

# **JONAH: GOD'S LOVE AND GOD'S PLAN**

**STUDENT'S EDITION**

**PASTOR CHAD ASHBY  
COLLEGE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH  
NEWBERRY, SC**

# **JONAH**

**"MORE THAN JUST A FISH TALE"**

## **INTRO:**

**WHAT IS THE OVERARCHING PRINCIPLE OF JONAH?**

**WHAT'S THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK "JONAH"?**

**RESPONSE: IT'S A WHALE STORY--IT'S ABOUT GOD AND JONAH (MOSTLY)**

**JONAH IS NOT ABOUT A FISH!!!**

**HERE'S THE OVERARCHING PRINCIPLE OF JONAH: SALVATION TO THE NATIONS**

**TWO MAIN THEMES:**

**1. GOD'S LOVE**

**2. GOD'S DESIRE TO USE US**

## **BACKGROUND:**

**THE NATION OF ASSYRIA (8<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY B.C.)**

**NINEVEH, THE CAPITAL CITY**

**A CRUEL KINGDOM**

**A PLACE OF DEBAUCHERY AND SIN**

**THE NATION OF ISRAEL (8<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY B.C.)**

**NATION UNDER SIEGE**

**A STATE OF COMPLACENCY**

**A PLACE OF DEBAUCHERY AND SIN (HOSEA 4:1-2,11-14)**

**THE MAN JONAH**

**A PROPHET OF THE LORD**

**A COMFORTABLE GUY**

**A PROPHET TO THE POLITICALLY CORRECT AND SPIRITUALLY DEAD**

# **JONAH 1:1-3**

## **VERSE 1-2: THE CALLING**

**NOTHING NEW TO A PROPHET LIKE JONAH**

**ASSYRIA'S SIN: LIKE A RISING STENCH IN THE NOSE OF GOD  
CONSIDER HOW YOUR SIN SMELLED TO GOD...  
GOD'S CALLING TO JONAH DEMONSTRATED HIS LOVE.**

**JONAH'S PART**

**IT WASN'T HIS JOB TO FORCE REPENTANCE.  
HE WAS TO DECLARE, "THUS SAYETH THE LORD."  
WHAT IS OUR PART?**

## **VERSE 3: JONAH'S RESPONSE**

**JONAH RAN FROM HIS CALLING. WHY?**

**FEAR OF MAN.**

**HE THOUGHT THE ASSYRIANS WERE UNDESERVING SINNERS.**

**WE RUN FROM HIS CALLING. WHY?**

**FEAR OF MAN (WE ARE EVEN LESS FAITHFUL THAN JONAH).**

**WE THINK SOME ARE LESS DESERVING OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.**

**THOUGHTS ON ASSYRIA:**

**LOOK AT ROMANS 9:24-26**

**"THOSE WHO WERE NOT [HIS] PEOPLE"-THAT WAS US.**

**"CHILDREN OF THE LIVING GOD"-THIS IS US.**

**NO ONE MERITS GOD'S FAVOR.**

**NOT ISRAEL.**

**NOT ASSYRIA.**

**NOT US.**

**WILL YOU FLEE THE CALLING?**

**JONAH FLED...AS FAR AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE.**

**WILL YOU DO BETTER?**

**JONAH'S ESTIMATION PROBLEM:**

**HE THOUGHT GOD'S MERCY WAS SMALL.**

**WE KNOW GOD'S MERCY IS HUGE.**

**THIS WEEK CONTEMPLATE THE MERCY GOD HAS EXTENDED TO YOU. WHAT WILL BE YOUR RESPONSE? WILL YOU FOLLOW IN JONAH'S FOOTSTEPS?**

**NEXT TIME, WE WILL LOOK AT GOD'S PROVISION FOR JONAH AND GOD'S DESIRE FOR JONAH TO BE A PART OF HIS PLAN.**

# JONAH 1:4-6

"THE LORD BEGINS HIS CHASE..."

STUDY #2

**REHASH FROM STUDY #1:**

**THE OVERARCHING PRINCIPLE OF JONAH: SALVATION TO THE NATIONS**

**TWO MAIN THEMES:**

- 1. GOD'S LOVE**
- 2. GOD'S DESIRE TO USE US**

**THE CALLING: GOD'S ACT OF LOVE TO A WICKED PEOPLE**

**THE RESPONSE: JONAH'S FLIGHT**

**WHAT CALLING OF GOD ARE YOU RUNNING FROM IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION?**

**THIS WEEK: WE WILL SEE WHAT GOD WILL DO ABOUT JONAH'S NOTION THAT HE CAN FLEE FROM GOD'S PRESENCE...**

## **VERSE 4: THE STORM**

**HOW DOES JONAH, THE AUTHOR, VIEW THIS STORM?**

**A STORM WAS HURLED.**

**NOT MERE COINCIDENCE: THE LORD *CAUSED* THIS STORM.**

**JONAH, THE AUTHOR, REALIZED THAT THE LORD WILL ALWAYS ACCOMPLISH HIS PLAN.**

**GOD'S PURSUIT IS A PURSUIT OF LOVE, NOT OF VENGEANCE.**

**JONAH, THE CHARACTER, THOUGHT HE COULD ESCAPE GOD'S PLAN.**

**GOD, WHY JONAH? WEREN'T THERE OTHER PROPHETS WHO COULD DO THE JOB?**

**GOD SENT THE STORM OUT OF LOVE.  
IT WASN'T JUDGMENT.  
IT WAS TOUGH LOVE.**

**GOD WAS DETERMINED TO USE JONAH IN HIS PLAN.  
IT WAS FOR JONAH'S JOY.  
IT WAS FOR JONAH'S GROWTH.**



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**GOD, WHY ME? AREN'T THERE OTHERS WHO COULD DO THE JOB?**

**QUESTION: HOW DOES THE LORD CAUSE THINGS TO HAPPEN AROUND US TO GET OUR ATTENTION? ANY SPECIFIC SITUATIONS?**

**PRETEND YOU ARE JONAH LOOKING BACK AT THE WHOLE STORY AS YOU WRITE THIS BOOK. HOW HAS YOUR ATTITUDE CHANGED?**

**DO YOU THINK JONAH HAS A DIFFERENT OUTLOOK NOW AS HE WRITES THIS BOOK?**

**"PLEASE, PLEASE, WHATEVER YOU DO, DO NOT FOLLOW IN MY FOOTSTEPS. LOOK AT THE AMAZING WORK I WAS RUNNING FROM. LOOK AT HOW GOD SOUGHT ME OUT. LOOK AT HOW MUCH EASIER IT COULD HAVE BEEN!"**

## **VERSE 5: JONAH'S RESPONSE PART II**

**JONAH HEARD THE VERY VOICE OF GOD. WHY WASN'T THAT ENOUGH TO INSPIRE ACTION?**

**IF YOU HEARD GOD SPEAK AUDIBLY, WOULDN'T YOU RESPOND?**

**JONAH WAS A PROPHET. GOD'S VOICE HAD BECOME FAMILIAR.**

**THE STORM WAS PHASE II OF GOD'S COMMAND.**

**GOD SAID, "MAYBE YOU MISSED IT JONAH. PERHAPS THIS STORM WILL BETTER COMMUNICATE WHAT I WANT."**

**IT WAS THE STORM OF THE CENTURY, YET JONAH SLEPT.**

**WE LOOK DOWN ON JONAH FOR IGNORING THE COMMAND OF GOD. YET...**

**WHAT IS THE BIBLE?**

**WHAT DOES JAMES HAVE TO SAY ABOUT COMPLACENT FAITH? (JAMES 2:14-24)**

**SO...**

**GOD HAS GIVEN US A COMMAND: HIS WORD.**

**ARE WE NUMB TO THE VOICE OF GOD LIKE JONAH?**



**WHEN GOD BRINGS STORMS INTO OUR LIVES, DO THEY WAKE US, OR DO WE SLEEP THROUGH THEM?**

### **VERSE 6: ALWAYS ON HIS MIND**

**CONSIDER THE GREEK GODS AND THE PAGAN GODS.  
THEY WERE LIKE PEOPLE, BUT THEY WERE IMMORTAL.**

**THEY WERE FICKLE AND UNCARING TOWARD HUMAN BEINGS.**

**HOW IS OUR GOD DIFFERENT?**

**OUR GOD IS NOT ARBITRARY.**

**HIS PLAN IS ALWAYS FOR OUR GOOD. (ROMANS 8:28)**

**THE SEA CAPTAINS SAID, "PERHAPS GOD WILL GIVE A THOUGHT TO US!" BUT...**

**WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT GOD IN HIS VIOLENT LOVE FOR US IS WILLING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES, AND HE IS ALWAYS GIVING THOUGHT TO US.**

**SO LOOKING BACK AT THESE VERSES, WE SEE:**

- 1. THE LORD WILL ACCOMPLISH HIS PLAN IN US. WE SAW THE BEGINNINGS OF THIS THROUGH THE STORM HE SENT TO GET JONAH'S ATTENTION.**
- 2. WE SAW JONAH'S RESPONSE TO GOD, THE WAY HE EASILY IGNORED THE COMMANDS OF GOD AND BECAME USED TO HEARING THE WORD OF GOD. WE ALSO LOOKED AT HOW WE ARE LIKE JONAH IN THAT WE OFTEN BECOME COMPLACENT IN OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD'S WRITTEN WORD.**
- 3. FINALLY WE SAW THAT GOD IS ALWAYS THINKING OF US; HE IS ALWAYS SEEKING TO BENEFIT US AND TO GROW US CLOSER TO HIMSELF.**

**NEXT WEEK: LOOK FURTHER AT THE STORY AS JONAH FIRST BEGINS TO TURN BACK TO GOD.**

# JONAH 1:7-12

"THE REALIZATION"

STUDY #3

## REVIEW FROM STUDY #2:

1. THE LORD WILL ACCOMPLISH HIS PLAN (I.E. THE STORM)
2. JONAH'S RESPONSE (PART II)  
HIS COMPLACENCY AND FAMILIARITY  
HARD HEART AGAINST WITH GOD'S VOICE
3. GOD IS ALWAYS THINKING OF US  
HE WANTS US TO KNOW THE JOY OF TAKING PART IN HIS PLAN.  
HE KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR US.

**THIS WEEK: A CHANGING MAN - WE SEE THE PROCESS AS GOD BREAKS JONAH'S HEART.**

## **VERSES 7-8: THE POWER OF GOD**

**WHY DID IS THE AUTHOR INCLUDE THIS COMMENT ABOUT THE MEN CASTING LOTS?**

**JONAH, THE AUTHOR, IS EMPHASIZING THE POWERFUL NATURE OF THE TRUE PRESENCE OF GOD.**

**EVEN THESE LOST MEN KNEW THAT GOD WAS PRESENT.**

**LOOK AT PSALM 18:7-15 - THE POWER OF OUR GOD.**

**WHAT MOTIVATED THE SAILORS TO CAST LOTS? FOR WHAT REASON?**

**DO YOU THINK IT WAS TYPICAL PRACTICE TO CAST LOTS EVERY TIME THERE WAS A STORM?**

**"THE LOT FELL TO JONAH"**

**THIS BRINGS AN IMMEDIATE FRANTIC NATURE TO THE MEN.**

**GOD'S POWER IS OVER THE HUGE STORM, AND OVER THE TINY LOT.**

## **VERSE 9: JONAH HIDES HIS GUILT**

**THE MEN ASK 21 QUESTIONS. WHY?**

**THINK ABOUT IT. WHY WERE LOTS CAST IN THE FIRST PLACE?**

**GUILT.**

**HOWEVER, JONAH AVOIDED HIS SIN ALL TOGETHER.**

**HE LISTS HIS CREDENTIALS INSTEAD.**

**HE IS A HEBREW.**

**HE FEARS THE LORD OF THE HEAVENS WHO MADE THE SEA AND THE LAND.**

**DON'T BE DECEIVED. WHAT IS JONAH'S PURPOSE?**

**IS JONAH REALLY TRYING TO INSPIRE AWE FOR GOD IN HIS CLAIMS?**

**JONAH IS PROMOTING ONE THING: HIMSELF.**

**NOT A CHANGE OF HEART, BUT A PRIDEFUL DIVERSION.**

## **VERSE 10: THE REACTION**

**THE SAILORS: UTTER PANIC.**

**"WHAT IS THIS YOU HAVE DONE?!"**

**THEY REALIZED THEIR BOAT CARRIED A FUGITIVE OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD.**

**JONAH'S REACTION: REALIZATION.**

**"WHAT IS THIS YOU HAVE DONE?!" SAY THE SAILORS.**

**"WHAT IS IT I HAVE DONE!?!?!" SAYS JONAH IN HIS HEART.**



## **VERSE 11-12: GOD BREAKS JONAH**

**"WHAT SHOULD WE DO *TO YOU*," THE MEN ASK.**

**JONAH FINALLY SEES HIS GUILT BEFORE GOD.**

**WHAT IS JONAH'S SOLUTION?**

**HUMBLE SELF-DENIAL.**

**HE ACCEPTS HIS GUILT AND IS READY TO DIE TO SAVE THE SHIP.**

**EACH OF US CHRISTIANS HAS HAD THIS SAME REALIZATION MOMENT. WHEN WE STOOD BEFORE THE RAW POWER OF A HOLY AND ALMIGHTY GOD AND REALIZED WE DESERVED TO DIE FOR RUNNING CONTRARY TO HIS PLAN.**

**CAN WE REALLY BOAST BEFORE ANYONE IN OUR OWN CREDENTIALS?  
READ ROMANS 3:10-20.**

**IT TOOK THE INTERVENTION OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD.  
READ ROMANS 3:21-28.**

**AS WE SEE JONAH WITH A BROKEN HEART BEFORE THE ALMIGHTY GOD, WE REALIZE THAT WHAT SEEMED TO BE AN ACT OF VENGEANCE--THE STORM--WAS ACTUALLY AN ACT OF MERCY. IT IS GOD'S MERCY THAT WILL NOT ALLOW MEN TO RUN AWAY FROM HIS PLAN. THE LOVE OF GOD SEEKS MEN WHO ARE RUNNING FULL STRIDE AWAY FROM HIM, AND BRINGS THEM TO THE END OF THEMSELVES. ONLY HUMBLE MEN SEE THEIR NEED FOR SALVATION.**

**PRAISE BE TO GOD WHO HAS HUMBLed US WITH THE STORMS OF LIFE TO BRING US TO THE REALIZATION THAT WE DESERVE DEATH. HOWEVER, AS WE WILL SEE NEXT WEEK, GOD DOES NOT ABANDON US TO DIE.**

**NEXT WEEK WE WILL BEGIN TO SEE HOW GOD PROVIDED FOR JONAH. NOW THAT HE IS AT ROCK BOTTOM, GOD CAN BEGIN TO BUILD HIM BACK UP.**

# **JONAH 1:13-17**

## **"GOD'S IRRESISTIBLE PLEASURE"**

**STUDY #4**

### **REVIEW FROM STUDY #3:**

- 1. POWER OF GOD: THE STORM AND THE LOT. GOD'S POWER REACHES INTO BOTH THE LARGE AND THE SMALL DETAILS.**
- 2. JONAH HIDES HIS GUILT: JONAH SOUGHT TO MASK HIS SIN BY POINTING TO HIS CREDENTIALS.**
- 3. THE REACTION: THE SAILORS RECOGNIZED THE GRAVITY OF JONAH'S SIN, WHILE JONAH MISSED IT.**
- 4. GOD BREAKS JONAH: HE FINALLY REALIZED HIS CULPABILITY, AND HE HUMBLING HIMSELF, BEING WILLING TO DIE TO SAVE THE OTHERS.**

**THIS WEEK: WE NEED TO TAKE THE FOCUS OFF OF JONAH AND TO PLACE THE FOCUS UPON GOD.**

**THIS WEEK WE WILL DELVE INTO THREE MAIN POINTS:**

- 1. RESISTANCE IS FUTILE**
- 2. GOD ACTS ACCORDING TO HIS PLEASURE**
- 3. GOD'S PROVISION FOR THE HIS MINISTER**

### **VERSE 13: RESISTANCE IS FUTILE**

**FROM LAST WEEK:**

**WE HEARD JONAH'S ADMISSION: HE IS THE SERVANT OF THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY GOD OF THE HEAVENS AND THE LAND AND THE SEA.**

**WE SAW THE SAILORS REACT WITH ABSOLUTE TERROR.**

**YET, THESE MEN STILL TRIED TO RESIST THE POWERS OF THIS GOD.**

**THEY TRULY VALUED THE LIFE OF A MAN, EVEN A GUILTY MAN--AN INTERESTING THING FROM A GROUP OF SEA HARDENED SAILORS.**

**DON'T MISS THE CONTRAST:**

**ON THE ONE HAND, JONAH, THE PROPHET OF GOD IS RUNNING FROM NINEVEH BECAUSE HE HAS NO MERCY ON THE SINFUL PEOPLE THERE.**

**ON THE OTHER HAND, A GROUP OF PAGAN SAILORS ARE WILLING TO  
PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE TO TRY TO SAVE SINFUL JONAH.**

**WHAT BECAME OF THE SAILORS' RESISTANCE?**

**THE STORM INCREASED, AND THE SEAS CAME UPON THEM.**

**THE SAILORS TOOK THE HINT.**

**GOD HAD HIS PURPOSE AND HE WOULD NOT BE DENIED HIS  
WORKMAN.**

**THE SAILORS HAD GOOD INTENTIONS, BUT GOD'S WERE BETTER.**

### **VERSES 14-16: GOD ACTS ACCORDING TO HIS PLEASURE**

**THE SAILORS UTTER ONE LAST PLEA.**

**IT'S AN INTENSE PRAYER.**

**ANOTHER CONTRAST:**

**THE REMORSEFUL SAILORS WHEN FACED WITH THE PERISHING  
OF ONE MAN.**

**THE REMORSELESS PROPHET OF GOD WHEN FACED WITH THE  
PERISHING OF THE ENTIRE CITY OF NINEVEH.**

**THEY "LET GO, AND LET GOD".**

**"FOR YOU, LORD, HAVE DONE ACCORDING TO YOUR PLEASURE."**

**THEY SOUGHT TO ABSOLVE THEMSELVES OF JONAH'S BLOOD BY  
ACKNOWLEDGING GOD'S CONTROL.**

**THE AUTHOR MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE SAILORS WERE JUSTIFIED IN  
TOSSING JONAH OVERBOARD.**

**THE SAILORS HAVE STUMBLER UPON A VERY IMPORTANT  
THEOLOGICAL POINT: GOD ACTS ACCORDING TO HIS PLEASURE.**

**THIS RAISES SOME VERY INTERESTING QUESTIONS:**

- 1. IF GOD DOES ACCORDING TO HIS PLEASURE, DOES THIS MEAN THAT GOD TAKES PLEASURE IN EVERYTHING THAT HE DOES?**
- 2. DOES GOD DELIGHT IN THE CONDEMNATION OF SINNERS?**
- 3. DOESN'T THE BIBLE TEACH THAT GOD DESIRES THAT ALL MEN SHOULD COME TO THE SALVATION?**

**GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS REQUIRES THAT GOD PUNISH SIN, BUT HE DOES NOT DELIGHT IN BRINGING WRATH UPON SIN. HOWEVER, HE IS GLORIFIED THROUGH THE EXERCISE OF JUSTICE UPON WRONGDOING. WHEN JUSTICE REIGNS, GOD'S GLORY IS DISPLAYED, AND GOD WILL ALWAYS BE GLORIFIED.**

**THE SAILORS UNDERSTOOD THAT GOD WORKS HIS PLAN TO BRING HIMSELF DELIGHT. NOT EVERY STEP OF GOD'S PLAN BRINGS HIM PLEASURE, BUT HE CALCULATES HIS PLANS TO BRING HIM IMMENSE PLEASURE. IT DID NOT PLEASE GOD TO SEE JONAH RUNNING FROM HIM; HOWEVER, GOD ALLOWED JONAH TO RUN BECAUSE HE WAS DELIGHTED TO RESCUE JONAH FROM THE DEPTHS (WHICH WE WILL SEE IN VERSE 17!).**

**SO THE MEN THROW JONAH IN.**

**WHAT ELSE RESULTS FROM GOD'S PLAN?**

**WORSHIP.**

**"THEY FEARED THE LORD WITH GREAT FEAR  
AND THEY SACRIFICED A BURNT OFFERING TO THE LORD  
AND THEY HEAPED UP VOWS."**

**CHANGED HEARTS.**

**VERSE 17: GOD' PROVISION FOR JONAH**

**HOW ELSE COULD GOD HAVE SAVED JONAH FROM DEATH AT SEA?**

**GOD *APPOINTED* A FISH.**

**IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO SAVE JONAH.**

**WHY ARE GOD'S INTENTIONS SO IMPORTANT?**



**GOD DOES NOT SAVE ACCORDING TO MERIT.**

**THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO TO CAUSE GOD TO CHOOSE TO SAVE US. HE SIMPLY DELIGHTS IN BESTOWING HIS GRACE AND MERCY ON HORRIBLE SINNERS LIKE JONAH, LIKE US. THIS IS A COMFORT TO US ALL, BECAUSE IF IT WERE LEFT UP TO US, WE WOULD ALL BE DROWNING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA.**

**THIS POINT OUGHT TO INSPIRE GRATITUDE, FOR IN JONAH, WE SEE OURSELVES. WE UNDERSTAND OUR SIN AND THE GRAVITY OF OUR DEPRAVITY. YET WE ARE UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING TO REPAIR THE SITUATION. WE WERE JUST LIKE JONAH--SLOWLY SINKING TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN. BUT THE LORD'S GREAT LOVE AND MERCY CAME TO OUR RESCUE. AMAZING.**

**NEXT WEEK WE WILL SEE JONAH'S REACTION OF REPENTANCE TO GOD'S DIVINE INTERVENTION OF SALVATION ON HIS BEHALF.**



# **JONAH 2:1-10**

## **"PENITENT PENITENTIARY PRAYER"**

**STUDY #5**

### **REVIEW FROM STUDY #4:**

- 1. RESISTING GOD IS WORTHLESS; GOD WILL ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES.**
  - A. THE SEAMEN STILL TRIED TO ROW OUT OF THE STORM, BUT THEY HAD TO GIVE IN.**
  - B. JONAH COULD NOT RESIST GOD'S PLAN FOR HIS LIFE.**
- 2. GOD DOES WHAT DELIGHTS HIM: HE SAVES LOST SOULS.**
- 3. GOD WILL MAKE PROVISION FOR HIS PEOPLE. THE BIG FISH WASN'T A PUNISHMENT AS MUCH AS IT WAS SALVATION FOR HIS CHILD WHO WAS SINKING INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA.**

**THIS WEEK WE WILL STUDY JONAH'S PRAYER OF REPENTANCE. WE ARE GOING TO SEE HOW GOD'S SALVATION OF JONAH IS A PICTURE OF GOD'S SALVATION FOR HIS PEOPLE, THE CHURCH.**

### **HERE ARE OUR QUESTIONS TO PONDER:**

- 1. WHAT WAS JONAH'S STATUS BEFORE GOD?**
- 2. WHERE DID HIS HOPE LIE?**
- 3. WHAT IS GOD'S RESPONSE TO A REPENTANT HEART?**

### **VERSES 3-6: WHAT WAS JONAH'S STATUS BEFORE GOD?**

**JONAH WAS IN DISTRESS: HE SANK INTO THE DEPTHS.**

**JONAH WAS HELPLESS: HE PREPARED FOR DEATH.**

**HIS EFFORTS FAILED.**

**DEATH WAS QUICKLY SWALLOWING HIM.**

**JONAH WAS HUMBLER: ONLY GOD COULD SAVE HIM.**

### **VERSES 2, 7-9: WHERE DID HIS HOPE LIE?**

**JONAH'S ONLY HOPE WAS TO RELY UPON THE MERCY OF GOD.**

**HE WAS A DROWNING SINNER.**

**AND HE ANSWERED ME...**

**GOD IS A GOD OF WRATH.**

**GOD IS A GOD OF MERCY.**

**SINNERS MUST COME TO THEIR SENSES.**

**HERE'S AN HONEST ASSESSMENT OF THEIR SITUATION: EPHESIANS 2:1-3**

**I AM SINKING DOWN TO THE DEPTHS.**

**I AM HELPLESS.**

**I AM A DISOBEDIENT SON DESERVING GOD'S WRATH.**

**MEN MUST REALIZE THEIR ONLY HOPE LIES IN GOD.**

**THEN WILL HE ANSWER YOU!**

**FIGHTING THE WAVES, FIGHTING THE BILLOWS WILL NEVER WORK.**

**GOD'S MERCY NEVER FAILS, HOWEVER: EPHESIANS 2:4-9.**

**BUT GOD, BEING RICH IN MERCY.**

**THE BIG FISH WAS GOD'S MERCY TO JONAH, AND HE KNEW IT!**

**THE BIG FISH WAS GOD'S GRACE TO JONAH.**

### **VERSE 10: WHAT IS GOD'S RESPONSE TO A REPENTANT HEART?**

**VERSE 9 SUMS UP THE FINAL STATUS OF JONAH'S HEART.**

**"SALVATION BELONGS TO THE LORD."**

**DON'T FORGET THAT JONAH IS PRAYING FROM THE BELLY OF A FISH!**

**GOD'S RESPONSE TO JONAH'S PRAYER: DELIVERANCE FROM THE FISH.**

**WHAT IS THE AUTHOR'S AGENDA?**

**WHAT IS HE SAYING ABOUT SALVATION?****GOD IS NOT INTO DENIAL!****CAUSE AND EFFECT:****GOD CAUSED.****JONAH WAS AFFECTED.****GOD WAS CHASING JONAH.****GOD IS CHASING YOU.****NEXT WEEK WE WILL LOOK AT WHAT JONAH DOES WITH HIS SECOND CHANCE AS HE GOES TO NINEVEH.**



# JONAH 3:1-9

## "REPENTANT PAUPERS AND A REPENTANT PAUPER KING"

### REVIEW FROM STUDY #5:

#### THE PENITENT PENITENTIARY PRAYER OF JONAH

1. HIS HELPLESSNESS AND HOPELESSNESS BEFORE GOD
2. JONAH WAS FULLY RELIANT UPON THE MERCY OF GOD FOR HIS SALVATION FROM DEATH. HE COULD NOT DO A THING TO HELP HIMSELF; HE NEEDED GOD'S INTERVENTION.
3. GOD'S RESPONSE TO A REPENTANT HEART: GOD DESIRES TO RESCUE THOSE WHO CALL UPON HIS NAME WITH SINCERITY OF HEART.

**THIS WEEK WE WILL SEE HOW GOD USED JONAH'S REPENTANCE AND OBEDIENCE TO TRIGGER THE SALVATION OF AN ENTIRE HEATHEN CITY-FROM POOR MAN ALL THE WAY UP TO THE KING.**

#### LET'S INVESTIGATE TWO PRIMARY ISSUES:

1. GOD'S WORD AT WORK
2. THE APPEARANCE OF TRUE REPENTANCE

**READ JONAH 3:1-9.**

### VERSES 1-6: GOD'S WORD AT WORK

**JONAH GETS A SECOND CHANCE.**

**JONAH IS FINALLY OBEDIENT. "GOD SAID, 'ARISE AND GO'...AND JONAH AROSE AND WENT."**

**GOD'S SIMPLE MESSAGE: "IN FORTY DAYS YOU WILL BE DESTROYED."**

**GOD'S MESSAGE THROUGH JONAH IS A DOOMSDAY MESSAGE.**

**WHY ISN'T REPENTANCE MENTIONED AS AN OPTION?**

**THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD IS ON DISPLAY.**

**VERSE 5: "AND THE PEOPLE OF NINEVEH BELIEVED GOD."**

**THINK ABOUT THE COMPARISON BETWEEN NINEVEH'S RESPONSE AND JONAH'S RESPONSE IN CHAPTER 1.**

**FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST OF THEM.**



**VERSE 6: AND THE KING BELIEVED TOO!**

**A KING WHO WAS RUTHLESS.**

**A KING WHO WAS VERY PROUD AND POWERFUL.**

**A KING WHO COULD HAVE SILENCED JONAH, AN INDOLENT FOREIGNER.**

**WHY DIDN'T THE KING HAVE JONAH EXECUTED?**

**GOD WAS AT WORK THROUGH HIS MESSAGE.**

**THE MESSAGE REVEALED WHO GOD IS.**

**THE MESSAGE REVEALED WHO THE NINEVITES WERE.**

**GOD'S WORD REVEALS WHO WE ARE: ROMANS 3:20-24.**

**VERSES 6-9: THE APPEARANCE OF TRUE REPENTANCE**

**HOW DID GOD'S WORD AFFECT THE KING?**

**THE MESSAGE *STRUCK* THE KING OF NINEVEH.**

**AGAIN, THINK ABOUT HOW DIFFERENTLY THE KING AND JONAH EACH RESPONDED TO GOD'S MESSAGE.**

**THE KING HAD AN IMMEDIATE CHANGE OF HEART.**

**THE KING'S REPENTANCE (IN THREE ACTS)**

**ACT 1: GET RID OF YOUR PRIDE.**

**THE KING GOT OFF HIS THRONE.**

**THE KING TOOK OFF HIS CLOAK.**

**ACT 2: PUT ON HUMILITY.**

**THE KING COVERED HIMSELF IN SACKCLOTH.**

**THE KING SAT IN ASHES. (READ PSALM 51:17)**

**ACT 3: TURN FROM YOUR WAYS.**

**THE KING ISSUED A DECREE: EVERYONE TURN FROM HIS EVIL WAY!**

**BEG FOR SALVATION! (VERSE 9)**

**"TURNING" IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:**

**EZEKIEL 33:11: SAY TO THEM, "AS SURELY AS I LIVE', DECLARES THE SOVEREIGN LORD, 'I TAKE NO PLEASURE IN THE DEATH OF THE WICKED, BUT RATHER THAT THEY TURN FROM THEIR WAYS AND LIVE. TURN! TURN FROM YOUR EVIL WAYS! WHY WILL YOU DIE, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL?"**

**JEREMIAH 18:11: NOW THEREFORE SAY TO THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH AND THOSE LIVING IN JERUSALEM, "THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS: 'LOOK! I AM PREPARING A DISASTER FOR YOU AND DEVISING A PLAN AGAINST YOU. SO TURN FROM YOUR EVIL WAYS, EACH ONE OF YOU, AND REFORM YOUR WAYS AND YOUR ACTIONS."**

**2 KINGS 17:13: "THE LORD WARNED ISRAEL AND JUDAH THROUGH ALL HIS PROPHETS AND SEERS: "TURN FROM YOUR EVIL WAYS. OBSERVE MY COMMANDS AND DECREES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ENTIRE LAW THAT I COMMANDED YOUR FATHERS TO OBEY AND THAT I DELIVERED TO YOU THROUGH MY SERVANTS THE PROPHETS."**

**NEXT WEEK, WE WILL SEE GOD'S RESPONSE TO THEIR REPENTANCE. WE WILL ALSO ANSWER THE QUESTIONS: "WERE THE NINEVITES SAVED BY THEIR WORKS?", AND "DOES GOD CHANGE?"**



# JONAH 3:10

STUDY #7

**"DOES A REPENTING GOD JUSTIFY BY WORKS?"**

**REVIEW FROM STUDY #6:**

**REPENTANT PAUPERS AND A REPENTANT PAUPER KING**

- 1. GOD'S WORD AT WORK: REMEMBER THE POWER OF HIS WORD, AND REMEMBER THAT HE WORKS THROUGH HIS MESSAGE.**
- 2. WHAT IS THE APPEARANCE OF TRUE REPENTANCE?  
TAKING OFF PRIDE, PUTTING ON HUMILITY, AND TURN FROM YOUR SINFUL WAYS.**

**"WHO KNOWS? GOD MAY TURN AND RELENT AND TURN FROM HIS FIERCE ANGER, SO THAT WE MAY NOT PERISH!"**

**TODAY'S VERSE HAS TWO MAJOR ISSUES IN IT. IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO INVESTIGATE THESE TWO MAJOR QUESTIONS BEFORE WE CONTINUE TO CHAPTER 4. HERE THEY ARE:**

**QUESTION #1: WERE THE PEOPLE OF NINEVEH SAVED BY THEIR DEEDS?**

**QUESTION #2: DOES GOD CHANGE?**

**QUESTION #1: WERE THE PEOPLE OF NINEVEH SAVED BY THEIR DEEDS?**

**WHERE'S THE PROBLEM?**

**KJV: "AND GOD SAW THEIR WORKS..."**

**WHAT IS THE AUTHOR COMMUNICATING?**

**THE FORMULA: GOOD WORKS + TURN FROM EVIL = SALVATION?**

**JONAH SEEMS TO AFFIRM THIS FORMULA--IS THIS A PROBLEM?**

**YES! IT CONTRADICTS SCRIPTURE!**

**HOW DO WE RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM?**

**SEEK THE TRUTH. FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION!**

**ANALOGIA FIDEI: LET SCRIPTURE BE ITS OWN INTERPRETER.**

**EVIDENCE: FINDING A SOLUTION.**

**EXHIBIT A: GALATIANS 2:15-16**

**PAUL SAYS, "EVEN JEWS KNOW THAT WE CAN'T BE SAVED BY WORKS OF THE LAW!"**

**"BY WORKS OF THE LAW NO ONE WILL BE JUSTIFIED."**

**"SO WE HAVE BELIEVED IN JESUS CHRIST, IN ORDER TO BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH IN CHRIST."**

**EXHIBIT B: ROMANS 3:21-24**

**"RIGHTEOUSNESS HAS BEEN MANIFESTED APART FROM THE LAW."**

**"FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD."**

**"AND ARE JUSTIFIED BY HIS GRACE AS A GIFT."**

**EXHIBIT C: HEBREWS 11**

**"BY FAITH..."**

**HOW WERE PEOPLE SAVED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?**

**WHAT ABOUT JONAH 3:10--WHAT'S THE ANSWER?**

**KJV: "AND GOD SAW THEIR WORKS, THAT THEY TURNED FROM THEIR EVIL WAY"**

**THEIR WORKS WERE LIKE A HEART MONITOR.**

**THE PEOPLE "TURNED"--THEY "REPENTED"**

**GOD BROUGHT SALVATION BECAUSE IT IS WHAT HE LOVES TO DO.**

**QUESTION #2: DOES GOD CHANGE?**

**WHERE'S THE PROBLEM?**

**KJV: "AND GOD REPENTED OF THE EVIL, THAT HE HAD SAID THAT HE WOULD DO UNTO THEM; AND HE DID IT NOT."**

## **DOES GOD'S MIND WORK LIKE THE MINDS OF MEN?**

### **EVIDENCE: SEARCHING FOR A SOLUTION.**

#### **EXHIBIT A: MALACHI 3:6-7A**

**"FOR I THE LORD DO NOT CHANGE."**

**"RETURN TO ME, AND I WILL RETURN TO YOU."**

#### **EXHIBIT B: 2 SAMUEL 2:22-23**

**"THE LORD IS MY ROCK AND MY FORTRESS AND MY DELIVERER"**

**"MY STRONGHOLD AND MY REFUGE, MY SAVIOR"**

#### **EXHIBIT C: NUMBERS 23:18-20**

**"GOD IS NOT A MAN...THAT HE SHOULD CHANGE HIS MIND"**

**"HAS HE SAID, AND WILL HE NOT DO IT?"**

### **WHAT ABOUT JONAH 3:10--WHAT'S THE ANSWER?**

**DID GOD CHANGE? NO. BUT WHAT ABOUT, "AND GOD RELENED..."?**

**GOD IS NOT DETERRED OR SURPRISED BY THE ACTIONS OF JONAH OR NINEVEH.**

**GOD KNEW THE PEOPLE WOULD REPENT--BECAUSE THIS WAS HIS PLAN.**

**GOD IS A GOD OF WRATH AND LOVE. THE PEOPLE CHANGED, GOD DIDN'T.**

**GOD'S ACTS THE SAME WAY EVERY TIME TOWARD REPENTANT SINNERS.**

**THANK GOD THAT HE IS LOVE! HE DESIRES TO SAVE SINNERS WHO TURN FROM THEIR WICKEDNESS AND PLACE THEIR FAITH AND TRUST IN THE SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.**



# **JONAH 4:1-2**

## **"THE TRUTH AND THE PROBLEM"**

### **REVIEW FROM STUDY #7:**

**THE FOCUS WAS ON JONAH 3:10. THERE WERE TWO MAJOR "INCONSISTENCIES" IN THE PASSAGE:**

- 1. WERE THE NINEVITES SAVED BECAUSE OF THEIR WORKS?**
- 2. DOES GOD CHANGE?**

**THE ANSWER TO BOTH QUESTIONS IS "NO!" NINEVEH'S WORKS ONLY REFLECTED WHAT WAS TAKING PLACE IN THEIR HEART. ADDITIONALLY, GOD DOES NOT CHANGE. HE KNEW HE WAS GOING TO SAVE NINEVEH; WHAT CHANGED WAS NOT GOD BUT THE PEOPLE.**

**THIS WEEK WE WILL TALK ABOUT GOD'S NATURE, BECAUSE GOD SAVED NINEVEH IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHO HE IS. JONAH KNEW IT FROM THE START.**

**WE ARE GOING TO LOOK INTO A TRUTH AND A PROBLEM THIS STUDY:**

### **THE TRUTH:**

**GOD IS A GOD OF FAVOR AND TENDER-COMPASSION, LONG-SUFFERING AND RICH IN LOVING-KINDNESS, WHO RELENTS FROM HIS WRATH.**

### **THE PROBLEM:**

**JONAH KNEW THE TRUTH, AND IT MADE HIM ANGRY.**

## **THE TRUTH: GOD IS QUITE AN AWESOME GOD**

**REMEMBER THAT GOD DOES NOT CHANGE.**

**TRUTH #1: GOD IS A GOD OF FAVOR AND TENDER-COMPASSION.**

**THE WORD "GRACE" IN THE OT IS ACTUALLY THE WORD "FAVOR".**

**WHY DID GOD'S FAVOR FALL ON NINEVEH, BUT NOT OTHER NATIONS?**

**READ EPHESIANS 1:5-8.**

**GOD'S GRACE IS NOT ACCIDENTAL OR LAST MINUTE.**

**GOD'S LAVISH GRACE IS POURED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS PREDETERMINED WILL.**

**JONAH RECOGNIZED THE TELL-TALE SIGNS OF GOD'S GRACE.**

**THE COMPASSION OF GOD IS LIKE A MOTHER'S TENDERNESS TO HER CHILD.**

**NINEVEH WAS SEPARATED FROM GOD AND UTTERLY ALONE.**

**READ 2 PETER 3:9.**

**TRUTH #2: GOD IS LONG-SUFFERING AND RICH IN LOVING-KINDNESS.**

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE LONG-SUFFERING?**

**GOD IS NOT A GRUDGE-HOLDER.**

**GOD IS RICH IN "HESED".**

**HE IS RICH IN LOVE.**

**HE IS RICH IN KINDNESS.**

**HE IS RICH IN FAITHFULNESS TO HIS PROMISES.**

**TRUTH #3: GOD RELENTS FROM HIS WRATH.**

**GOD DID NOT BRING THE WRATH HE HAD PROMISED TO NINEVEH.**

**GOD'S LOVE AND COMPASSION MAKE HIM A GOD WHO LOVES TO DIVERT HIS WRATH.**

**GOD'S WRATH HAS BEEN DIVERTED TOWARD HIS SON.**

**THE PROBLEM: JONAH KNEW THE TRUTH, AND IT MADE HIM ANGRY!**

**JONAH TELLS GOD THAT HE KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN.**

**JONAH HAD A FEELING GOD WOULDN'T PUNISH NINEVEH.**

**JONAH WAS NOT SURPRISED BY HOW THINGS TURNED OUT.**

**JONAH WAS FURIOUS AT GOD FOR SENDING HIM AS AN INSTRUMENT OF GRACE.**

**JONAH BELIEVED IN HIS HEART THAT A HUGE INJUSTICE HAD BEEN DONE.**

**GOD'S ACTIONS WERE WRONG IN JONAH'S EYES.**



**WERE GOD'S ACTIONS UNJUST?**

**JONAH HAD FORGOTTEN THE GREAT ACT OF INJUSTICE HE HAD JUST EXPERIENCED.**

**SHOULD GOD HAVE SAVED JONAH?**

**THE PLIGHT OF JONAH AND THE PLIGHT OF NINEVEH ARE ONE IN THE SAME.**

**IF THIS IS GOD'S COMPASSIONATE LOVE TOWARD US, WHAT SHOULD WE DO IN RESPONSE?**

- 1. READ ROMANS 12:1. IN VIEW OF GOD'S MERCIES, WE ARE TO OFFER OURSELVES AS LIVING SACRIFICES TO GOD.**
- 2. READ COLOSSIANS 3:12-13. WE ARE TO SHOW THE SAME MEASURE OF COMPASSION THAT WAS SHOWN TO US.**

**NEXT WEEK, WE WILL SEE FURTHER HOW GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND HIS COMPASSION WEAVE TOGETHER IN HIS PERFECT PLAN.**



# **JONAH 4:3-11**

**"THE 'GRACE' PLANT, GOD'S PLAN, AND GOD'S LOVE"**

**REVIEW FROM STUDY #8:**

**THE TRUTH:**

**GOD IS A GOD OF FAVOR AND TENDER-COMPASSION, LONG-SUFFERING  
AND RICH IN LOVING-KINDNESS, WHO RELENTS FROM HIS  
WRATH.**

**THE PROBLEM:**

**JONAH KNEW THE TRUTH, AND IT MADE HIM ANGRY.**

**THIS WEEK: THE LESSON OF THE PLANT**

- 1. WHAT DO WE TAKE AWAY FROM JONAH AS A 'MAN OF GOD'?**
- 2. GOD'S PLAN**
- 3. GOD'S COMPASSIONATE LOVE**

## **VERSES 3 AND 9: JONAH, THE 'MAN OF GOD'?**

**WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO JONAH IN THESE FOUR CHAPTERS?**

**THE CALL OF GOD--AND JONAH'S SUBSEQUENT FLIGHT TO TARSHISH.**

**THE STORM.**

**THE LOT.**

**THE BIG FISH.**

**JONAH'S OBEDIENCE AND MESSAGE: "40 DAYS UNTIL DESTRUCTION."**

**REPENTANCE ON A NATIONAL SCALE!**

**JUDGMENT RELENTED.**

**SO...WHY DO WE FIND AN ANGRY JONAH AS THE STORY ENDS?**

**JONAH HAS TO LEARN ONE LAST LESSON: THE LESSON OF THE PLANT**

**JONAH HAS NOT GRASPED THE CONNECTION BETWEEN GOD'S LOVE AND  
HIS PLAN.**

## **VERSES 6-11: THE LESSON OF THE PLANT**

**THEME #1: GOD HAS A PLAN.**

**GOD APPOINTED A 'GRACE' PLANT.**

**GOD APPOINTED A WORM.**

**READ JOB 38:1-5; 42:1-6.**

**ULTIMATELY, JONAH WAS ANGRY BECAUSE HE DID NOT LIKE GOD'S PLAN.**

**THEME #2: GOD IS LOVE.**

**WEeping OVER A WEED: JONAH HAD HIS PRIORITIES OUT OF WHACK!**

**THE PLANT IS ALSO A LESSON ABOUT GOD'S LOVE--HIS LOVE FOR NINEVEH.**

**GOD APPOINTED A WORM TO SAVE NINEVEH.**

**WE NEVER MERIT GOD'S LOVE.**

**GOD'S LOVE WILL NEVER MAKE SENSE. WHY WOULD HE LOVE US!?**

**JONAH HAS GOTTEN A BAD RAP THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, BUT WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT HE WROTE THIS STORY FOR OUR BENEFIT. THAT MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY HUMBLING. I BELIEVE HE FINALLY CAME TO REALIZE GOD'S PLAN AND GOD'S LOVE, OTHERWISE THE STORY WOULD HAVE BEEN TOLD VERY DIFFERENTLY.**

**ULTIMATELY, IF WE ARE UNBELIEVERS, WE ARE ALL LIKE NINEVEH, AND IF WE ARE BELIEVERS, WE ARE LIKE JONAH. ONLY GOD'S SOVEREIGN LOVE CAN RESCUE US FROM OURSELVES! PRAISE BE TO GOD FOR SAVING UNDESERVING AND UNSUSPECTING SINNERS LIKE NINEVEH. PRAISE BE TO GOD FOR PURSUING HIS STRAYING CHILDREN, LIKE JONAH, FOR THE SAKE OF HIS LOVING PLAN!**

