



Go for God!

The Book of JONAH
"Know Your Calling!"

Date: 800 B.C.

Theme: *Salvation for Mankind*

Type: *Christ's Resurrection & outpouring of the Holy Spirit for SALVATION!*

> **Who is JONAH (his name means *a dove*)?** - The prophet who was first swallowed by a great fish before he obeyed God's command to preach repentance to the Assyrian city of Nineveh. Jonah was not always a reluctant spokesman for the Lord. He is apparently the same prophet who predicted the remarkable expansion of Israel's territory during the reign of Jeroboam II (ruled about 793 B.C. - 753 B.C.; 2 Kings 14:25). This passage indicates that Jonah, the son of Amittai, was from Gath Hopher, a town in Zebulun in the northern kingdom of Israel.

- Jesus Himself taught the story of Jonah as real and in correlation to His death and resurrection - Matthew 12:39-41- *Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 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. The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. Also, Luke 11:29-30.*

- The late Henry Morris, Creation Scientist writes, "One cannot deny the factuality of Jonah's experience, therefore, without charging the Lord Jesus Christ with either deception or ignorance, either of which is equivalent to denying His deity."

> **God's six miracles in The Book of Jonah:**

#1 - *'The Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest' (Jonah 1:4),*

#2 - *'The Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah' (Jonah 1:17),*

#3 - *'The Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land' (Jonah 2:10),*

#4 - *'The Lord God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah' (Jonah 4:6),*

#5 - *'God prepared a worm...and it smote the gourd that it withered' (Jonah 4:7),*

#6 - *'God prepared a vehement east wind...' (Jonah 4:8).*

> *The life of JONAH and the grace of GOD chapter by chapter can be described as:*

Chapter 1 - Jonah's Rebellion/God's Intervention

Chapter 2 - Jonah's Repentance/God's Divine Direction

Chapter 3 - Jonah's Proclamation/God's Salvation

Chapter 4 - Jonah's Frustration/God's Compassion

> The moral of the story, or shall we say history: *"I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm."*

> *Chapter 1 - Jonah's Rebellion/God's Intervention*

(v1-2) *"Arise, go to Nineveh cry out against it for their wickedness!"*

(v3) Jonah flees from the presence of the LORD.

(v4-7) You cannot run from God!

(v8) The World Cries Out!

> *Four keys in knowing your calling:*

#1 - *"Whose cause?" - John 3:16*

#2 - *Our "occupation?" - 2 Corinthians 5:20*

#3 - *"Where do we come from?" - 1 Peter 2:11,12*

#4 - *"What is your country?" - Philippians 3:20*

#5 - *"What people are you?" - 1 Peter 2:9,10*

(v9-17) Once again, Jesus confirms Jonah's life and story, symbolically representing His resurrection! - Matthew 12:38-41

> *Chapter 2 - Jonah's Repentance/God's Divine Direction*

(v1) Jonah PRAYED to the LORD his God from the fish's belly.

(v2-3) Notice Jonah said, *"my affliction"* - Jonah reaps what he has sown!

- Observe: *"He (God) answered me" - God is gracious!*

"You (God) heard my voice" - God is merciful!

(v4) *"I have been cast out of Your sight; yet I will look again toward Your holy temple"* - Jonah displays FAITH in God by looking toward the *holy temple*.

- Today we look to Jesus! - Hebrews 12:1-2 - *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

(v5-6) Jesus brings up life from the pit! (Luke 7:11-17; 8:40-56; John Ch. 11)

(v7-8) Caste aside your idols, lest you caste aside God's mercy! (In the New Testament the term idolatry is used to designate covetousness (Matt 6:24; Luke 16:13; Col 3:5; Eph 5:5).)

(v9) Jonah yields the fruit of a repentant man, (1) "I will sacrifice to You"; (2) "with the voice of thanksgiving"; (3) "I will pay what I have vowed"; (4) "Salvation is of the LORD."

(v10) There's good vomit and bad vomit, this is good vomit! Bad vomit is found in Revelation 3:14-22.

> Chapter 3 - Jonah's Proclamation/God's Salvation

- C.I. Scofield writes about Jonah, "Jonah's character and God's dealing with him foreshadow the subsequent history of the nation of Israel: outside the land, a trouble to the Gentiles, yet witnessing to them; cast out, but miraculously preserved; in future deepest distress calling upon the LORD as Savior, finding deliverance and then becoming missionaries to the Gentiles (Zech. 8:7-23). But chiefly Jonah typifies Christ as the Sent-One, raised from the dead, and carrying salvation to the Gentiles." Scofield entitles chapter 3 as "The Greatest Revival in History."

> LESSONS FROM JONAH:

(v1) GRACE - Observe "*the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time,*" the first time is found in chapter 1:1-2. Always remember our God is a God of grace and mercy; our God is a God of second chances and much, much more!

(v2) PREACH – THE MESSAGE – THE GOSPEL – Jesus first sermon in Nazareth was "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor*" (Luke 4:18). The gospel is not a new plan of salvation; it is the fulfillment of God's plan of salvation, which was begun in Israel, was completed in Jesus Christ, and is made known by the church. (Matthew 10:1-23; Jesus said in Matt 9:37-38 - "*The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*" Daily, pray for more workers in the harvest field.)

(v3) OBEDIENCE – "*So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh*" – Who is your Nineveh? Who are you to share the Gospel? Matt 5:13-16 - "*You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so*

shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

(v4) TRUTH – “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” -

Today we need true evangelism, Larry Moyer in his book on *Personal Evangelism* writes, “What is missing from much modern evangelism is the holiness of God. In Isaiah’s vision of heaven, God’s holiness is being extolled by the seraphim around the throne. Of all the attributes of God they could have praised, it was His holiness—not His love—of which they sang. “And they were calling to one another: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory’” (Isaiah 6:3). When we understand just how holy God is, we can begin to understand His hatred of sin and His righteous wrath against sinners. Zechariah 8:16-17 and Proverbs 6:16-19 outline the sins God hates—pride, lying, murder, false witness, those who stir up trouble, and those with evil in their hearts. We cringe at the idea of God actually hating, because we are more comfortable with Him as a God of love, which He certainly is. But His hatred is real and it burns against evil (Isaiah 5:25; Hosea 8:5; Zechariah 10:3). The unsaved person stands in mortal peril of the wrath of holy God, as Hebrews 10:31 reminds us: “It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” An unbeliever is separated from God by his sin, which God hates, and there is nothing he can do about it. His nature is corrupt and fallen and he is “dead in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1) with no hope of redeeming himself. He cannot save himself, in spite of good intentions or good works (Romans 3:20). Every good work that man thinks he can do is as “filthy rags” in God’s sight (Isaiah 64:6). No amount good living will make us acceptable in God’s eyes because the standard is holiness, without which no one will see God (Hebrews 12:14).

(v5-9) REPENTANCE – “cry mightily to God; yes, let every one TURN FROM HIS EVIL WAY AND FROM THE VIOLENCE THAT IS IN HIS HANDS.”

- *Sackcloth and ashes* were used in Old Testament times as a symbol of debasement, mourning, and/or repentance. Someone wanting to show his repentant heart would often wear sackcloth, sit in ashes, and put ashes on top of his head. Sackcloth was a coarse material usually made of black goat’s hair, making it quite uncomfortable to wear. The ashes signified desolation and ruin.

(v10) FAITH PRODUCES WORKS – “God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way”

> Chapter 4 - Jonah’s Frustration/God’s Compassion

(v1) “But it displeased Jonah exceedingly and he became angry” – It’s been said, “The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart!” Why is Jonah not happy? Because Jonah is a judgment junkie, he’s lost the heart of salvation for ALL people! Jesus said, “For God so loved the world that He

gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” (John 3:16-17)

> **Go 4 God! Let’s reach the world for CHRIST:**

1 – Fulfill the “GREAT COMMISSION!” – Matthew 28:16-20

2 – Be a WITNESS in the power of the Holy Spirit! – Acts 1:4-11

3 – PREACH THE GOSPEL! – Acts Ch. 2

4 – BLESSED are YOU! – Romans 10:8-17

(v2) Observe the character of God:

- God is **GRACIOUS!**

- God is **MERCIFUL!**

- God is **SLOW TO ANGER!**

- God is **ABUNDANT IN LOVINGKINDNESS!**

- God is **ONE WHO RELENTS IN DOING HARM!** – AMEN!

(v3-4) Observe Jonah’s pity party, the “Poor me!” syndrome, the “I quit!” attitude; “I should just die!” life.

Warren Wiersbe writes, “Jonah was concerned about his reputation, not only before the Ninevites, but also before the Jews back home. His Jewish friends would want to see all of the Assyrians destroyed, not just the people of Nineveh. When Jonah's friends found out that he had been the means of saving Nineveh from Gods wrath, they could have considered him a traitor to official Jewish foreign policy. Jonah was a narrow-minded patriot who saw Assyria only as a dangerous enemy to destroy, not as a company of repentant sinners to be brought to the Lord. When reputation is more important than character, and pleasing ourselves and our friends is more important than pleasing God, then we're in danger of becoming like Jonah and living to defend our prejudices instead of fulfilling our spiritual

responsibilities. Jonah certainly had good theology, but it stayed in his head and never got to his heart, and he was so distraught that he wanted to die! God's tender response was to ask Jonah to examine his heart and see why he really was angry.”

(v5-10) God to Jonah, which is more important PLANTS or PEOPLE?

Spurgeon said about Jonah, "Let us hope that, during the rest of his life, he so lived as to rejoice in the sparing mercy of God."

(v11) The 120,000 are probably babies (“*who cannot discern between their right hand and their left*”)