

Minor Prophets: Jonah

Stanley Toussaint

I. Introduction.

II. The man Jonah.

- A. His name means, “Dove.”
- B. His home is Galilee. (II Kings 14:2, John 7:52)
- C. He prophesied during the rise of Assyria, of which Nineveh was the capital.
- D. He is the only prophet to be mentioned by Christ by name demonstrating its historicity.
- E. He typified Jesus’ death and resurrection by being swallowed by a great fish. (Matthew 12)
 - 1. Some say that Jonah is an allegorical picture of Israel.
 - a. They say Jonah typifies Israel as a “dove” and as one who was to be a light to the Gentiles. (Hosea 11:11)
 - b. Both Jonah and Israel fail.
 - c. Both are exiled from the land.
 - 2. Christ, however, left the impression that Jonah actually happened.
 - 3. Jonah is a historical person. (II Kings 14:25)

III. Characteristics of Jonah.

- A. It has a universal approach.
 - 1. The majority of Jonah’s approach was on foreign soil. The only other prophet to do this was Daniel.
 - 2. He was the only prophet to be involved on the Mediterranean Sea.
- B. It is full of miracles. There are more miracles here per chapter than any other book of the Bible.
- C. It is historical prophesy. There is not one prophesy that did not happen in the book.

IV. Structure.

- A. Outline 1.
 - 1. First commission.

2. Second commission.

B. Outline 2.

1. Jonah running away from God.
2. Jonah running to God.
3. Jonah running with God.
4. Jonah running ahead of God.

C. Outline 3.

1. The commission of Jonah to preach.
2. The consequences of Jonah's preaching.
3. The complaint of Jonah.

V. The commission of Jonah to preach.

A. Jonah was called to cry "against" Nineveh. Nineveh's destruction was conditioned upon Nineveh's repentance. (Jonah 3:4)

B. Nineveh was a wicked city as is illustrated in the book of Nahum.

C. Jonah flees to Tarshish, 500 miles in the opposite direction. Jonah fled because he was a patriot—he would rather Nineveh be destroyed than his own country. (Jonah 4:1)

D. Jonah "fled from God's presence," which means to flee from God's service.

VI. Application.

A. Every step taken out of the will from God is a step down.

B. Circumstances are not a reliable guide to determining God's will. God's Word and God's Spirit are reliable guides.

Application questions:

1. Why should Jonah be read as historical?

2. What is unique about the book of Jonah?

3. Read Jonah and outline the book. Which outline given by the author did you find your outline matching the most?
