

ENTRUSTING TRUTH



Jonah Overview

Day One

If you have a copy of the Philippians study we used last winter you may want to get it out. We are going to be using similar skills to those we used then.

Jonah is different than Philippians. First it is a different genre. While Philippians is an epistle, a letter, Jonah is a narrative, it tells a story. Second Jonah is considered a prophecy, while Philippians is propositional and logical.

We looked at the structural connectors as we studied Philippians. We will do the same here but you will notice that there are more temporal and sequential connections in this book that will aid your observation.

This book is short, 48 verses. But, it is packed. Read it several times a day it will only take you about 15 minutes or less. Skim it. Please, if you have a study Bible, do not read the notes. In fact if you want a text only version of Jonah for this study (highly recommended) you can download it here:

Today look for and make note of here:

The historical background of the book:

Who wrote it? (If you cannot come up with a specific person describe what the person would have to be like)
There is no data here that tells me who wrote it. They would have to be one who knew the story well or knew Jonah well. At the level of detail of Jonah's thinking it would not be inconceivable that the author is Jonah.

Who is it written to? (Describe the audience)

It was written to the nation of Israel. These are people that are the chosen people of God. Yet they like Jonah have run from Him. That is an interesting parallel between the nation and the prophet.

When was it written? (What clues in the story would indicate a timeframe for you.)

It would have to be written after these events. Nineveh would be still around. So Googleing Nineveh the city was defeated in 612 BC so this book may predate that time.

What are the recurring words and phrases you see?

- *Word of the Lord came to Jonah*
- *Go to Nineveh*
- *From the presence of the Lord*

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- *They called on the Lord*
- *The Lord Appointed*
- *But Jonah*

What are recurring themes?

The Sovereignty of God

The Compassion of God

The Desire of God to have men saved

The Love of God

Day Two

Read Jonah again several times.

You may see more connections or themes as you read this time record them here:

As you read today make notes on the style of Jonah. Is the book: fast-moving, dramatic, casual, flowing, heavy teaching, narrative, etc:

It is a fast moving narrative with a high degree of parallel structure. There are a lot of contrasts and comparisons.

How do you feel after you read it? How does it impact you? Do you feel challenged, blessed, motivated, confused, what?

Amazed at the rebelliousness of the prophet. Encouraged by the control of the Lord.

What are the passages that stand out to you, passages that summarize a section or the book?

1:3a But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

1:14 You, O Lord, have done as You have pleased

3:8 - 9 let men call on God earnestly... who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish.

3:10 – 4:1 God relented...but it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry.

Develop a tentative outline or chart for the book. If you want to do a chart you can download one you can mark up here. There are instructions with the file to walk you through the process.

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See chart below

Day Three

Guess what? Read it some more.

This time think about what you think the main theme of Jonah might be?

The sovereignty of God in directing His people and in the redemption of the lost.

How does the writer develop that theme?

He uses contrast and comparison of God's attitudes with Jonah's. He compares the attitude of the men on the ship with Jonah and with the Lord. He compares the people of Nineveh with those on the ship and with Jonah.

Jonah

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1:1	The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying,	
1:2	“Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”	
1:3	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.	Note the immediate contrast with God’s desire...
1:4	The Lord hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up.	
1:5	Then the sailors became afraid and every man cried to his god, and they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down and fallen sound asleep.	
1:6	So the captain approached him and said, “How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps your god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish.”	
1:7	Each man said to his mate, “Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity has struck us.” So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.	
1:8	Then they said to him, “Tell us, now! On whose account has this calamity struck us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”	
1:9	He said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land.”	
1:10	Then the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, “How could you do this?” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.	
1:11	So they said to him, “What should we do to you that the sea may become calm for us?”—for the sea was becoming increasingly stormy.	
1:12	He said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, for I know that on account of me this great storm has come upon you.”	

1:13	However, the men rowed desperately to return to land but they could not, for the sea was becoming even stormier against them.	
1:14	Then they called on the Lord and said, “We earnestly pray, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life and do not put innocent blood on us; for You, O Lord, have done as You have pleased.”	
1:15	So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.	Parallels to Christ on the Sea of Galilee
1:16	Then the men feared the Lord greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.	Note the evangelistic nature of this story. Even in running from God Jonah had a ministry to his shipmates.
1:17	And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.	
2:1	Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the stomach of the fish,	
2:2	and he said, “I called out of my distress to the Lord, And He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice.	
2:3	“For You had cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the current engulfed me. All Your breakers and billows passed over me.	
2:4	“So I said, ‘I have been expelled from Your sight. Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.’	
2:5	“Water encompassed me to the point of death. The great deep engulfed me, Weeds were wrapped around my head.	
2:6	“I descended to the roots of the mountains. The earth with its bars was around me forever, But You have brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God.	
2:7	“While I was fainting away, I remembered the Lord, And my prayer came to You, Into Your holy temple.	
2:8	“Those who regard vain idols Forsake their faithfulness,	
2:9	But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the Lord.”	
2:10	Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.	
3:1	Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying,	
3:2	“Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you.”	

3:3	So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days' walk.	
3:4	Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown."	
3:5	Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.	
3:6	When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth and sat on the ashes.	
3:7	He issued a proclamation and it said, "In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water.	
3:8	"But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands.	
3:9	"Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish."	
3:10	When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.	
4:1	But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry.	This is good on enemies
4:2	He prayed to the Lord and said, "Please Lord, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity.	
4:3	"Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life."	
4:4	The Lord said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?"	
4:5	Then Jonah went out from the city and sat east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in the city.	
4:6	So the Lord God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant.	
4:7	But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day and it attacked the plant and it withered.	

4:8	When the sun came up God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint and begged with all his soul to die, saying, "Death is better to me than life."	
4:9	Then God said to Jonah, "Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "I have good reason to be angry, even to death."	I love the reality of this and the reality of the relationship
4:10	Then the Lord said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight."	
4:11	"Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"	

Jonah
The Reluctant Evangelist (to Gentiles)

No Go	Oh Really?	Oh Alright	See I told you so
1:1-16	1:17 – 2:10	3:1 - 9	3:10 – 4:11
<p>Arise, go to Nineveh the great city</p> <p>Flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord</p> <p>Great Storm – Fast Asleep</p> <p>Throw me over – into the Fish</p>	<p>Jonah prayed</p> <p>I will sacrifice</p> <p>I will pay</p>	<p>Arise, go to Nineveh the great city</p> <p>Forty days and overthrown</p> <p>Fast and sackcloth</p> <p>God relented</p>	<p>Jonah angry</p> <p>This is why I ran</p> <p>Take my life</p> <p>Do you have good reason to be angry? X2</p> <p>Shade, Plants, Worm</p>

Key Verse:3:10

Application

I have to be more intentional about sharing faith. Pray for opportunity daily.

Themes:
Sovereignty of God
Love of God
Patience of God
Obedience
Will of God