who has disobeyed God)
 - B. Sailors ignore the call to save themselves and kill Jonah, to save him
 - 1. “What a shame that the prophet of God had to be called to pray by a heathen. How the muslim with his five times of prayer daily puts us to shame as believers. Are there among us those who remember not to lift their hearts to God once a day? (Feinberg, P. 136)”
- V. The Worship (v/14-16)

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- A. Call of Prayer and Belief in Yahweh
- B. Act of Obedience – Throwing Jonah into Sea
- C. Sacrifices and Vows to God

VI. God’s Communicators

- A. Jonah was to be a messenger of God, to Gentiles of God’s mercy & compassion.
 - 1. How has God communicated with mankind throughout History?
 - 2. What has God been communicating to man?
 - (1) Creation & Order
 - (2) His Character and His Glory
 - (3) Holiness and Sin of Man and Separation of God
 - (4) Reconciliation of Man back to God
 - 3. What is this repentance? How do we escape the final day of judgement?
 - 4. God’s use of Imperfect Messengers – Hebrews 1:1-3
 - a) Christ the Perfect Messenger and Message – John 1:1 & 14
 - b) God’s Use of Imperfect Messengers – Jonah & Caiaphas

VII. So What?

- A. We Must Hear and Believe – Acts 2:37-38
- B. Listen to the Gospel – Romans 10:14-17
- C. We too Have Been Commanded & Can be Disciplined – Mt. 28:19-20
 - 1. God can and does discipline us (Heb 12:4-17)
 - 2. Be filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18) and do not harden one’s heart with false teaching away from sharing and preaching the Gospel (1 Tim 4:2)
- D. We are all gifted inside of the Church – 1 Co. 12:4-7
 - 1. Don’t fall under judgement for not doing it out of Love (1 Co. 13:1-3)