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\textsuperscript{nd} 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 . . .”