



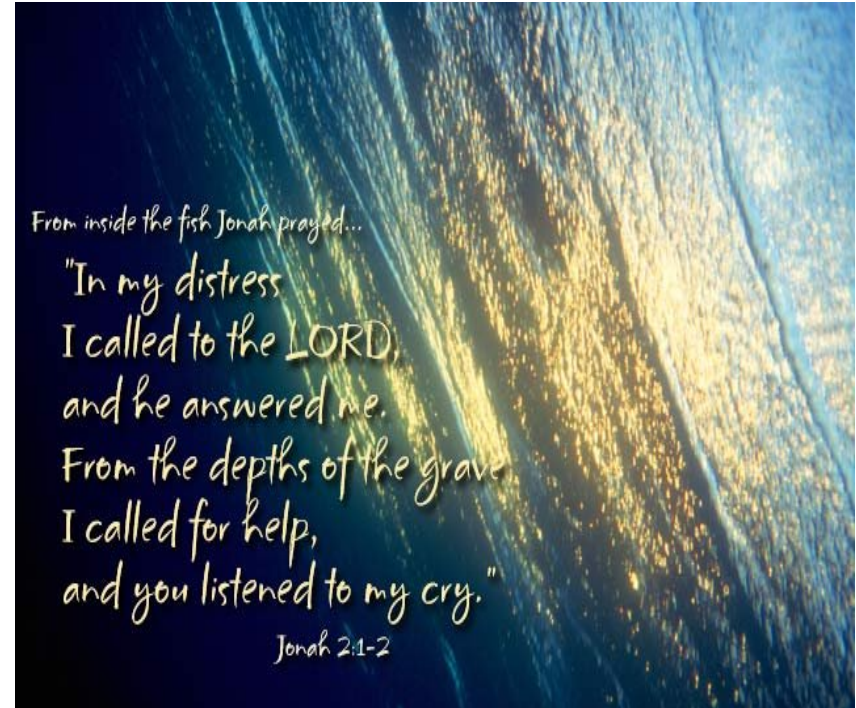
Notes

If you have questions during the week, please drop us an e-mail at jim@calvaryroswell.com or phil@calvaryroswell.com

For a digital form of this booklet, an mp3 version of the teaching and/or powerpoint slides from the teaching, visit our website at <http://www.calvaryroswell.com/biblestudies/index.htm>



Thru the Scriptures 2006-08



From inside the fish Jonah prayed...

"In my distress
I called to the LORD,
and he answered me.
From the depths of the grave
I called for help,
and you listened to my cry."

Jonah 2:1-2

The Book of Jonah

September 4th-10th, 2008

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God,
and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction,
for instruction in righteousness,
that the man of God may be complete,
thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Ti 3:16-17)

The Book of Jonah -

...The lesson of this book (Jonah) is that God has sent us to the unbelieving peoples of the world as he sent Jonah to Nineveh. Around us also are the godless, the lawless, and the disobedient. We often dismiss them by saying, "How revolting! How disgusting! They deserve damnation." But God has sent us to be a sign to this generation. The sign is that of resurrection, as Jesus said it would be with Him. It is the sign of people who once were dead but have been made alive in Jesus Christ. The very skin of our faces should shine with a new brilliance which grace has brought to it, and thus we ought ourselves to be a sign of resurrected life to the hopeless and lost around us. But how like this stubborn prophet we often are, intent upon our own goals and our own comforts, and unconcerned about those who stumble in darkness around us.

--Ray C. Stedman, *Highlights of the Bible*.

Helpful Study Links:

Additional Commentary: (Great Resource!)
http://preceptaustin.org/jonah_commentaries.htm

Helpful Study Resource:

Explore the Book by J. Sidlow Baxter

Commentary:

The commentary used with permission throughout
this booklet is:

With the Word Bible Commentary

by Warren W. Wiersbe.

ISBN 0-8407-9108-9

Notes for Booklet



Author: ??? The book of Jonah has no stated author, though tradition ascribes it to Jonah himself.

It is reasonable to suppose that Jonah himself would have recorded the unique experiences described in the book.

Jonah's name means "dove."



Time: The date of writing was around 760 b.c.

In Israel - Jeroboam II, was the king during Jonah's ministry as a prophet. Jeroboam II the king of Israel's northern kingdom from 794–753 b.c., was not only Israel's longest-reigning king but also one of its most successful, expanding Israel's borders back to what they had been more than 200 years before in the time of David and Solomon (see 2 Kings 14:23–29). Israel was enjoying a period of resurgence and prosperity, and nationalistic fervor was probably high.

Jonah ministered after the time of Elisha and just before the time of Amos and Hosea.

In Assyria - during Jonah's ministry Assyria was growing in strength and pushing its way southward toward Israel, which it would conquer in 722. Jonah, from the northern town of Gath-hepher, had been used by God to predict Jeroboam's military successes (2 Kings 14:25). Now, however, the Lord had another mission for him: to travel to Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, and call that mighty and threatening nation to repentance. Assyria had achieved a near-legendary reputation for cruelty – obviously creating both fear and animosity in Israel. Although Nineveh would repent at Jonah's preaching, its conquering of Israel some 30 years later suggests the revival did not endure. Nineveh would itself fall in 612.



Theme: God's gracious and active mercy

We see God's loving concern for a Gentile nation, in a time when the Jews did not see God's heart toward the whole world.

We see God's loving pursuit of a disobedient child—God is more concerned about him fulfilling God's plans for his life than he is.



Keys: Love for all! God’s loving concern for the Gentiles is not a truth disclosed only in the New Testament. More than seven centuries before Christ, God commissioned the Hebrew prophet Jonah to proclaim a message of repentance to the Assyrian city of Nineveh. Jewish nationalism, however, blinded both the prophet and covenant people to God’s worldwide purposes of salvation. The story of Jonah is one of the clearest demonstrations in Scripture of God’s love and mercy for all peoples.

Hard hearts. The book of Jonah served to challenge the nationalistic pride of Israel and her failure to comprehend the nature of her missionary task and the purpose of God to bestow his loving kindness upon all peoples.

Is this fish for real? Some have doubted the account in the book of Jonah because of the “big fish story” in it. Many answers can be given, including documented times when men have survived in the belly of a fish. Yet, the most convincing argument is that Jesus referred to Jonah as a real person and this account as actually happening. If Jesus said it happened— it happened! (Matthew 12:40-41; 16:4)

Except for one short sentence (3:4), the book of Jonah is actually a book about Jonah’s prophetic ministry, rather than a record of his actual prophecies. Jonah, like Habakkuk, consists largely of a dialogue between God and the prophet.

Outline

JONAH’S PROTEST; GOD’S PATIENCE (1)

- A. The Commission of Jonah (1:1, 2)
- B. The Flight of Jonah (1:3)
- C. The Pursuit of Jonah (1:4–16)
- D. The Preservation of Jonah (1:17)

JONAH’S PRAYER; GOD’S POWER (2)

- A. The Helplessness of Jonah (2:1–3)
- B. The Prayer of Jonah (2:4–7)
- C. The Repentance of Jonah (2:8, 9)
- D. The Deliverance of Jonah (2:10)

JONAH’S PREACHING; GOD’S PARDON (3)

- A. The Commission Renewed (3:1, 2)
- B. The Prophet Obeys (3:3, 4)
- C. The City Repents (3:5–9)
- D. The Lord Relents (3:10)

JONAH’S POUTING; GOD’S PITY (4)

- A. The Prophet Displeased (4:1–5)
- B. The Prophet Rebuked (4:6–11)

Daily Bible Study

Thursday, September 4th, 2008

Passage for today: Jonah 1

Questions to Ponder

1. Jonah is an interesting book in that it focuses more on the prophet than his prophecy. God called Jonah to go to Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, a chief enemy of Israel. How did Jonah respond? What was Jonah fleeing from? Why was this a foolish endeavor? Are there areas of your life today where you have responded in a similar way? How would the Lord have you to respond?
2. There are at least five miracles in this chapter. What are they? What do they reveal about God? What do they show of God's grace?

With the word Bible Commentary

Jonah 1

Jonah thought he had a choice. He forgot that the will of God is not an option: it is an obligation and an opportunity. When we run from God's will, we always go down (vv. 3, 5, 15, 17; 2:6). We may end up sacrificing safety for danger and peace for a storm.

The "pagan" sailors reveal more character than does the prophet of God. While Jonah was sleeping, they were crying out to their gods, and they did their best to save him (v. 13). Jonah was a Jew, and the Jews were to be a blessing to the whole world (Gen. 12:1-3). But the man who should have been saving the lost was being saved by the lost!

A believer out of fellowship with God can cause a great deal of trouble. Jonah put the crew in danger and left the Ninevites without a message of hope. God loves us too much to let us run away; therefore, He disciplines us (Heb. 12:1-11), and He keeps working on us until we submit to Him.

"To fear God is to stand in awe of Him; to be afraid of God is to run away from Him."

Carroll E. Simcox

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Jon 1:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Friday, September 5th, 2008

*Passage for today: **Jonah 2***

Questions to Ponder

1. According to the last verse in chapter 1, when did Jonah finally pray? What does this imply? Have you ever acted in a similar way? In what way did Jonah “remember” the Lord? What did he do as a result? How can you “remember” the Lord in your life today?
2. Considering Jonah’s plight, what is amazing about Jonah’s prayer in verse 9? How can you apply this to your life?

With the word Bible Commentary

Jonah 2

When God first called him, Jonah should have prayed for divine help in carrying out his mission. Then he would have escaped discipline and the need for crying out to God for deliverance. When it was almost too late, the prophet prayed; and God graciously forgave him and rescued him.

The Old Testament Jew looked toward the temple in Jerusalem when he prayed (vv. 4, 7; Dan. 6:10). Perhaps Jonah claimed the promise of 1 Kings 8:46–53, just as today we claim the promise of 1 John 1:9. God is merciful toward His children and ready to forgive (Ps. 86:5).

How did Jonah get into all that trouble? He forgot God and neglected prayer (v. 7) and believed lies (v. 8). He learned the hard way that he could not escape God’s will. But he was wise enough to run back to God and ask for forgiveness!

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Jon 2:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Saturday, September 6th, 2008

*Passage for today: **Jonah 3***

Questions to Ponder

1. Think about the first verse of this chapter. What is God giving Jonah? What does this reveal about God? What times in your life can you relate to this? Was Jonah obedient to the word of the Lord?
2. What was Jonah's message? How did the people of Nineveh respond? What does it teach us about repentance? How did God deal with Nineveh? What lessons can we learn about God's work?

With the word Bible Commentary

Jonah 3

How gracious God is to give us another opportunity after we have failed Him (Ps. 103:8–14)! God is as much concerned about the worker as He is the work. He could have sent somebody else to preach to Nineveh, but Jonah would have missed out on the lessons he needed to learn. God wants to work in us as well as through us.

How gracious God is to lost sinners! Why would a holy God give the vicious Ninevites an opportunity to repent? Because He is “not willing that any should perish” (2 Pet. 3:9) but “desires all men to be saved” (1 Tim. 2:4). Do you have a burden to share the gospel with a lost world that does not deserve to be saved? Remember, somebody shared it with you!

How gracious God is to bless the ministry of an imperfect servant! Jonah did not love the people he preached to, yet God used his message to bring the whole city to repentance. There is power in God's Word; it can convict and convert the greatest of sinners.

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Jon 3:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Sunday, September 7th, 2008

*Passage for today: **Jonah 4***

Questions to Ponder

1. Why was Jonah displeased? Why did he disobey God in the first place? Did Jonah have the right heart? Have you ever had a similar attitude toward a person or people group? What do we learn of God's mercy?
2. As we consider our hearts toward a lost world, what lessons can we learn from this?

With the word Bible Commentary

Jonah 4

If God wanted only to save the city of Nineveh, the book would have ended at chapter 3. But there was still more work to do, for God wanted to save His servant from himself. Jonah was an angry man (vv. 1, 2, 4, 9) who wanted to see Nineveh destroyed. Like the elder brother, he stayed outside and vented his bitterness (Luke 15:25–32).

The basic problem was that Jonah was not completely yielded to God. His mind knew God's truth, and his will obeyed God's orders; but he did not do the will of God "from the heart" (Eph. 6:6). He obeyed only because he was afraid of what God might do to him. His was not a ministry of love.

When we are angry with God, everything in life gets out of perspective, and we say and do selfish things. Things become more important than people, and comfort more important than ministry.

But God is long-suffering and tenderly deals with us to bring us to Himself. It is essential in Christian service to be happy with the will of God. Each of us should be able to say, "I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart" (Ps. 40:8).

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Jon 4:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Monday, September 8th, 2008

*Passage for today: **Jonah 1***

Questions to Ponder

1. What was God's purpose in sending a great tempest on the sea? How do the pagans respond to the storm? Are they brought any comfort?
2. Think on verse 6. How does Jonah respond to the request? How does this verse serve as a "wake up call" for believers today? What does Jonah's request to be thrown overboard reveal about his condition? How are the pagans impacted when the seas are calmed? Lessons?

With the word Bible Commentary

Jonah 1

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—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). With the word Bible commentary (Jon 1:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Daily Bible Study

Tuesday, September 9th, 2008

*Passage for today: **Jonah 2***

Questions to Ponder

1. Look carefully at Jonah's prayer. Why is it a great example of repentance?
2. What was Jonah "feeling" while he was in the midst of the fish? What are verses 2-6 a picture of? How do these verses speak of Christ? (Consider Matt 12:39, 40) How do Jesus' words reveal that the story of Jonah is literal?

With the word Bible Commentary

Jonah 2

When God first called him, Jonah should have prayed for divine help in carrying out his mission. Then he would have escaped discipline and the need for crying out to God for deliverance. When it was almost too late, the prophet prayed; and God graciously forgave him and rescued him.

The Old Testament Jew looked toward the temple in Jerusalem when he prayed (vv. 4, 7; Dan. 6:10). Perhaps Jonah claimed the promise of 1 Kings 8:46–53, just as today we claim the promise of 1 John 1:9. God is merciful toward His children and ready to forgive (Ps. 86:5).

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—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Jon 2:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Jonah

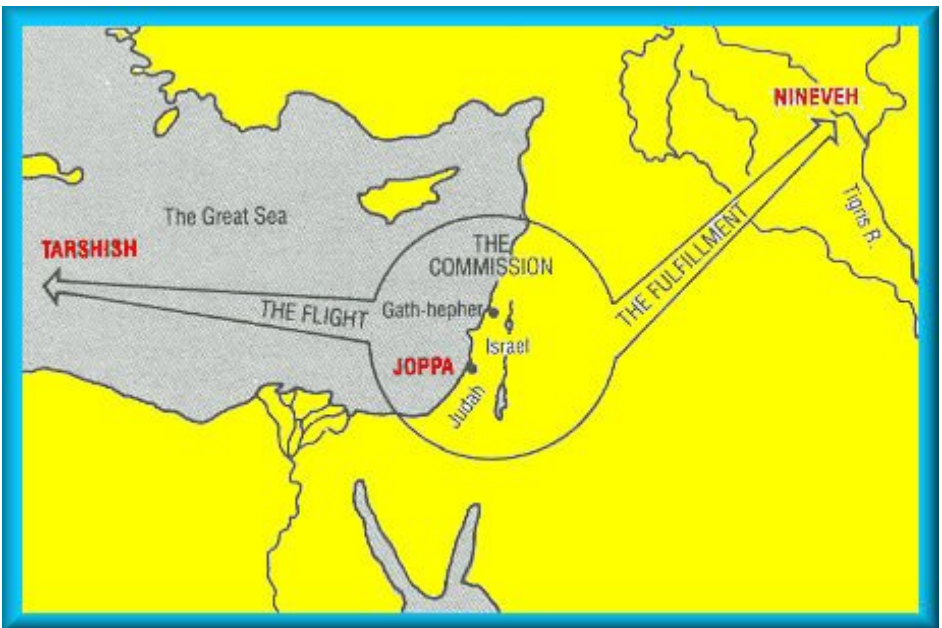
The prophet Jonah was a real person and not just a character in a parable (2 Kings 14:25; Matt. 12:39–41). God sent him to Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire, to a people despised by the Jews. Jonah would rather that Nineveh be destroyed than that the city have an opportunity to repent and be spared. The Assyrians were a cruel people who showed no mercy to their enemies, and Jonah wanted them out of the way.

The book emphasizes God’s grace both to Nineveh and to Jonah. Though Nineveh was a wicked city, God gave the inhabitants opportunity to be spared. Though Jonah was a rebellious servant, God forgave him, used him, and tenderly sought to help him overcome his anger. One outline of the book is the following:

- chapter 1 rebellion: Jonah goes down;
- chapter 2—repentance: Jonah goes up;
- chapter 3—restoration: Jonah goes to;
- chapter 4—resentment: Jonah goes out.

The main character in this book is neither the prophet nor the great fish but God, who is mentioned thirty-eight times. The book deals with the important question, “How do you respond to the word and will of God?”

—Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1991). *With the word Bible commentary* (Jon 1:1). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



“Salvation is of the Lord.”

Jonah 2:9

Taken from *Morning and Evening*

Written by C. H. Spurgeon

Salvation is the work of God. It is he alone who quickens the soul “dead in trespasses and sins,” and it is he also who maintains the soul in its spiritual life. He is both “Alpha and Omega.” “Salvation is of the Lord.” If I am prayerful, God makes me prayerful; if I have graces, they are God’s gifts to me; if I hold on in a consistent life, it is because he upholds me with his hand. I do nothing whatever towards my own preservation, except what God himself first does in me. Whatever I have, all my goodness is of the Lord alone. Wherein I sin, that is my own; but wherein I act rightly, that is of God, wholly and completely. If I have repulsed a spiritual enemy, the Lord’s strength nerved my arm. Do I live before men a consecrated life? It is not I, but Christ who liveth in me. Am I sanctified? I did not cleanse myself: God’s Holy Spirit sanctifies me. Am I weaned from the world? I am weaned by God’s chastisements sanctified to my good. Do I grow in knowledge? The great Instructor teaches me. All my jewels were fashioned by heavenly art. I find in God all that I want; but I find in myself nothing but sin and misery. “He only is my rock and my salvation.” Do I feed on the Word? That Word would be no food for me unless the Lord made it food for my soul, and helped me to feed upon it. Do I live on the manna which comes down from heaven? What is that manna but Jesus Christ himself incarnate, whose body and whose blood I eat and drink? Am I continually receiving fresh increase of strength? Where do I gather my might? My help cometh from heaven’s hills: without Jesus I can do nothing. As a branch cannot bring forth fruit except it abide in the vine, no more can I, except I abide in him. What Jonah learned in the great deep, let me learn this morning in my closet: “Salvation is of the Lord.”

“For I Know That This Great Tempest Is Because of Me.”

Jonah 1:12

It is a wonderful thing to see what great lengths the Lord will go to in order to have His way in a human soul. Here in Jonah we find Jonah acknowledging the fact that the God who “made the sea and the land” had engineered a mighty and worsening tempest because of him. We might look and say, “How violent of the Lord to do such a thing!” But we must see the other side of God’s heart being displayed here as well. God loved Jonah and the tempest is a sign of that. He was seeking to work something very grand in Jonah’s life. But Jonah would not see things this way. God was laying out a step for Jonah that would grow him and stretch him—and ultimately it would bring God much glory! But Jonah was on the run from God’s best.

Today, perhaps you find yourself being called by God to take a step of faith into something that you see as scary or unattractive or not lining up with *your* plan for *your* life. Perhaps you’ve sensed His call and have been running from God ever since. Do you see God moving to have His way in you? Many live their lives running from God. But the same God who created the tempest because of Jonah will not let a person do so easily. It is true that God will not strive with man forever and that His efforts to woo will cease at some point, but God’s heart is that His chosen people would live joyfully and abundantly in all He has for them. He will go to great lengths to pursue those who run.

God loved Jonah and longed for him to soften his heart and know the great joy of being used by Him to do something marvelous. But Jonah wouldn’t see it. May this not be so of us! Today if you are running from God’s best and you find yourself mad at God for calling you to do something you despise, repent. Soften your heart and cry out for God to change you and to make you into one who, like David, will do all His will. May He find you softened and heeding His call today! May you recognize God’s sovereign love for you and turn to Him today!