



GROWTH POINT

MIDWEEK SERVICE

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Title: Jonah—The Reluctant Missionary

“Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. ³ But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof; and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.” (Jonah 1:1-4)

INTRODUCTION

1. _____ is this prophet?

- A. Jonah, a name meaning “Dove”
- B. Jonah would have been a popular prophet.
 - In 2 Kings 14:25, he prophesied that Jeroboam II would expand the borders of his kingdom.
 - He was from Gath-Hepher.
 - He was the son of Amittai.

2. _____ did he live?

- A. Since Jonah prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam II, this places his ministry between the years 793–753 B.C.
- B. 722 B.C. is an important year for Israel.
 - Assyria will carry them away into captivity.
 - Nineveh is the capital city of Assyria

3. _____ is he writing?

- A. Jonah is written as a biographical narrative rather than a series of prophetic sermons.
- B. Jonah is instructed to take a message of impending judgment to the Assyrians in Nineveh.
- C. Jonah is reluctant to go, and actually seems to prefer drowning to obedience!

4. _____ is the theme?

- A. God declares His will for Jonah. How will Jonah respond?
- B. God is a God of *both* judgment *and* love!

5. _____ is Christ pictured here?

- Jonah's three days in the fish's belly becomes "the sign of Jonah" pointing to Christ's resurrection (Matthew 12).

Outline of the Book:

- Resignation in Jonah (Chapter 1)
- Repentance from Jonah (Chapter 2)
- Revival in Nineveh (Chapter 3)
- Reaction from Jonah (Chapter 4)

Take-Aways for Today's Believer:

Salvation is to be offered to all nations without respect of persons.

- God wasn't just concerned with the Hebrew nations.
- Even the wicked Assyrians, spiritual descendants of Nimrod, should hear His Word.

God is passionate in teaching His followers about His love for the world.

- God could have just called another prophet, but he did not...
- Jonah was a great patriot; he loved Israel. There is nothing wrong with that, but he also needed to view the world through God's eyes.

God isn't just interested in our obedience but in our attitude as well.

- Jonah eventually (and reluctantly) obeyed.
- Jonah's spirit and attitude were rotten.

God is patient to teach His stubborn servants.

- Don't you wish the story ended with the great revival of chapter 3 and they all lived happily ever after?
- However, it is chapter 4 that reveals the heart of the prophet and God's patience to teach Him about His ways.
 - In chapter 1, God was powerful against the winds and the waves.
 - In chapter 2, God was powerful against the whale.
 - In chapter 3, God was powerful against the wicked.
 - In chapter 4, God was powerful against the worm, wind, and gourd.

CONCLUSION
