

# God Speaks to a People at Ease

*Studies in Jonah, Amos, Hosea*

**A Gracious and Merciful God**

**Lesson 2**

**Jonah 3-4**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*

*September 11, 2016*

# **A Most Unusual Book**

- ▶ A prophet of Israel without a message to Israel
- ▶ A mission of mercy to the destroyer of Israel
- ▶ A mission under protest
- ▶ A minor prophet and a major fish – a distraction
- ▶ An unfinished story

## 2 Anecdotes from the Life of Jonah

- ▶ Jonah ran from the face of God into the belly of a fish
- ▶ Jonah went with God but despised the success
- ▶ Two main lessons:
  - Salvation is of the LORD (Jonah 2:9)
  - Waiting for the salvation of the LORD (Lamentations 3:22-26)

# Jonah 1-2

- ▶ Jonah's call and his flight from the face of God
- ▶ The pursuit by God – a great wind and a great fish
- ▶ Sailors call upon the LORD
- ▶ The instruction of Jonah
  - Salvation is of the LORD
  - The Loving-kindness of God
- ▶ The sign of Jonah (Matthew 12:40; 16:4)

# A Gracious and Merciful God

- ▶ Jonah obeys and “proclaims the proclamation” (3:1-4)
- ▶ Great revival in Nineveh (3:5-10)
- ▶ Jonah is angry with God (4:1-4)
- ▶ God takes Jonah to school (4:5-11)

# Jonah Obeyed (Jonah 3:1-4)

- ▶ The Word of the LORD came to Jonah the 2<sup>nd</sup> time
- ▶ Isaiah 55:11 – “It will not return to me empty . . .”
- ▶ Amos 8:11 – the curse of silence
- ▶ Jeremiah 29:11, 20 – “. . . to give you a future and a hope”
- ▶ John 1:1 – Christ is the Living Word

# Jonah Obeyed (Jonah 3:1-4)

- ▶ Jonah went to Nineveh – Mosul, Iraq
  - 500 mile trip
  - Founded by Nimrod (Genesis 10:8-12)
  - A “great city to God” (3:3)
  - A city in decline – weak king (3:6)
  - A city later to be the rod of the LORD (Isaiah 10:5)
- ▶ Jonah’s proclamation
  - “Yet 40 days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”

# Great Revival in Nineveh (3:5-10)

## ▶ Repentance

- Romans 1:18-23 – suppressing the truth in unrighteousness
- Jonah 3:5 – the people of Nineveh believed in God . . .

## ▶ Was it genuine?

- No extra Biblical evidence
- Fasting, sackcloth and ashes
- Call upon God earnestly

## ▶ God saw their deeds

- James 2:14-17 – faith without works is dead
- Romans 2:4 – repentance comes by the kindness of God
- Hebrews 12:2 – Christ, the Author and Finisher of our faith
- Ephesians 2:8-10 – Faith is a gift of God

# Great Revival in Nineveh (3:5-10)

- ▶ God turned from the calamity He declared He would bring on them. He did not do it.
- ▶ Warnings, offers of blessing, instruction – Romans 10:17
- ▶ Salvation is of the LORD

# Jonah is Angry with God (4:1-4)

- ▶ It greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry
- ▶ He prayed
  - A prayer of faith?
  - He despised the way of God
  - He despised the character of God
- ▶ The glory of God – Exodus 33:18-34:7
- ▶ The loving-kindness of God (Hebrew: HESED)
  - Mercy – Grace – Love – Faithfulness – Loving-grace
- ▶ Salvation is of the LORD'S loving-kindness!
- ▶ Do you have good reason to be angry?

# God takes Jonah to School (4:5-11)

- ▶ Jonah built a shelter – waited to see what God would do
- ▶ The LORD God appointed a plant – Jonah's joy
- ▶ God appointed a worm
- ▶ God appointed a scorching east wind – Jonah's agony
- ▶ Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?
- ▶ Jonah now convinced he has good reason

# The Lesson for Jonah

- ▶ A surprising comparison
- ▶ The plant and the citizens of Nineveh
- ▶ What pleased Jonah?
- ▶ What pleased the LORD?
- ▶ The revelation of the glory of God

# An Abrupt Ending

- ▶ An obvious answer
- ▶ A question and answer for every generation
- ▶ Salvation is of the LORD
  - His sovereign work
  - His loving-kindness at work
- ▶ Hosea 6:4-6 “I delight in loving-kindness . . . .”