

FLEEING FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

JONAH 1:1-3

SEPTEMBER 13, 2015



Theme

A child & servant of God is *never* able to run from His *presence*.

Key Verse: 4:2

“...for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.”

Jonah 1:1-3

The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.” But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

Road Map:



- I. BACKGROUND & SETTING
- II. FLEEING FROM GOD'S PRESENCE
- III. DOCTRINES FOUND IN JONAH

CONCLUSION/APPLICATION

I. BACKGROUND & SETTING

A. Who is Jonah?

- 2 Kings 14:23-25

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In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel became king in Samaria, and reigned forty-one years. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin. He restored the border of Israel from the entrance of Hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, which He spoke through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was of Gath-hepher.

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Matthew 12:38-40

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign shall be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

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B. Who are Ninevites (Assyria)

- Map of region



Greek City States

Phrygian Kingdom

Lydian Kingdom

Cimmerians

Kingdom of Urartu
(before 712 B.C.)

The Egyptian Kingdom
(before 671 B.C.)

Judah

- Assyrian Empire – 824 B.C.
- Assyrian Empire – 671 B.C.

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Ezekiel 33:11

"Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord GOD, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

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- God needs a human messenger:

Isaiah 6:8a "Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"

Romans 10:12-15

Romans 10:12-15

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; for "WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED." How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!"



THEME:

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II. FLEEING FROM GOD'S PRESENCE

A. What Jonah Knows About God

- His Power
- His Grace & Compassion

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Psalms 139:7-10

Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art there. If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, Even there Thy hand will lead me, And Thy right hand will lay hold of me.

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Jeremiah 18:7-12

"At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it. "Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant it; if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it. "So now then, speak to the men of Judah and against the inhabitants of Jerusalem saying, 'Thus says the LORD, "Behold, I am fashioning calamity against you and devising a plan against you. Oh turn back, each of you from his evil way, and reform your ways and your deeds.'" "But they will say, 'It's hopeless! For we are going to follow our own plans, and each of us will act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.'

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C. Fleeing = Disobeying God

- Joppa & Tarshish are in opposite direction from Nineveh
- Jonah clearly believes he can **evade** God's call on him

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D. Why Jonah Runs From God

- Prejudice
- Fear
- No Compassion
- Fading Ministry

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“No past privilege, nor all past privileges together; no past obedience, nor fruitfulness in service, can ever substitute for present obedience to the Word of God.” (S. Ferguson)



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III. DOCTRINES FOUND IN JONAH

- Attributes of God
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- Repentance
- Forgiveness/Salvation
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** Even today, on *Yom Kippur*, Jonah is read in the afternoon following a teaching on the *Torah* (law) due to its obvious teaching on repentance & forgiveness.



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Conclusion:



Purpose of Book of Jonah:

- ▣ Human side: Exposes those that have spiritual insight/knowledge, but lack love & compassion.
- ▣ Divine side: Displays God's universal love & **mercy** to ALL of His creation

Conclusion: Application

What part of Jonah do you see yourself?

- The highly spiritual, yet unconcerned about those around you?
- The saved sinner, yet running from God's presence and purpose for you?
 - Where can you go where God is not there?
- The sinful soul, un-moved by God's love, compassion, patience and **grace** for you?