

Jonah – 4 Chapters

Title:

Jonah- after its main character.

Author:

Technically anonymous. Written about Jonah in the third person, but by someone with firsthand knowledge. Possibly written by Jonah, but not certainly. Jonah was a prophet to the Northern Kingdom in the 8th century B.C. (2 Kings 14:25).

Occasion and Purpose:

The date and occasion of Jonah is not certain, and is debated. If it was written by Jonah, it was written to fairly prosperous times. The purpose of the book is fairly obvious- to challenge Israel to fulfill their missionary calling by contrasting a negative example with God's faithful compassion.

Themes:

1. Anti-Contrast Faithfulness
2. Missions Heart

Summary:

The story of the call of Jonah to preach to the pagan nation of Ninevah, his refusal and flight, and God's using a whale to persuade Jonah to carry out His command. Jonah was prejudice against Ninevah and didn't want them to experience God's grace. God overcame Jonah's narrow-mindedness and showed that He cared for all nations and people.

Organization:

At Sea	<p>Jonah's call</p> <p>Jonah runs away</p> <p>The storm and Jonah's confession</p> <p>Jonah thrown into the sea and swallowed</p>	Ch. 1
In the Fish	<p>Jonah Prays</p> <p>Jonah thanks God for saving him</p> <p>Jonah is vomited out</p>	Ch. 2
At Ninevah	<p>Jonah preaches to Nineveh</p> <p>The Ninevites repent</p> <p>God has compassion and relents</p>	Ch. 3
Under the Plant	<p>Jonah is angry and complains</p> <p>God challenges Jonah</p> <p>Jonah complains about losing shelter</p> <p>God challenges Jonah</p>	Ch. 4

Key Verses:

4:2; 4:9-11