

INTRODUCTION TO JONAH

The Book of Jonah

SUMMARY OF JONAH:

FOUR IMPORTANT THEMES FROM JONAH

1. Jonah challenges us with _____

2. Jonah shows us _____

3. Jonah shows us the _____ of God behind the
_____ of God

4. Jonah points us to _____

a). Both _____

b). Jesus _____ and Jonah _____

c). Both caused others to _____

FACTS REGARDING THE AUTHOR OF THIS BOOK

- 1. Who?** Jonah. He was the most famous “foreign missionary” in the Old Testament, who once attempted to run from God (Jonah 1:1-3), was then swallowed by a great sea creature (Jonah 1:17), and later conducted one of history’s most successful revival campaigns (Jonah 3:1-10)!
- 2. What?** The Book of Jonah
- 3. When and where?** 785 B.C., from the land of Zebulun in northern Israel
- 4. Why?** To call for the repentance of Nineveh
- 5. To whom?** The wicked city of Nineveh

KEY PLACES

- 1. Nineveh:** cruel and wicked capital city of the Assyrian Empire, located on the Tigris River where the reluctant prophet Jonah would eventually turn its citizens to God through his message of repentance or judgment
- 2. Joppa:** a seaport of Palestine on the Mediterranean Sea where Jonah entered a ship sailing for Tarshish
- 3. Tarshish:** Jonah’s intended destination, a possible reference to Spain

SOME UNIQUE FEATURES

1. Jonah is the only biblical prophet who made only one prophecy, and that prophecy was not fulfilled! (Compare 3:4 with 3:10.)
2. He was also the only Old Testament prophet specifically commissioned to be a witness to the Gentiles, as was Paul in the New Testament (Gal. 1:16; 2:2).
3. Jonah was the only biblical prophet to run from his call by God.
4. He was one of four Old Testament prophets whose ministries were referred to by Jesus in the New Testament.
5. Jonah’s testimony inside the fish makes for a good summary of the entire Bible. “Salvation is of the Lord”
6. This book also shows God’s foreign mission program was in existence centuries prior to the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20.
7. This book, for its size, records more miracles than any other biblical book, no less than eight in 48 verses, averaging one miracle per each six verses!
 - The wind (1:4)
 - The calm (1:15)
 - The sea creature (1:17)
 - The survival in the sea creatures (2:1)
 - The release from the sea creature (2:10)
 - The gourd (4:6)
 - The worm (4:7)
 - The east wind (4:8)