

The Book of Jonah

Overview

Read the whole book

What do you think the overall message of the book of Jonah is?

What happened in chapter 1?

Jonah 1: 2 – 3

- Why do you think Jonah ran away from the Lord?

Jonah 1: 15

- Why did the sea grow calm after Jonah was thrown into the sea?

Jonah 1: 17

- How did God rescue Jonah from the sea?
- Why do you think that God didn't let Jonah drown?

Where did chapter 2 take place and what is it about?

Jonah 2: 4

- How does this verse sum up Jonah's prayer? There are two points to consider

Jonah 2: 10

- Why did God make the fish vomit Jonah onto dry land?

What happened in chapter 3, and where did it happen?

Jonah 3: 3

- What did Jonah do?
- How did this action differ from his actions in chapter 1?
- Why did he specifically go to Nineveh?

Jonah 3: 7 – 9

- What was the king of Nineveh's response to Jonah's preaching?
- Did he believe Jonah?
- What did he believe about God?

Jonah 3: 10

How did God respond to the people of Nineveh's repentance?

What happened in chapter 4, and where did it happen?

Jonah 4: 2

- Why was Jonah angry?
- How would you have responded if God showed compassion and mercy to your enemies?

Jonah 4: 9 – 11

- What was God's response to Jonah?
- What do we learn about the character of God?

General Impressions:

Jonah apparently feared man (the Ninevites) more than he feared God. He also had a very small view of God, thinking that he could somehow flee His presence.

God desires obedience rather than sacrifice. Jonah was willing to sacrifice his life in order to stop the storm and save those on the ship, but God saved him in the belly of the fish, so he would have another chance to obey.

God can even use His child's disobedience to lead others to Himself.

Man's efforts cannot thwart God's plans.

Sin cannot remain hidden.

Sometimes God has to take us to a dark place in order for us to humble ourselves and acknowledge Him.

Even when we've disobeyed, God is merciful and allows us to obey again.

Never give up on someone. God can bring even the most hardened person to repentance.

We cannot manipulate God with bad (or for that matter good) behaviour.

People are more important than things. Period.

There is never a good reason to be angry with God.

God is a perfect balance of justice, righteousness, compassion and mercy.

Running doesn't solve anything. In fact, it makes things worse and can endanger other people.

Place value on the things God values. Jonah's grumbling was a side effect of his wrong value system.

God is merciful, and is a God of second chances. He gave the men on the boat, Jonah, and the Ninevites all second chances to repent and obey Him.