

## Jonah

### Introduction.

- A. Fifth book of the Minor Prophets.
  - 1. Minor = short, not unimportant.
  - 2. Only one that is completely a story.
- B. Author.
  - 1. Jonah, son of Amittai (2 Ki. 14:25).
    - a. Intensely patriotic to the point of chauvinism.
    - b. Strong willed, courageous, but self-righteous.
    - c. Sensitive to the LORD.
    - d. Strong faith in the LORD.
  - 2. During the reign of Jeroboam II ( 782-7753 BC).
- C. Used by Jesus.
  - 1. Illustration of his own death and resurrection (Mt. 12:38-41).
  - 2. Condemnation of unbelievers in his own time (also Lk. 11:32).
- D. Questions.
  - 1. Repentance of the whole city of Nineveh.
    - a. Administrative center and capital of Assyria.
    - b. Not a conversion, but a repentance.
    - c. Between 765-759, a total eclipse of the sun and two serious plagues made them sensitive to “the gods.”
    - d. Adad-Nirari III limited his worship to only one God (Nebo).
  - 2. Size of the city (three days to walk through it; 120,000 people).
    - a. Not a straight-line march but stopping every few “blocks” to preach.
    - b. Calah, a smaller city south of Nineveh was known to have a population of about 70,000.
  - 3. The great fish.
    - a. Prepared by the LORD (4:6-8).
    - b. Sperm whale (1891); great white shark (1758).
- E. Type of literature.
  - 1. Extended parable?
    - a. No Biblical parables are this long.
    - b. Where is the symbolism?
  - 2. Allegory?
    - a. Biblical allegories are short.
    - b. Where is the symbolism?
  - 3. No reason to think it isn't straightforward history.
- F. Note the almost exclusive use of “LORD.”

I. The call of Jonah (chapter 1).

- A. Go and preach (cf. Mt. 28:18-20).
- B. Jonah takes ship to Tarshish.
  - 1. Nineveh 375 miles to the east.
  - 2. Tarshish, a Phoenician colony near Spain, 3000 miles west.
  - 3. Why?
- C. Great storm.
  - 1. God's 2x4.
  - 2. Told sailors to throw him overboard.
    - a. They tried to save him.
    - b. Sacrificed to the LORD.
- D. Swallowed by a great fish.

II. Jonah's prayer (chapter 2).

- A. His distress.
- B. His faith (4b; 6b; 9).

III. Jonah is called again (chapter 3).

- A. Go and preach – again.
- B. Obedience.
- C. A message of doom and hope.
- D. Repentance.
  - 1. Sackcloth (burlap) and dust.
  - 2. Fasting and prayer.
- E. God's compassion and mercy (Ez. 18:27-28).

IV. Jonah's anger (chapter 4).

- A. Angry that God had spared Nineveh.
- B. Threw a temper tantrum (2-3).
- C. God's illustration.
  - 1. The plant to give shade.
    - a. "Kikayon" appears only once in OT.
    - b. Probably the castor bean plant, which grows quickly, up to 12 feet high with large leaves, and is short-lived.
  - 2. Jonah happy for himself.
  - 3. The plant dies.
  - 4. Another temper tantrum.
  - 5. People are worth more than a plant.