Bible Story: Jonah

Johnny Ramsey · Jonah 1:2 · Series: **Bible Story**

INTRODUCTION

- The book of Jonah is one of the most unusual books in all the Bible.
- It tells not the words of a prophet, but the life and actions of a prophet, and a reluctant, rebellious, disobedient prophet at that.

1 The Only Prophet Jesus Directly Compared Himself To

Matthew 12; Matthew 16:4; John 7

- Jonah was the only Old Testament prophet Jesus directly compared himself to.
- He was from Galilee, Gath Heper, three miles from Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus.
- The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is likened unto his sojourn in the belly of the great fish God provided.

2 Foreshadowed the Entrance of the Gentiles

Acts 11:18

- This book foreshadowed the entrance of the Gentiles into covenant relationship with the Lord.
- Then to the Gentiles hath God granted repentance unto life.
- God was concerned with non Israel in Old Testament days.
- Just one lesson brought them, the Gentiles to their knees, but Israel did not hearken to thousands of lessons.

3 Nineveh Was the Corinth of Its Day

Jonah 1:2; Nahum 3:1

- Nineveh was the Corinth of its day, six hundred thousand population.
- Twenty years later, God used these penitent people to subdue his own impenitent nation, Israel.
- One hundred and thirty-five years after the book of Jonah, Nineveh fell because of sin.
- The book of Nahum is the sequel of the book of Jonah.

4 Jonah Did Not Think Like God Thought

Psalm 86

- He was told to go to Nineveh and preach, but at Joppa he boarded a ship and headed for Tarshish.
- When men run away from God, they usually go to the other extreme.
- Victory in battle was more important to him than saving souls.
- His patriotism exceeded his spirituality.

5 Four Great Lessons and One Key Word: Repentance

Hebrews 11:1; Hebrews 11:6; 2 Corinthians 5:7

- First, Jonah's flight from duty. Secondly, his preaching at Nineveh, even though he reluctantly preached.
- Third, his anger at the reception of the gospel by the people. And fourth, the mercy of God.
- Jonah repented. The people repented, and it even says God repented, meaning he changed his mind.
- Repentance is not just a one time step, as Jonah and the people of Nineveh would learn.
- There's no problem in the book of Jonah. It's just a matter of faith in God.

6 The Points We Need to Stress

- One, God means what he says. Jonah had to do God's will, even though he did it reluctantly.
- Secondly, God knows where we are, down in the belly of that great fish.
- We also learn from this book that God cares for all mankind, and that God is affected by our actions.
- Nineveh's later fall proves we must indoctrinate each succeeding generation, or we'll lose them to the devil.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **How we need to appreciate and appropriate the blessings and teachings found in this wonderful book.**

MY NOTES