

THE BOOK OF JONAH

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Why Jonah?

Reading this book is important because no matter who you are; or what you've done, we see the love of God in the midst of disobedience's and evil.

We see God go out of his way for the worse of the worse of people. God extended to the people of Nineveh, the grace of salvation. These were the people who worshiped Idols. They sacrificed women, children, and animals all in the name of their pagan gods. Reading the book of Jonah enables us to see how much God loves the unlovable and all those who don't know Him. Plus, it helps us see that none of us are beyond the love of God.

The History of Jonah.

There is discussion that the prophet Jonah wrote this book during the reign of Jeroboam II between 785 and 750 B.C. Nineveh was the Capital City controlled by the Assyrians and they were pagan worshippers. The King had restored to the children of Israel the right to worship their God Jehovah. He also had begun to destroy some of the Assyrian's pagan gods. Assyria was known as a cruel ruthless and evil Nation. They were increasingly demanding and declaring their right to worship their way. They frequently invaded and pillaged the homeland of the Israelites. Jonah viewed them as evil, ruthless, cruel people not deserving to be saved.

Study outline of Jonah

1. Jonah's refusal to obey God's commission
 - a. Chapters 1-2
 - i. Jonah hears the doom of Nineveh (Ch 1: 1-3)
 - ii. Jonah runs from God (Ch 1: 3-6)
 - iii. The results of running from God. (Ch 1: 6-17)
2. Jonah's Deliverance and Thanksgiving Prayer
 - a. Chapter 1:17, Chapter 2
 - i. Jonah and the great fish
 - ii. Prayer is not forgotten
 - iii. The joy of Deliverance
3. Jonah accepts his assignment
 - a. Chapter 3
 - i. Jonah proclaims the word God has given him.
 - ii. The people of Nineveh receive the Word of God.
4. Jonah's complaint and God's object lesson.
 - a. Chapter 4
 - i. Jonah's anger toward God
 - ii. God's compassion displayed
 - iii. God's challenge and mercy reaching out to Jonah

Summarize what you have learned from this reading.

1. What does God say to you in the following roles?
 - Mother/ father
 - Pastor
 - Teacher
 - Leader
 - Disciple
2. Now, what do you say to God in response to the above?

Study assignment

Read each chapter and answer the questions listed. Create questions of your own for future study as you prepare to lead others.

Chapter One Questions:

1. What reason do you think Jonah had to run from God?
2. Why were the men on the ship afraid?
3. What happened to Jonah toward the end of this chapter?

Chapter Two Questions:

1. Why did Jonah pray?
2. During Jonah's prayer, how does he describe God?

Chapter Three Questions:

1. What was the response of the people to the words spoken by Jonah?
2. Why do you think the King of Nineveh made the proclamation he did??
3. How did God respond to the people of Nineveh after they heard Jonah speak?

Chapter Four Questions:

1. What made Jonah so angry?
2. How did God respond to Jonah's anger?

After this study, what have you learned about how God works?