

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 2nd 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 . . .”