

Jonah

SLIDE 1 JONAH

Review- We have been looking at some prophets. Prophets are people that God gives a message to and they are to deliver it. Today we will look at the prophet Jonah.

It was a time of prosperity in Israel but it was also a time of moral and spiritual decay and the people had turned to worshipping idols just like in much of America at this time. Assyria was an enemy of God's people Israel and there was a major city in Assyria called Nineveh a very wicked city full of violence, but God wanted to have mercy and compassion on the people in this city. (**Mercy-** not getting what we deserve)

SLIDE 2 God told Jonah to go tell the wicked city of Nineveh 40 days and Nineveh shall be over thrown. But Jonah's patriotism for his country and his hate for Israel's enemies the Assyrians, got in his way of obeying God. So Jonah went the opposite way of Nineveh to Tarshish from the presence of God a ship.

- Jonah was running from God and His presence and disobeying God's Word and his call as a prophet.

So God made a big storm, so the ship was about to break up, and the Captain of the ship told everyone to pray to their god. Jonah said the storm was because of him because he was running from the presence of God.

They asked what they should do, and Jonah said, "Throw me in the sea and the storm will stop". So they did and the sea calmed and then they sacrificed and believed in God. Just then a big fish swallowed Jonah and he was in the big fish for 3 days and 3 nights. At first he did not repent of his disobedience, but when he did the big fish spit him out on dry ground.

SLIDE 3 So Jonah went to Nineveh and told them what God said, "In 40 days and Nineveh shall be over thrown". So all the people of Nineveh believed God from the least to the greatest and the King sent out this message to his people.

NLT Jonah 3:8-10 People and animals alike must wear garments of mourning, and everyone must pray earnestly to God. They must turn from their evil ways and stop all their violence. Who can tell? Perhaps even yet God will change His mind and hold back His fierce anger from destroying us." When God saw what they had done and how they had put a stop to their evil ways, He changed His mind and did not carry out the destruction He had threatened.

- They believed and repented of their sinful ways, so God forgave them.

SLIDE 4 So Jonah was angry because they turned to God and wished he was dead. His patriotism for his country and fear of what others in Israel would say got in the way of thinking the way God thinks and kept him from obedience to bring the message of God. *We need to learn what God says from the Bible and obey it to experience God's best.*

***NKJV 4:2** So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.

- Jonah did not want to see the enemies of Israel to get saved, but He knew what God was like - that He liked to see people saved.
- It is important when you read the Bible to understand what God is like:
- **Gracious** - offers **grace** - unmerited favor
- **Merciful** - offer **mercy** - **not getting what we deserve**- hell and eternal separation from the goodness of God.
- **Slow to anger** - God is patient with you; **but don't mistake His patience for acceptance of your sin.**
- **Abundant in loving kindness** - Jesus loves you and proved it by going to the cross to take the penalty for your sins, dying in your place so you don't have to.
- **One who relents from doing harm** - God does not want to bring judgment, so He made a way by letting Jesus take the penalty or judgment for our sins

SLIDE 5 **2Peter 3:9-13** The Lord isn't really being slow about His promise (of judgment), as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment. Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, looking forward to the day of God and hurrying it along. On that day, He will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. But we are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth He has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness.

- Judgment is coming soon for the world! God judged the world the first time by a worldwide flood and only 8 survived. God sent a rainbow as a sign He will never punish the world again by water, but next time it will be by fire, so let me warn you, judgment is coming and the world will be destroyed by fire next time.
- But good news for those who believe, so look forward to the day when the new heavens and the new earth will come and it will be filled with God's

righteousness.

- No more sin, sorrow, sickness, death or pain.

SLIDE 6 APPLY

Jonah had character flaws just like us, but God still chose to use him, and He wants you to serve Him also. God loves you and will meet you where you are at but does not want to leave you that way. [God wants you to have a life transforming experience that will blow your mind, becoming more like Jesus transformed by the renewing of your mind by His Word and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives daily.](#)

Know what God is like - “a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in loving kindness, One who relents from doing harm.”

- Experience God for who He is and you will be blessed
- [Don't mistake His patience with you for His acceptance of your sin.](#)

Tell others about Jesus, for judgment is coming again by fire!

SLIDE 7 Transition to the gospel

Jesus used the story of Jonah in the big fish and how he was in there three days and three nights, so Jesus will be in the ground three days and three nights, but will rise again.

Luke 19:10 Jesus came to seek and save the lost

Would you like to begin a life changing experience through Jesus? Are you ready to change?

Realize you have sinned and broken God's laws, lied, stolen, lusted,

Repent - change your mind about your sins and agree with God that you are wrong

Believe - that Jesus took the penalty for your sins on the cross and died in your place and rose again and you can be saved.

If you were to die today would you go to heaven? Going to church can't save you, being a good person can't save you, doing good works can't save you, being baptized can't save you

Questions

1. **What was the name of the prophet in this story?** Jonah
2. **What wicked city did God want Jonah to warn of the coming judgment?**
Nineveh
3. **What did Jonah do instead?** He went the opposite way to Tarshish
4. **What happened to Jonah for disobeying God?** He was swallowed by a great fish and was inside his stomach three days and three nights.
5. **What was the message Jonah was to deliver?** 40 days and Nineveh will be overthrown.
6. **What was the response of the people of the city of Nineveh?** They believed God and changed their ways.
7. **What was Jonah's response?** He was angry and wanted to die.
8. **How did Jonah describe God that Jonah knew he might save the wicked people of Nineveh?** For I know that You *are* a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in loving kindness, One who relents from doing harm.
9. **How will the world be destroyed next time according to the Bible?** Fire