

A little bit of context :

Jonah was called and given a message to share with Nineveh (the Assyrians), he had a divine purpose. That which he fled from due to his own personal opinion of God's plan.

Jonah prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam II (793-753 BC) in the Northern Kingdom. He was one of 3 prophets during this time-period, the others being Hosea and Amos.

The Assyrians were the predominant force oppressing Israel up to this period. There is then a shift of focus internally as the leadership structure and civil unrest threaten to tear apart the nation.

This results in their decline and ability for Israel to expand its borders.

Jonah 4 has 3 sections that we'll study this morning, and those are:

God hears him (v. 1-4) – Jonah lodges his complaints

God comforts him (v. 5-8) – Comfort in misery

God teaches him (v. 9-11) – Do you see what I see?

God hears him (verses 1-4)

- Israel was **accustomed** to God destroying their enemies, not offering them **salvation**.
- I'd **rather die** than see you act this way Lord
- Is your anger from Me? Is it righteous? Is it **justified**?

God comforts him (verses 5-8)

- He goes off a (safe) distance to find a seat for what he hopes will be the show of the century, the **destruction of Nineveh**
- Only when his **personal comfort** is prioritized not when God's plan comes to fruition
- God never stopped trying to capture **Jonah's heart**

God teaches him (verses 9-11)

- Unrighteous anger feeds the **ego** and produces the poison of **selfishness** in the heart
- This is a Fortiori argument, if an **accepted premise** is true, a second, related premise must be even more certainly true.
- Let us all look to see what **God wants** to do, not what **we want** God to do.

What do we take away?

It would seem the harder we try to run from the plan that God has for us, the more difficult things can become.

if you sense that your hitting walls and closed doors, assess if you're out of alignment with God on a ship to Joppa before you end up in the belly of a fish.