

## Outline of Jonah

- 1 Jonah's Rebellion
- 2 Jonah is Disciplined
- 3 Nineveh's Repentance
- 4 Jonah Taught a Valuable Lesson

### Author

Jonah is unique among the prophets of the Old Testament in that it records the prophet sent to a heathen nation with a message of repentance. In fact, "Israel" is never mentioned in the book. Whereas other prophets provide prophecies that we can demonstrate did in fact occur. Jonah gives a message concerning the destruction of Nineveh which did not occur. Jonah's hometown was Gath-hepher in Galilee (2Ki.14:25). Jonah ministered during the reign of Jeroboam II (2Ki.14:25). He prophesied that Israel will be restored to her former boundaries, which did occur. Jesus recognized the historicity of and validity of Jonah's message of repentance (Mt.12:41; Lk.11:29-32). He called Jonah a prophet (Mt.12:39). Also it is unlikely the writer would give us Jonah's father's name if he was not a real person.

### Nineveh

Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire. Nineveh means "the residence of Ninus." It is the place of Nimrod (Ge.10:11). It is located on the east side of the Tigris River and is about 550 miles from Samaria. The journey is about a month long based

# JONAH

*The book of Jonah is primarily about Jonah and what God needed to do to change him. Of the four chapters only one is devoted to Nineveh, the other three deal with God's work in Jonah's life.*

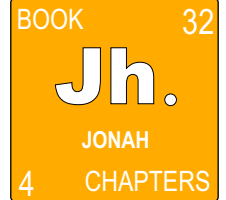
on the normal 15-20 miles a day. The repentance of Nineveh extended their life by over a hundred years. It was not till 612 BC that Nineveh finally fell to the Babylonians.

### Summary

God sent Jonah to Nineveh because he longed in His divine heart that these lost people would turn to Him and be spared. Jonah did not share God's outlook. Jonah

Jonah demonstrates that, though God chose Israel, He always had the Gentiles in mind. We can be stingy about God's mercy. Jonah was. God was merciful to him, but he despised the thought that the people of Nineveh also might taste of mercy from his God. The climax of the book is not the repentance of Nineveh. The greatest miracle in the book is not the conversion of Nineveh, or the great

## PROPHETS



### BOOK OF JONAH OVERVIEW

CHAPTER 1	CHAPTER 2	CHAPTER 3	CHAPTER 4
Running From God	Running To God	Running With God	Running Against God
Jonah in the Ship	Jonah in the Fish	Jonah in the City	Jonah in the Suburbs
Jonah's Rebellion	Jonah Disciplined	Jonah Obeying	Jonah Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God's Command</li> <li>• Jonah's Flight</li> <li>• The Storm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Fish</li> <li>• Jonah's Prayer</li> <li>• Jonah Renewed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God's Command Renewed</li> <li>• The King's Repentance</li> <li>• Revival of Ninevites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jonah's Attitude</li> <li>• Jonah Rebuked</li> <li>• God's View</li> </ul>

**Theme:** Man's view of grace verses God's view of grace.

**JONAH**

knows in his mind that God is gracious, but this knowledge was not absorbed in his own heart. Jonah received pardoning mercy from the Lord, but was not willing for Nineveh to have the same. The human heart is ever the same in all ages (Mt.18:23-35). It has always been the Divine purpose that Israel should be a witness to the nations, not merely a repository of Divine blessing for the nation's sake. God chose Abraham to prepare salvation through a man and a nation to bring the Redeemer into the world through them.

fish, but the change in the heart of the prophet Jonah. We limit God's grace when we constrain them within the limits of our capacity of understanding.



### CHRIST IN JONAH

- One may wonder why the Lord gave such a precise period of time of "three days and three nights" (Jh.1:17) for Jonah's experience in the belly of the fish.