

An Old Testament Glance

The Minor Prophets Books – Jonah, Part 1

Name Meaning	Dates of Service	Home Town	# of Chapters	Kings Reigning	Audience Targeted	Theme or Subject
"Dove"	780-760 BC	Gath Hopher	4	Jehoash, Jero 2 Amaziah (S)	Assyrians	Mercy on Nineveh
Prophets Ministering at the same time:			Probably None			
Scripture References:			2 Kings 13-14; Mt. 12:39-40; 16:4; Lk. 11:29-32; Jonah 1-4			

BRIEF OUTLINE

Jonah 1:1 – 2:10

The Prophet Rejects God's Assignment in Ministry

Jonah 3:1 – 4:11

The Prophet Obeys God's Assignment in Ministry

There seems to be similar behaviors running through these Minor Prophets.

Israel rejected God's Word & disobeyed God in Hosea. Punishment came.

Israel rejected God's Word & disobeyed God in Joel. Punishment came.

Israel rejected God's Word & disobeyed God in Amos. Punishment came.

Israel rejected God's Word & disobeyed God in Obadiah. Punishment came.

Jonah rejected God's Word & disobeyed God in Jonah. He was punished.

1. Even though God knew Jonah would screw up, what did God do? (1:1)

Jonah's reaction was drastic so he must have been extremely agitated at the Assyrians. He bought a boat ticket to Tarshish; Jonah flipped out. (Look at the map.)

He was heading the wrong way (about 2500 miles the wrong way).

HE NEVER GOT THERE!!



Jonah knew about the Assyrians even though the word "Assyrian" is not used by Jonah. He used the word "Nineveh", the largest Assyrian city. Jonah lived about 600 miles from Nineveh & knew that Assyria's armies were moving west toward

his town. That military movement had been aggressive for about 200 years, so the Jews would know about Assyria.

2. How did God describe Assyria ("Nineveh")? (Jonah 1:1)
 - a. "That _____ city".
 - b. "Their _____ has come up before Me".

Can you imagine traveling toward your enemy who is marching toward you? Here is this insignificant man asked to face a massive & destructive army.

3. God said to him, "cry out _____ it."

This scared Jonah to death. How do we know?

- a. He already knew about them (heard of them all of his life).***
- b. He paid for a very long & expensive boat ride.***
- c. His trip was 2500 miles away from the action.***
- d. He, like most Jews, were land people, not sea people.***

4. What word is repeated when describing his travel plans? (Jonah 1:3)
 - a. "He went _____ to Joppa".
 - b. "But Jonah had gone _____". (Into the ship)
5. What phrase is repeated to describe Jonah's attitude? (Jonah 1:3)
 - a. "But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish _____".
 - b. "to go with them to Tarshish _____".

This does not sound nor look good.

Here again we have prophet of the Lord telling an illustration story (something from real life) to get his point across.

Remember - Hosea did it - The Broken Marriage
Joel did it - The Destructive Locusts
Amos did it - The Destructive Locusts & Fire
The Plumbline & the Fruit Basket.
Obadiah did it - The Estranged, Hateful Brothers
Jonah does it - The Travel in a Ship & a Fish

6. What does God do in Jonah 3:1? Write it out.

I noticed tears in my eyes while reading this verse.

7. Have you ever had a second chance(s) in your life? Explain.
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The Minor Prophets Books – Jonah, Part 2

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- Jonah 1:1 – 2:10 The Prophet Rejects God’s Assignment in Ministry
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Keep in mind that it took 3 days to walk across Nineveh. One day 1, he preached a sermon (actually, it said "he cried out").

8. What did he cry out? (Jonah 3:4) _____

9. What did the people of Nineveh do? (Jonah 3:5)

10. What did the King of Nineveh do personally? (Jonah 3:6)

11. What did the King of Nineveh announce to his people? (Jonah 3:7)

12. What did God do? (Jonah 3:10) _____

13. How did Jonah react? Hopefully, it will better than before the "fish ride".
 - a. What did Jonah say to God? (Jonah 4:1-3)

 - b. What did Jonah do after whining to God (Jonah 4:5-8)

God looks beyond the sinfulness of people. Jonah already knew that, "You are GRACIOUS, MERCIFUL, SLOW TO ANGER, ABUNDANT IN LOVINGKINDNESS, ONE WHO IS WILLING TO WITHHOLD PUNISHMENT." (Jonah 4:2).

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BRIEF OUTLINE

Jonah 1:1 – 2:10

The Prophet Rejects God's Assignment in Ministry

Jonah 3:1 – 4:11

The Prophet Obeys God's Assignment in Ministry

There were three audiences who needed to hear the message of this book:

a. Jonah the Prophet himself

b. The Assyrian Empire

c. The Northern Kingdom of Israel

14. What is the message of the book of Jonah? **Check the ones that grab you.**

- God is the Blessed Controller of all things.
- God loves us no matter how evil or hopeless we have become.
- God expects His word to be obeyed because He knows that is right.
- When God punishes us for sin & failure, this shows He loves us.
- God forgives & blesses us even though He knows we'll rebel again.
- God warns us repeatedly to turn back to Him.
- God gives second chances to those confess their sins & rebellion.
- God loves us the same whether we reject Him or accept Him.
- God expects us to trust Him and to leave the results to Him.

God said that He wanted mankind to obey His commands, acknowledge that God's ways are the right ways, and then trust Him for the results.

15. Did Jonah get the message? Explain. (Jonah 1:12)

Yes No _____

16. Did the Assyrians get the message? Explain. (Jonah 3:5-9)

Yes No _____

17. Did the sailors on the ship get the message? Yes No _____

- a. (1:5) "Every man cried out to his _____".
- b. (1:6) "Perhaps your _____ will consider us so we won't perish".
- c. (1:10) "The men knew that Jonah fled from His _____".
- d. (1:16) "Then the men _____ the Lord exceedingly".
- e. (1:16) "Then the men offered a _____ to the Lord."

*Ok, what about the Northern Kingdom of Israel. **They were NOT mentioned** in the entire book of Jonah. When Jonah began his prophet ministry, Jehoash was king of the "North". The Northern Kingdom had 82 years left before Assyria would defeat them & take them into exile.*

Hosea warned them (Hosea 9:17). "My God will cast them away."

Joel warned them (Joel 2:2). "A people will come, great & strong."

Amos warned them (Amos 3:11). "An adversary shall surround your land."

Obadiah warned them. (Obadiah 15). Hear this Israel; Judah will fall too.

Let's see if these warnings encouraged the Northern Kingdom to turn to God.

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| 18. | Describe King Jeroboam 2's reign. (2 Kings 14:24) | 60 years until defeated by Assyria |
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| 19. | Describe King Zechariah's reign. (2 Kings 15:9) | 31 Years |
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| 20. | Describe what happened in King Shallum's reign. (2 Kings 15:14) | 30 Years |
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| 21. | Describe King Menahem's reign. (2 Kings 15:18) | 30 Years |
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| 22. | Describe King Pekahiah's reign & what happened. (2 Kings 15:24-25) | 20 Years |
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| 23. | Describe King Pekah's reign & what happened. (2 Kings 15:28,30) | 18 Years |
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| 24. | Describe King Hoshea's reign & what happened. (2 Kings 17:2,4) | 10 Years |
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*In 722 BC, the Assyrian armies invaded & conquered the Northern Kingdom in Samaria. **Mankind is unstable & sinful.** Probably the Assyrian parents of these Assyrian soldiers became believers when Jonah preached there. What happened to the kids? They brutally attacked Israel. Jonah saw God forgive & love him. Yet, the book of Jonah ends with Jonah still griping about God loving the Assyrians.*

"Thank you, Lord, for not changing regardless of what we do."