

## Lessons From Jonah For Today

## Brief Historical Background

- Jonah (Dove) prophesied early in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC during the time of Jeroboam II who ruled over the northern 10 tribes that had separated from Judah and Benjamin
- Israel was prospering economically but was filled with idolatry
- Jonah was sent to the Assyrians in Nineveh (Israel's enemies) who were more willing to listen to God's Word than Israel

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## Jonah Prophesied During Wicked Israel's Material Prosperity

2Ki 14:23 In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel became king in Samaria, *and reigned* forty-one years.

2Ki 14:24 He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin.

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## Jonah Prophesied During Wicked Israel's Material Prosperity

2Ki 14:25 He restored the border of Israel from the entrance of Hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, which He spoke through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was of Gath-hepher.

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## The Lord Sends Jonah To Speak Against Wicked Nineveh

Jon 1:1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying,

Jon 1:2 "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me."

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## We Can Never Successfully Hide From Or Run Away From God

Jon 1:3 But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

Jon 1:4 The LORD hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up.

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## We Can Never Successfully Hide From Or Run Away From God

Jon 1:5 Then the sailors became afraid and every man cried to his god, and they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten *it* for them. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down and fallen sound asleep.

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## We Can Never Successfully Hide From Or Run Away From God

Jon 1:6 So the captain approached him and said, "How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps *your* god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish."

Jon 1:7 Each man said to his mate, "Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity *has struck* us." So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

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## We Can Never Successfully Hide From Or Run Away From God

Jon 1:8 Then they said to him, "Tell us, now! On whose account *has* this calamity *struck* us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

Jon 1:9 He said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land."

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## We Can Never Successfully Hide From Or Run Away From God

Jon 1:10 Then the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, "How could you do this?" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

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## We Can Never Successfully Hide From Or Run Away From God

Psa 139:7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

Psa 139:8 If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.

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## We Can Never Successfully Hide From Or Run Away From God

Psa 139:9 If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea,

Psa 139:10 Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

Psa 139:11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night,"

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## We Can Never Successfully Hide From Or Run Away From God

Psa 139:12 Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike *to You*.

Psa 139:13 For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.

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## We Must Repent of Sins To Please God

Jon 1:15 So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.

Jon 1:16 Then the men feared the LORD greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

Jon 1:17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

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## We Must Repent of Sins To Please God

Jon 2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the stomach of the fish,

Jon 2:7 "While I was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, And my prayer came to You, Into Your holy temple.

Jon 2:8 "Those who regard vain idols Forsake their faithfulness,

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## We Must Repent of Sins To Please God

Jon 2:9 But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the LORD."

Jon 2:10 Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.

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## We Must Repent of Sins To Please God

Jon 3:1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,

Jon 3:2 "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you."

Jon 3:3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days' walk.

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## We Must Repent of Sins To Please God

Act 2:38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Act 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

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## We Must Repent of Sins To Please God

2Co 7:9 I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to *the point of repentance*; for you were made sorrowful according to *the will of God*, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

2Co 7:10 For the sorrow that is according to *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death. 19

## Nations Must Repent To Please God

Jon 3:4 Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown."

Jon 3:5 Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them. 20

## Nations Must Repent To Please God

Jon 3:6 When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered *himself* with sackcloth and sat on the ashes.

Jon 3:7 He issued a proclamation and it said, "In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water. 21

## Nations Must Repent To Please God

Jon 3:8 "But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands.

Jon 3:9 "Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish." 22

## Nations Must Repent To Please God

Jon 3:10 When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do *it*. 23

## Nations Must Repent To Please God

Jer 18:5 Then the word of the LORD came to me saying,

Jer 18:6 "Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter *does*?" declares the LORD. "Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel. 24

## Nations Must Repent To Please God

Jer 18:7 "At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy *it*;

Jer 18:8 if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it.

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## Nations Must Repent To Please God

Jer 18:9 "Or at another moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to build up or to plant *it*;

Jer 18:10 if it does evil in My sight by not obeying My voice, then I will think better of the good with which I had promised to bless it.

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## Like God We Must Love The Lost Instead of Being Selfish

Jon 4:1 But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry.

Jon 4:6 So the LORD God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant.

Jon 4:7 But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day and it attacked the plant and it withered.

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## Like God We Must Love The Lost Instead of Being Selfish

Jon 4:8 When the sun came up God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint and begged with *all* his soul to die, saying, "Death is better to me than life."

Jon 4:9 Then God said to Jonah, "Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "I have good reason to be angry, even to death."

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## Like God We Must Love The Lost Instead of Being Selfish

Jon 4:10 Then the LORD said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and *which* you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight.

Jon 4:11 "Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know *the difference* between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"

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## Like God We Must Love The Lost Instead of Being Selfish

Mar 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

Mar 16:16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

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## Jonah Is A Type of Christ

Mat 12:38 Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."

Mat 12:39 But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet;

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## Jonah Is A Type of Christ

Mat 12:40 for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Mat 12:41 "The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

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## Lessons From Jonah For Today

1. We can never successfully hide from or run away from God
2. We must repent of sins to please God
3. Nations must repent to please God
4. Like God we must love the lost instead of being selfish
5. Jonah is a type of Christ

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