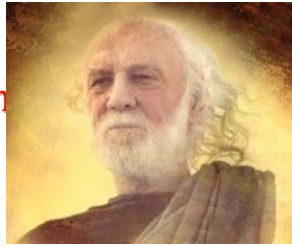


A FRESH LOOK AT A FAMILIAR BOOK

Introducing Jonah - Again

Wednesday Adult Bible Study
September 9, 2009



Introduction

The story of the book of Jonah is such an affront to the mind of the intellectual elite that they are convinced there MUST be another interpretation besides the literal.



It is important to remember that “ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God...”

Nothing in Jonah suggests that it should be interpreted in any way other than LITERAL and HISTORICAL.

1. The Setting – 1:1-2

To understand the “ins and outs” of Jonah, it is important to grasp some of the historical setting of the book.

ISRAEL – Israel was enjoying peacetime and wealth, but they were spiritually bankrupt. Idolatry was growing and justice in the land was perverted.

NINEVEH – The most notable thing about the capitol city of Nineveh were her walls. They were comforting to Nineveh’s citizens, but intimidating to any who would attack the city.



A prophet to the northern tribes of Israel, Jonah was contemporary with the prophet Amos. Bible scholars believe Jonah was an old man when he was sent to Nineveh.

2. The Substance

- Jonah is a book about history.

Many skeptics and critics believe Jonah to be a parable or allegory. This is simply not true!

Jesus refers to Jonah in the same manner in which He referred to Solomon and queen of Sheba (Matthew 12:38-41, Luke 11:29-32).



“Given the constant tension between the prophet and the mission God gave him, the greatest miracle of all is probably that Jonah eventually recorded these God-glorifying and prophet-humiliating historical events.”

~John MacArthur

- Jonah is a book about miracles.

No less than 10 miracles recorded in the book of Jonah:

- † 1:4 – the storm sent by God
- † 1:7 – the lot fell on Jonah
- † 1:15 – the immediate stopping of the storm
- † 1:17 – the preparation of the fish
- † 1:17 – the fish swallowed Jonah whole and alive
- † 2:10 – the fish vomiting Jonah on dry ground
- † 3:10 – the salvation of an entire city
- † 4:6 – the preparation of the gourd
- † 4:7 – the preparation of the worm
- † 4:8 – the preparation of the east wind

Compared to the Gospels, this book is PACKED with miracles!

Jonah is a book in which God is revealing His great power in dramatic fashion, most notably over His creation.

- **Jonah is a book about doctrine.**

This is more than just a narrative story – it is the continued story of God’s grace. It continues the story that was started in Eden and the doctrines of this book are in agreement with the other books of the Bible.



- HAMARTIOLOGY – the doctrine of sin (1:2, 3:4)
- SOTERIOLOGY – the doctrine of salvation (3:10)
- ESCHATOLOGY – the doctrine of future things (1:17)
- THEOLOGY – the doctrine of the nature and works of God

What does this book teach us of God?

His sovereignty – He created the world and He controls the world.

His longsuffering – His longsuffering is demonstrated toward both Jonah and the Ninevites.

His mercy and compassion – The book of Jonah is the Old Testament version of the book of Acts: God displaying mercy to the Gentiles.

THOUGHTS TO KEEP IN MIND AS WE JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK

- ✓ *God’s purposes cannot be frustrated, even by the disobedience of His children.*
- ✓ *God will not cast us aside for faithlessness.*
- ✓ *God is gracious and merciful.*
- ✓ *Salvation is not by works, but is of the Lord (2:9).*

✓ *God loves the world, both Jew and Gentile.*