

3. It addresses the _____ between divine justice and mercy.

How can a righteous and just God show mercy to those who deserve _____?

Discussion guide

1. Most of us know the story of Jonah. What was your understanding before today's sermon? Were you ever taught the setting and why Jonah did not want to go?

What does that say about the typical Sunday school curriculum for children?

2. I pointed out three themes for the book of Jonah. Review each of them and share how they are reflected in the story.

Specifically how does the story show the tension between God's justice and mercy? How did God teach Jonah the lesson that mercy is better than justice?

3. How would most Christians respond to God's call to go preach the gospel to their enemy?

4. Was there one point that God impressed upon your heart as a result of today's sermon?

ANSWERS: 793 - 753, rebuke, sovereignty, tension, hell



Lesson: 1

Text: Jonah 1-4

Series: Jonah's Journey

Date: November 21, 2021

Title: Introduction

The Prophets

5 Major Prophets

1. Isaiah
2. Jeremiah
3. Lamentations
4. Ezekiel
5. Daniel

12 Minor Prophets

1. Hosea
2. Joel
3. Amos
4. Obadiah
5. **Jonah**
6. Micah
7. Nahum
8. Habakkuk
9. Zephaniah
10. Haggai
11. Zechariah
12. Malachi

Who wrote Jonah?

- Most of the book is written in the 3rd person

- His prayer in the belly of the fish is written in the 1st person.

Date - In the time of Jeroboam who ruled from _____ **B.C.**

Uniqueness of Jonah the prophet?

He doesn't fit into the stereotypical mold of a prophet of God.

1. He is a prophet more by what he does than by what he says.
2. Jonah was the only prophet who is recorded as having run away from God.
3. Jonah is never fully repentant nor is he restored to joy.
4. Jonah is the only minor prophet Jesus compared to Himself. (Matt. 12:41; Luke 11:32)

Interpretational approach?

- Is it allegorical, parable, or midrash?

- Is it historical and didactic?

Jonah 4:3 "Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life."

Jonah 4:4 The Lord said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?"

Jonah 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?"

Central idea of the book?

1. It was a _____ to Israel's elitist attitude and a failure of their missionary purpose.

A. Jonah's spiritual hardness illustrated Israel's callous attitude and lack of concern for the Gentile nations.

B. Nineveh's repentance was a rebuke of Israel's lack of repentance.

2. It demonstrates the _____ of God in accomplishing His purposes.

Jonah 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.”

3. God sends Jonah to Nineveh / he preaches

Jonah 3:2 “Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you.”

Jonah 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.”

Jonah 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.

Jonah 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. God talks with Jonah & Jonah reacts

Jonah 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.

What is the historical setting?

2 Kings 14:23 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah, **Jeroaboam** the son of Joash king of Israel became king in Samaria, and reigned forty-one years.

24 He did evil in the sight of the Lord; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroaboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin. 25 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.

Jonah 1:1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai ...

“Gath-hepher”

This period of history was significant in the life of ancient Israel.

- Israel was enjoying a time of peace and prosperity.
- Both Syria / Assyria were weak, allowing Jeroaboam II to enlarge the northern borders of Israel.
- Spiritually, Israel was bankrupt.

- As a result, God was to punish her by bringing destruction and captivity from the Assyrians in 722 b.c.

What took place around the time of Jonah?

(1-6) a series of terrorist attacks from the Assyrians.

2 Kings 17: 5 Then the king of Assyria invaded the whole land and went up to Samaria and besieged it three years. 6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, on the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

7 Now this came about because the sons of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and they had feared other gods

13 Yet the Lord warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets and every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets."

18 So the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them from His sight; none was left except the tribe of Judah.

20 The Lord rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and gave them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them out of His sight.

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22 The sons of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them 23 until the Lord removed Israel from His sight, as He spoke through all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away into exile from their own land to **ASSYRIA** until this day.

Isaiah 10:5-6 Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger And the staff in whose hands is My indignation, 6 I send it against a godless nation And commission it against the people of My fury To capture booty and to seize plunder, And to trample them down like mud in the streets.

Assyria was an extremely cruel nation.

Overview of the story

1. God calls Jonah & he flees

Jonah 1:1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying,

Jonah 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.

Jonah 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."

2. God provides a fish for Jonah / he prays

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