

Jonah

1. Titles:

- A. Jonah = dove
- B. The Book of Mercy On The Gentiles

2. Author:

Written by Jonah, the prophet of Mercy On The Gentiles, who ministered to the House of Israel and to Assyria.

3. Date:

- A. Jonah's ministry covered a period of about 15 years (785 – 770 B.C.), during the reigns of Jehoash and Jeroboam II of Israel.
- B. Written between 780 and 770 B.C.

4. Key Words:

- A. Anger (ry) – 6
- B. Prepared – 5
- C. Down – 4

Key Phrase:

- A. "presence of the Lord" - 3

5. Key Verses: 3:2, 10

6. Purpose:

- A. To demonstrate God's love and mercy for the Gentiles as well as for Israel (Romans 3:29; 10:12).
- B. To show God's method of dealing with His disobedient servants.
- C. To set forth Messiah's ministry typologically.

7. Message:

- A. "God is no respecter of persons. But in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him." (Acts 10:34, 35)
- B. God's servants must learn the lesson that God will have mercy on whom He will have mercy.
- C. Through disobedience, the servant of God will bring the chastening of God upon himself.

8. Outline:

- I. Jonah and the Storm ----- Disobedient Prophet Ch. 1
- II. Jonah and the Fish ----- Praying Prophet Ch. 2
- III. Jonah and the City ----- Preaching Prophet Ch. 3
- IV. Jonah and the Lord ----- Chastened Prophet Ch. 4

9. Summary:

In Jonah, we find the great Gentile city of Nineveh repenting and turning to God under the reluctant preaching of the prophet Jonah. In chapter one we see Jonah fleeing from the presence of the Lord, going down to Joppa, down into the ship, and finally down into the belly of the fish which God had prepared. Then in chapter two he prays to God and is delivered from the fish. In chapter three Jonah finally delivers God's message to Nineveh and the whole city repents, but in chapter four he is once again chastened by the Lord for being angry when God does not fulfill Jonah's prophecy by destroying Nineveh.

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10. Christ Seen:

Christ is seen as “the Greater than Jonah” using Jonah’s experience as a sign of his own death, burial, and resurrection and of God’s mercy on the repentant Gentiles (Matthew 12:39-41).