

# Jonah

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## Study Outline

**Main Point:** Though the book of Jonah is full of practical lessons and interesting insights into the sovereign nature of God and the free will of humanity, this little book finds its place in the Bible because of its prophetic undertones. Even though the book of Jonah doesn't include any of his actual prophecies, in a greater sense the presented record of a specific experience in Jonah's life is extremely prophetic. In the story of Jonah we see a practical example of how far Israel had fallen from their divine purpose. We get a glimpse into God's overarching plan for humanity. And we see a picture of Israel's coming judgment.

**Historical & Scriptural Placement:** (793 B.C.) - 2 Kings 14:25  
Jonah ministered in the Northern Kingdom during the reign of Jeroboam II. Israel was enjoying peace, but the Assyrian threat of invasion was growing.

### PRACTICAL OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF JONAH

#### CHAPTER 1: DISOBEDIENCE & JUDGMENT OF JONAH

vs. 1-2

GOD CALLS JONAH TO PREACH TO NINEVEH

vs. 3

JONAH REFUSES GOD'S CALL & HEADS TO TARSHISH

vs. 4-17

GOD PREPARES A GREAT STORM & A GREAT FISH

#### CHAPTER 2: JONAH'S REPENTANCE & DELIVERANCE

vs.1-9

JONAH REPENTS BEFORE GOD

vs.10

JONAH DELIVERED TO DRY LAND

#### CHAPTER 3: JONAH DECLARES GOD'S JUDGMENT

vs.1-2

GOD CALLS JONAH TO PREACH TO NINEVEH

vs.3-4

JONAH OBEYS GOD AND PREACHES TO NINEVITES

vs.5-9

NINEVITES REPENT OF THEIR SIN

vs.10

GOD RELENTS FROM JUDGING NINEVEH

#### CHAPTER 4: JONAH SULKS AND GOD TEACHES

vs.1-4

JONAH'S DISAPPOINTED & DESIRES DEATH

vs.5-11

GOD REBUKES JONAH AND HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS NINEVEH

### PROPHETIC PICTURE CONCERNING ISRAEL PRESENTED IN THE EXPERIENCE OF JONAH

- BOTH CALLED TO BE A WITNESS TO THE GENTILE WORLD
- BOTH CARRIED A SELF-RIGHTEOUS HATRED TOWARDS THE GENTILES
- BOTH REFUSED TO OBEY GOD'S CALL TO REACH THE GENTILE WORLD
- BOTH WANTED TO SEE GOD JUDGE THE GENTILES, NOT FORGIVE THEM
- JUDGMENT: JONAH THROWN INTO THE SEA / ISRAEL TAKEN INTO EXILE
- PRESERVATION: JONAH SAVED BY FISH / ASSIMILATED NOT SWALLOWED
- RESTORATION: BACK ON DRY LAND / RESTORED TO LAND OF PROMISE
- IN THE END: PREACHED TO NINEVEH / EVANGELIST IN THE TRIBULATION



### *Day 1: Opposite Direction.....*

**Jonah 1:1-3 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). Why would Jonah run from the presence of the Lord? (2). What was the fundamental flaw in Jonah's plan to escape God's presence? (3). Has God ever called you to do something you've either tried to ignore or actively ran from?

### *Day 2: Stormy Scenario.....*

**Jonah 1:4-16 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). In what way did God use Jonah's life to reveal Himself to these sailors? (2). Jonah said he "feared the Lord." In what way was this a lie? (3). Jonah was living his life in contradiction to the knowledge he had concerning God. Is your life being lived consistently with what you claim to believe?

### *Day 3: Whale of a Tale.....*

**Jonah 1:17-2:10 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). God clearly didn't need Jonah to reach the Ninevites, so why did God go through so much effort to save Jonah? (2). At what point in this story do you think Jonah reached the point of repentance? (3). Though Jonah was in the depths of the sea, what brought him great joy and strength?

### *Day 4: Second Chance God.....*

**Jonah 3:1-4 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). What encouragement can you take from the reality that God provided Jonah a second chance? (2). What evidence do this passage provide indicating Jonah was truly repentant (3). It's evident God's work in Nineveh would wait for Jonah's to be obedient to God's calling. What work is God waiting for your obedience to accomplish?

### *Day 5: Largest Revival.....*

**Jonah 3:5-10 // THINKING POINTS:** (1). What was the evidence that a true revival had occurred in the city of Nineveh? (2). What was the source of this great revival - Jonah or his message or the transcending power of the Holy Spirit? (3). If the wicked Ninevites could be saved, what does this say concerning the people we've been called to reach?

### *Day 6: I Hate - God Doesn't.....*

**Jonah 4:1-11 // THINKING POINT:** (1). Why was Jonah so angry that God had forgiven the Ninevites? (2). What core lesson was God teaching Jonah through the exchanges that occurred in chapter four? (3). This whole story teaches us that God often doesn't hate the people we do. How should our attitude change towards those we harbor resentment or anger towards?

# DEVOTIONS

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