

The Book of Jonah

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Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God’s Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

Today we study the book of **Jonah**. This is the fifth book of “The Minor Prophets.”

Although the book doesn’t identify its author, tradition holds that the author of the book is Jonah himself – the son of Amittai (**1:1**), from Gath Hopher (**2 Kings 14:25**) in the region of Galilee. Like Elijah and Elisha, his near contemporaries, Jonah was a prophet to the northern kingdom of Israel, but in the middle of his prophetic career, God called him to go to a Gentile city – Ninevah of the Assyrians.

This was not the first time that a prophet had prophesied against a city outside the borders of Israel, but it was the first and only time a prophet was sent outside Israel’s territory to speak *on location* at a foreign city.

Assyria was expanding its empire, and had recently conquered Israel’s long time foe, Damascus. Israel was, therefore, enjoying a new measure of freedom, believing that God would forever protect them from foreign invaders. But at this time, Amos began to prophesy that God would “spare them no longer” (**Amos 7:8; 8:2**), and Hosea gave the first indications that God would send the people of the northern kingdom into exile in Assyria (**Hosea 9:3; 10:6; 11:5**).

At such a time as this, with the prophetic declaration of exile in Assyria still ringing in the air, God speaks to Jonah and sends him to Nineveh, capital of Assyria.

Jonah’s immediate reaction is to run in the opposite direction. As is obvious from **chapter 4**, Jonah’s rebellion was motivated more by hatred than by fear. The Assyrians were a cruel people, and had been raiding Israel’s borders for many years. The last thing Jonah wanted was for the Assyrians to find grace in the eyes of God. As he later tells God:

“I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.”

Let’s now pull up a chair and read the short book of **Jonah** in one sitting.

Memory Verse

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 14:6

Your Fishing Kit

This is the seventeenth verse in your fishing kit. **John 14:2** is a direct quote from Jesus – statement that sets him apart from every other religious leader in the world. For Jesus didn’t just come to show us the way. He declared: “I am the way!” He didn’t just come to tell us the truth. He said: “I am the truth!” He didn’t just come to give us life. He proclaimed: “I am the life!” And then he made the history-shaking declaration: “No one comes to the Father except through me!”

Here are the other verses in your “fishing kit”:

John 3:16	Isaiah 55:6-7	John 1:12	2 Corinthians 5:17
John 3:18	Romans 5:8	John 3:3	2 Corinthians 5:21
John 3:36	1 John 4:10	John 5:24	Matthew 10:32-33
Ephesians 1:7-8	Acts 2:38	John 6:37	Romans 2:4-5
Romans 3:23	Acts 3:19	John 8:32	Acts 17:30
Romans 6:23	Acts 4:12	John 8:36	1 John 5:10
Isaiah 53:5	John 14:6	John 10:10	1 John 5:11-12
Isaiah 53:6	1 John 1:8	John 10:28	John 14:1-3
Isaiah 59:1-2	1 John 1:9	Romans 10:9	John 16:33
Isaiah 64:6	1 John 1:10	Romans 10:13	Revelation 3:20

Store these verses in your heart. Memorize them until they have an “on the tip of your tongue” familiarity. You will find them of immeasurable value as you cooperate with the Lord in his mission of bringing the Gospel to this lost world.