

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: April 23, 2023

Summer Series: The Minor Prophets

Title: "Jonah: You Cannot Run from God" (Part 1)

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 8TH CENTURY B.C. IN ISRAEL

1. This period is an unusually significant era in the history of the Hebrew people due to the fact that a considerable number of prominent Hebrew kings reigned during this time in Judah.
2. Israel was, in the second place, unusually successful during the first part of the eighth century B.C. The independence as well as the territory of both kingdoms was still intact at the beginning and during the first half of the eighth century. Under Jereboam II and under Uzziah of Judah.
3. During this period three great crises confronted the Hebrew nation, each of which involved the nation of Assyria.
 - A. The Syro-Ephraimitic Crisis, 734 B.C.
 - B. The Fall of Samaria, 722 B.C.
 - C. The Sennacherib Crisis, 701 B.C.
4. This is an important century because its first half was the period in which Jonah, a prophet of Israel, was sent to the chief city of Assyria, Nineveh, with his stern message of judgment.

THEME and PURPOSE:

1. _____ Mandate for Israel:
Jonah is a picture of Israel, the intended audience is Israel, and the primary application is to motivate them to be God's messengers to the pagan world.
2. _____:
A prophetic picture of the future death, burial & resurrection of Christ.
3. _____:
Jonah's unsuccessful resistance to God's call to preach in Nineveh.
4. _____:
God made His case that He has authority over all He has created and has the right to be compassionate toward them, even to evil Nineveh. A defense of God's sovereignty over & compassion for all nations, even Nineveh.

MESSAGE OF JONAH:

The central idea is the abiding message of Jonah is that God is sovereign & is the Savior over all creation and is compassionate toward all His creatures, acknowledging repentance, extending mercy, and canceling or delaying judgment as He sees fit. All of His dealings are governed by His sovereign authority & by His compassionate nature (*hesed* = grace). The key verse is found in the climax of the book: "You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity" (Jn. 4:2).

LESSON OUTLINE:

1. God's Call to Jonah (ch. 1)

A. The Man and His Times

Jonah is one of the _____ books of the Bible in some ways. He was a prophet, yet. . . . He was a missionary, but. . . . He saw great revival, yet. . . . Who was this man? When did He live? Was he for real? He was "the son of Amittai" but the book gives no other information about him. He is mentioned briefly in three other books of the Bible.

2 Kings 14:25; Matthew 12:40-41; and Luke 11:29-32.

B. The Call (1:1, 2)

How did the "word of the LORD" come to him? God spoke to Jonah by a vision or dream. APPLICATION: How does God speak to us today?

God's call was SPECIFIC: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it."

1) Nineveh - the _____ city of the Assyrian Empire.

2) A _____ city on the east bank of the Tigris River.

3) Nineveh was a _____ city.

4) Nineveh was known as a _____ city.

C. Jonah's Response (1:3)

D. God's Chastisement (1:4-16)

There are miracles performed by God in all four chapters of this bk. In chap. 1 there are three: "Great storm", "Great calm", "Great fish".

The pagan sailors are actually presented in a noble/good way in Jonah.

2. Jonah's Call to God (ch. 2)

A. The Time of Jonah's Prayer (1:17-2:10)

B. The Content of Jonah's Prayer (2:2-9)

C. God's Response to Jonah's Prayer (2:10)