

JONAH BRIEF COMMENTARY

DISOBEDIENCE OF THE PROPHET (Jonah 1)	DELIVERANCE OF THE PROPHET (Jonah 2)	DECLARATION THROUGH THE PROPHET (Jonah 3)	THE DISPLEASURE OF THE PROPHET (Jonah 4)
<p style="text-align: right;">GO</p> <p>1:1-2, Jonah's Missionary Call God called Jonah to prophesize to the capital city of Assyria, Nineveh. Assyria was Israel's prime enemy, so it is easy to see why Jonah did not want to go. However, to not go was disobedience toward God.</p> <p>1:3, Jonah Flees to Tarshish Jonah disobeyed by going in the opposite direction toward Tarshish. This may be the southern coast of Spain. God wanted Jonah to go 500 miles northeast to Nineveh. Jonah headed 2,000 miles to the west. Jonah tried to flee from the presence of the Lord.</p> <p>1:4-10, The Lord's Storm at Sea The Lord hurled a great wind, and a mighty tempest that threatened the ship and its occupants. The mariners, likely Phoenicians, cast lots to determine who was responsible. They determined it was Jonah who was trying to run from the presence of the Lord.</p> <p>1:11-17, Jonah Tossed and the Great Fish Swallows The mariners asked Jonah what they should do to calm the storm. Somehow Jonah knew that throwing him overboard would calm the storm. But the mariners were reluctant to do that, and started to row harder toward the land. Finally, they were driven to toss Jonah overboard. After they toss him out of the boat the sea was calm. The Lord prepared a great fish to rescue Jonah (otherwise he would have drowned). Jonah was "three days and three nights" in the belly of the fish.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">NO</p> <p>2:1-9, Jonah's Prayer In the stomach of the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord. There is no petition in Jonah's prayer. Instead it consists of thanksgiving (v.2-6), contrition (v.7-8), and rededication (v.9). Jonah's prayer is prophetic of Israel's future repentance, when the nation will acknowledge her Messiah as Savior. At that time Israel will be restored to a place of blessing. The "belly of hell" (<i>Sheol</i>) is possibly an idiom for "the depths". Jesus referred to Jonah's event concerning His own death, burial, and resurrection (Mt.12:40).</p> <p>2:10, God's Answer As soon as Jonah acknowledged that salvation is of the Lord, the fish "vomited out Jonah" upon the dry land.</p> <div> </div> <p>"Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights" (Jh.1:17) [See Mt.12:40]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">WOE</p> <p>3:1-4, The Threat of Judgment The Lord re-commissioned Jonah to go to Nineveh. This time Jonah obeyed at least outwardly. The text does not say how long it took Jonah to arrive at Nineveh. Jonah's message, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown". Is this a message of love? Yes, it is the truth they needed to hear.</p> <p>3:5-9, The City-Wide Repentance The Ninevites worshiped the fish god Dagon. Other men survived similar experiences, which resulted in mottled skin from the digestive juices. That is, the skin becomes discolored in irregular patches. So Jonah may have stood out in appearance. Jonah was a sign to the city of Nineveh. Everyone repented and believed God from the greatest to the least. A fast was proclaimed, and they put on sackcloth.</p> <p>3:10, The Judgment Averted Because Nineveh repented, they were spared from the disaster. A couple generations later (150 years) the Assyrians returned to their wicked ways, and their capital was destroyed (book of Nahum).</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">YES BLESS</p> <p>4:1-3, Jonah's Whiny Prayer Jonah was angry because Israel's enemy was spared. In despair Jonah asked that he die. Most of Israel's enemies were severely dealt with by God. Jonah expected the same for Nineveh. He expected destruction, not salvation. Jonah knew the Lord was gracious. Nevertheless, Jonah thought Assyria was reserved for destruction by God. But God showed mercy to one of Israel's worst enemy.</p> <p>4:4, God's Searching Question The Lord asked a question to prick Jonah's conscience. "Is it right for you to be angry?"</p> <p>4:5, Jonah Pouts Outside the City Jonah passed through Nineveh and sat on the east side of the city to see what would become of the city.</p> <p>4:6-8, Object Lesson: God's Mercy The Lord prepared a large plant to protect Jonah from the hot sun. Jonah was pleased with this protection. The next day, the Lord prepared a worm to eat the plant so that it withered. The Lord prepared a sultry east wind which caused Jonah to faint and wish for death.</p> <p>4:9-11, Mercy: Plant or People The Lord reminded Jonah that he had pity on the plant. But how much more Jonah should have pity on a city with more than 120,000 children alone.</p>