

INTRODUCTION TO Jonah

READ ALONG

07/17 Jonah

WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

- 29. JOEL
- 30. AMOS
- 31. OBADIAH
- 32. **JONAH**
- 33. MICAH
- 34. NAHUM
- 35. HABAKKUK

KEY THEMES

- **Humanity’s need for salvation.** Every human is separated from God by sin. Left to ourselves we would perish in our sins and be separated from God forever. This is true regardless of nationality or status. In this book, Jonah, the pagan sailors, and the King of Nineveh all need to be saved from their sins, just as we do.
- **God’s grace in salvation.** At the end of his prayer in chapter 2, Jonah says “salvation belongs to the Lord” (2:9). This is the key verse of the book and can serve as a summary of the message of the entire Bible. Salvation comes only through God’s grace. Apart from the gracious intervention of God, Jonah would have drowned in his rebellion and the city of Nineveh would have perished in their idolatry. The book of Jonah serves as a reminder that God loves sinners, and He graciously pursues them, even in their rebellion.
- **God’s heart for the nations.** Jonah is commissioned by God to take a message of repentance not to Israel, but Israel’s greatest enemy the Assyrians. God tells Jonah that He has compassion on the city of Nineveh and desires for them to not perish in their sins (4:10-11). The book of Jonah is an Old Testament glimpse of God’s global plan of redemption and salvation. A plan that will result in people from every tribe, tongue, and nation worshiping Jesus as Lord (Rev. 7:9).

BOOK BASICS



DATE



TYPE
Prophecy



AUTHOR
Jonah

While the book is anonymous, the prophet Jonah is believed to be the author. Jonah the son of Amittai (1:1) was from the city of Gath-Hepher and prophesied to Israel during the reign of Jeroboam II in the 8th century BC (2 Kings 14:23-25).

OCCASION

Under the reign of wicked king Jeroboam II (793 BC-753 BC) the Northern Kingdom of Israel regained their influence in the region. While we do not know the details of how this happened, we are told that Jonah had prophesied to Jeroboam II that this would happen (2 Kings 14:25). Some time after these events the Lord tells Jonah to go preach to the city of Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire, Israel’s greatest enemy.

MESSAGE

The book of Jonah is unique among the other Old Testament prophets in that it is primarily a narrative and contains very little prophecy. The story highlights God’s patience with rebellious sinners, and His compassion and grace toward them.

BASIC STRUCTURE

4 CHAPTERS

