

Jonah

An introduction to the book and an exposition of chapter 1

Historical Context and Facts

- Written between 793-758 BC
- Contemporary of Amos, Hosea, and Zachariah
- Author: probably Jonah
 - No textual reason for anyone else
 - Firsthand information that no one else would have known (ie, Jonah's prayer in the fish and conversation on the ship)



Genesis 10:7-12 (ESV)

7 The sons of Cush: Seba, Havilah, Sabtah, Raamah, and Sabteca. The sons of Raamah: Sheba and Dedan. 8 Cush fathered Nimrod; he was the first on earth to be a mighty man. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord. Therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod a mighty hunter before the Lord." 10 The beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar. 11 From that land he went into Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth-Ir, Calah, and 12 Resen between Nineveh and Calah; that is the great city.

Nineveh's Founder

Nimrod:

- Great-grandson of Noah
- First "mighty man" on earth
 - Evil: "in the face of/in spite of YHWH"

Ecclesiastes 10:2

"The heart of the wise is at his right hand, and the heart of a fool at his left."

Matthew 12:38-41 (LSV)

“Then certain of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Teacher, we will to see a sign from You.” And He answering said to them, “A generation, evil and adulterous, seeks a sign, and a sign will not be given to it, except the sign of Jonah the prophet; for as Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights. Men of Nineveh will stand up in the judgment with this generation, and will condemn it, for they converted at the proclamation of Jonah, and behold, [One] greater than Jonah [is] here!”

Jonah and Jesus Parallels

- 1) Three days and Three Nights (Matthew 10)
- 2) Storm on the Boat (Matthew 8)
 - a) Disciples should have recognized Jesus by His ability to calm the sea
 - b) Ancient world: sea is an analogue of death
 - i) As Jonah is in “Sheol” so Jesus descended to proclaim victory to the spirits (1 Peter 3:18-20)

The Sign Of Jonah

- 1) He is both a type and an antitype of the Messiah
 - Never fully repents
- 2) The Sign is death and resurrection
 - Unlike Jonah, Jesus was not in rebellion against the Father
- 3) They both knew they would rise again
 - Jonah 2:4

The Sign of Jonah (continued)

4) Jonah is similar to Christ, but in negative ways:

- Opposite of the apostles (Acts 16:6)
- God saves people *despite* Jonah's rebellion
- Shows the kind of messenger we don't want

Conclusion

- 1) A testament of God's faithfulness to those whom He loves
- 2) God can redeem any people He so chooses
- 3) We are called to obey in light of our eternal hope
