

A SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Jonah

"A Merciful God"

Title:

- Jonah
 - This was the original _____ title.
 - It was not changed in either the Septuagint or the Vulgate.
 - It comes from the book's primary human character.

Subtitle: "A Merciful God"

Summary: "The prophet Jonah sees God's unconditional _____ greatly surpassing his own as it is extended to an unlovable people."

Author:

- Probably Jonah
 - Reveals a great deal about Jonah's most _____ thoughts.
 - Contains information that no one else could have possibly witnessed (in the fish).
 - One minor difficulty: It also records what happened on the boat when he was thrown in the water.

Overview:

- The first decision point (1:1-2:10).
 - Go cry against Nineveh (1:1-2).
 - Jonah rebels (1:3)
 - God _____ Jonah's rebellion (1:4-17)
 - Jonah repents of disobedience (2:1-10).
- The second decision point (3:1-4:11).
 - Go cry against Nineveh (3:1-2).
 - Jonah obeys and Nineveh _____ (3:3-10).
 - Jonah's selfish response (4:1-3).
 - Jonah experiences God's correction (4:4-11).
- The third decision point (5:1)
 - We are never told how Jonah responded to God's correction.
 - That's because Jonah's response is not the _____ of the story.
 - Our summary: "The prophet Jonah sees God's unconditional mercy greatly surpassing his own as it is extended to an unlovable people."

Key People:

- Jonah: the prophet that God used to reveal His merciful character.
- _____: the primary Character of the book.
 - Although it is obvious that God works in all of the books of the Bible, He is extremely involved in Jonah.

- It is rare to get a glimpse of God’s sanctifying work on one of His prophets that is as detailed as Jonah’s.

Setting:

- Joppa:
 - the southernmost part of modern day Tel Aviv-Yafo, aka: Jaffa.
 - This city was an important _____ for much of the early Jewish monarchy period.
 - It was the base of a thriving trade with Tarshish (1 Kings 10:22).
 - *“For the king had at sea a navy of Tharshish with the navy of Hiram: once in three years came the navy of Tharshish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.”*
- Tarshish:
 - A major _____ port and economic center.
 - Other ancient sources make it seem very likely that Tarshish was the island of _____.
 - If Tarshish was Sardinia, it was approximately 20 days away by boat.
 - Due to their long relationship with Israel, the sailors likely knew about Yahweh.
- Nineveh:
 - The capital of the _____ Empire.
 - This was a very evil and cruel society. Rumor and fear of their atrocities fueled Jonah’s hatred.
 - A massive city by ancient standards.
 - Jonah went a day’s journey into the city before he started preaching (3:4).
 - God told Jonah there were 120,000 people that couldn’t distinguish between their right hand and their left (4:11).

Date:

- Approximately _____ BC
 - Again, there isn’t anything to give an exact date to the book, but we do have some time indicators.
 - The Assyrians were destroyed in 612 BC after again rebelling against God.
 - The Assyrians destroyed northern Israel in 722 BC.
 - Jonah predicted events completed by King Jeroboam, son of Joash (2 Kings 14:25-26) who ruled during the 700s.

Challenges to Jonah:

- Did Jonah really happen?
 - The reason some people doubt this is they refuse to accept that a “giant fish” swallowed Jonah.
 - But we do not need to be swayed by the presence of a _____ occurrence.
 - Furthermore, Jesus referenced this event in the New Testament.

Christ in Jonah:

- Jesus likened his _____ to Jonah's being in the belly of the fish.
- Matthew 12:40, "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

Key Doctrines:

- God is not willing that any should perish.
 - Sometimes we have the inaccurate idea that God left all except the Israelites out of redemption until the New Testament.
 - Even from the beginning, God wanted all people to repent.
 - The Israelites were supposed to be unique; their _____ was supposed to attract the nations.

Application: Let us ensure that we respond properly to God's instruction.