

The End of Rebellion – An Introduction to Jonah

The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai. Jonah 1:1 (HCSB)

Text: Jonah 1:1-3

South Orlando Baptist Church

Topics: Obedience, Missions

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Supplemental Texts: See below

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Are the events of Jonah a parable or historical fact?

Four Biblical reasons why Jonah is historical:

- 1) We know from Kings that Jonah was a real prophet.
- 2) The book is closely related in form to the historical books of the OT.
- 3) Jesus himself refers to the story as fact (Matt 12:38-45: Luke 11:24-32)
- 4) The details of the book are too vivid.

Three reasons why Jonah cannot be a parable:

- 1) Parables are most always accompanied by an interpretation and application. (Jonah has neither)
- 2) Parables are applied to a specific situation and make one appropriate point (Example - Nathan to David -"you are the man" 2 Sam 12:7)
- 3) Parables do not identify as historical the participants in the story (as Jonah as identified).

1) The Person - _____ (vs. 1)

- a. Son of Amittai.
- b. He prophesied that the Northern Kingdom of Israel would expand.
- c. From Gath-Hefer - 2 Miles north of Galilee.

2) The Place – _____ (vs. 2)

- a. **The Assyrians** - They would siege a town, destroy it, and leave inscriptions that told how they tortured the people in those towns. They were known for leaving piles of skulls when they left an overtaken town. They flayed people alive and also buried people up to their necks and let the buzzards finish them off.
- b. **Ninevah** - The Ninevites, who worshiped the fish god Dagon. Ninevah was built by Nimrod (Genesis 10:11). According to the historian Strabo it was far larger than Babylon. Nineveh was large and, like Babylon, was protected by an outer wall and an inner wall. The inner wall was 50 feet wide and 100 feet high.

3) The Proclamation - _____ (vs. 2)

- a. The Jews were to be a blessing to the whole world.
- b. We are to be the salt of the earth and

Nahum writes about the downfall of Nineveh 100 years after the events of the book of Jonah. In his prophecy, Nahum gives us a glimpse into the wickedness that had returned into the city after its revival in Jonah. For even greater detail, check out the entire chapter of Nahum 3:

Fall of the city of Nineveh:

Nahum 3:1-6 (HCSB)

1 Woe to the city of blood, totally deceitful, full of plunder, never without prey.

2 The crack of the whip and rumble of the wheel, galloping horse and jolting chariot!

3 Charging horseman, flashing sword, shining spear; heaps of slain, mounds of corpses, dead bodies without end— they stumble over their dead.

4 Because of the continual prostitution of the prostitute, the attractive mistress of sorcery, who betrays nations by her prostitution and clans by her witchcraft,

5 I am against you. [This is] the declaration of the LORD of Hosts. I will lift your skirts over your face and display your nakedness to nations, your shame to kingdoms.

6 I will throw filth on you and treat you with contempt; I will make a spectacle of you.

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message.

- 1) What did God tell Jonah to do? (1:1-2)
- 2) How did Jonah respond to God? (1:3)
- 3) When have you not wanted to obey God?
- 4) When has God called you to serve Him in ways that were unattractive or unpleasant to you?
- 5) What rebellious attitudes have you ever had toward the Lord?
- 6) What opportunities do you have to tell others about faith in Christ?
- 7) What are your feelings toward the unbelievers around you?
- 8) How has God pursued you when you have tried to avoid Him?
- 9) What can you do to respond with obedience to God the next time you must do something good but unpleasant?