

“Jonah - The Prophet”
Jonah 1:1; 2 Kings 14:23-27

Introduction:

1. This Morning, We Are Going To Begin A New Series Of Messages On The Book Of Jonah!
 - Jonah Is A Small Old Testament Book:
 - Of Just 48 Verses In 4 Short Chapters!
 - But The Messages Found In This Book Are Life-Changing!
 - Because Every Word In This Small Book Is The Word Of God!
 - And As Hebrews 4:12 Tells Us:
 - “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart!”
2. We Will Be Exploring This Book In Two Different Ways:
 - First - We Will Be Going Through The Book:
 - Verse By Verse!
 - As We Have Done With Other Books Of The Bible!
 - This Will Help Us Get To Know The Whole Book In The Order In Which God Inspired It!
 - But We Will Also Take Time Throughout The Book:
 - To Explore Some Important Messages:
 - That Run Throughout The Book!
 - Because Jonah Is Also A Masterful Piece Of Literature In Which Some Topics Are Dealt With Throughout!
 - And This Treatment Of The Book Of Jonah:
 - Will Take Some Time!
 - And That Is Important As Well!
 - Because All Too Often:
 - When We Come To One Of These Shorter Books In The Bible, We Rush Through Them, Just To Get Them Read!
 - But This Book Especially - The Book Of Jonah:
 - A Book We Think We Know Well!
 - Will Reward Us For Not Just Reading – But Lingering & Meditating Over Its Inspired Words!
 - 3. In The First Verse Of This Book We Meet A Man Named Jonah:
 - Jonah 1:1 - “Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying:”
 - But Just Who Is This Jonah?
 - We First Meet Jonah:
 - Not Here, In The Book Which Carries His Name!
 - But In The Book Of 2 Kings – A Book Of History, Which Tells Us A Bit More About Jonah!
 - 4. So: To Begin Our Series On Jonah:
 - We Are Going To First Go To 2 Kings 14:
 - Where We Find Israel, The People Of God, Split Into Two Opposing Nations!
 - After The Successful & Prosperous Reigns Of King David & King Solomon, As A Consequence To The People’s Sins, Two Separate Nations Were Formed:
 - A Northern Kingdom:
 - Which Consisted Of 10 Tribes Of Israel, And Was Called Israel!
 - And The City Of Samaria Was Their Capital City & Place For Worship!
 - And A Southern Kingdom:
 - Which Consisted Of The Remaining 2 Tribes Of Israel, And Was Known As Judah!
 - And Jerusalem Remained Their Capital City & Place Of Worship!
 - And 150 Years After This Split:
 - We Find In The Northern Kingdom Of Israel A New King By The Name Of Jeroboam:
 - And During His Reign, We Read This:
 - 2 Kings 14:23-24 - “In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash king of Judah Jeroboam the son of Joash king of Israel began to reign in Samaria, and reigned forty and one years. / 24 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin!”
 - We Learn Here That: Although Jeroboam (The Second) Was The Longest Reigning King Over The Northern Kingdom Of Israel – For 41 Years – He Remained A Wicked King! But God Still – Out Of Nothing But Grace – Granted Him A Measure Of Success!

- 2 Kings 14:25 - "He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher!"

- And This Is Where We First Meet Jonah - "The Son Of Amittai, The Prophet, Which Was Of Gathhepher!"

4. So: What Can We Learn About Jonah In This Brief Biography?

- We Will See That:

- Jonah Was A Gifted Prophet Of God Who, At This Stage Of His Ministry, Faithfully Used What God Gave Him To Fulfill God's Plan!

- What Were Some Of These Gifts?

1. *The Gift Of Privilege:*

- Jonah Was A Man Of Great Privilege:

- Because Of The Holy Office He Was Given!

- Found In 14:25 - "The Prophet!"

- A "Prophet" In The Old Testament:

- Was An Ambassador & A Spokesman For God!

- And To Be A Prophet Of The One True God Was A Great Privilege!

- Because A Prophet Would Hear The Word Of God!

- And Then Would Speak The Word Of God!

- Jonah Was One Of God's Prophets!

- With A Special Call!

- The Office Of A Prophet:

- Was Not Something That A Man Would Choose For Himself!

- No - God Chose The Person He Wanted To Be His Prophet!

- God Prepared The Person He Chose!

- And Then God Gave That Person A Special Call!

- Like The Call God Gave To Another Prophet:

- Jeremiah 1:4-5 - "Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, / Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations!"

- What A Privilege - To Be Called As A Prophet Of God!

- And Jonah Received That Special Call!

- With Special Companions!

- From What We Learn In 2 Kings 14:

- Jonah Was A Young Man During The Ministry Of Another One Of God's Great Prophets To The Northern Kingdom - Elisha!

- And During The Ministry Of Elisha:

- There Was Formed A "School Of The Prophets!"

- Where Men Who Received God's Call To Serve As A Prophet, Could Receive Further Training, Help & Support In Their Ministry!

- It Is Likely That Jonah Was One Of Those Young Prophets!

- And Would Have Enjoyed The Fellowship And Instruction Of Other Faithful, Godly Men!

- And Here In 2 Kings - Jonah The Prophet:

- Used The Privileges Given To Him By God To Serve Him!

- What About You?

- What Do You Do With The Privileges You Have Been Given By God?

- What Privileges?

- The Privilege To Be Here & To Hear God's Word!

- The Privilege To Know & To Believe In Jesus Christ!

- And If You Are A Christian:

- You Too Have Received A Special Call!

- You Have Been Called Out Of Darkness Into His Marvelous Light!

- You Too Are To Be A Spokesperson For The Lord Jesus Christ & A Witness - What A Privilege!

- You Too Have Received Special Companions!

- Of Course, Other Believers!

- But Especially The Lord Jesus Himself!
- “I Will Never Leave Thee Nor Forsake Thee!” – What A Privilege!
- How Are You Using The Great Privileges God Has Given You? To Glorify Him & To Serve Him More?
- Another Gift Given To Jonah:

2. ***The Gift Of Opportunity:***

- Jonah Was Given A Great Opportunity:
 - To Speak The Word Of God To The King Of His Nation!
 - And In This Opportunity:
 - Jonah Was Found Faithful!
 - For, According To 14:25, God “Spake By The Hand Of His Servant, Jonah!”
- He Was Faithful In His Setting:
 - Although Being A Prophet Was A Great Privilege:
 - It Was Not Always Greatly Popular!
 - The Prophet Jeremiah Was Forcibly Exiled To Egypt!
 - The Prophet Isaiah Was Killed, Probably By Being Sawn In Two!
 - Jonah Was Called To Be A Prophet:
 - During A Very Difficult & Dark Time In His People’s History!
 - 14:24 Reminds Us About King Jeroboam: “And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin!”
 - It Was A Spiritually Dark Time In Israel!
 - With A Spiritually Dark & Evil King!
 - What Words Would God Give Jonah?
 - What Words Would Jonah Then Give To The King?
 - Would He Listen? Would He Obey?
 - Jonah Faithfully Served God As His Prophet, Even In Those Dark & Difficult Times!
- He Was Faithful In His Speech!
 - Again, In 14:25, God “Spake” His Word “By” Jonah!
 - This Was What A Prophet Was Supposed To Do!
 - 2 Chronicles 18:13 - “And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak!”
 - So: Jonah Spoke The “Word Of The Lord” That Was Given To Him!
- He Was Faithful In His Service!
 - Another Description Of Jonah In 14:25 Is This:
 - “His Servant!” – God’s Servant!
 - God Had A Special Mission For Him To Accomplish!
 - And So He Performed His Service Faithfully!
 - But We Also Know:
 - Through The Book Of Jonah!
 - That Jonah Himself Was Just A Man & Was Not Perfect! He Still Had Much To Learn!
 - But At This Point In His Ministry:
 - He Learned To Be Faithful In The Opportunities God Gave Him To Serve!
- What About You?
 - What Do You Do With The Opportunities You Have Been Given By God?
 - Opportunities To Serve God!
 - Opportunities To Witness For God!
 - Opportunities To Be The Light & Salt Jesus Christ Has Called You To Be!
 - Philippians 2:15 - “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world!”
 - How Are You Using The Great Opportunities God Has Given You? To Glorify Him & To Serve Him?
 - Another Gift Given To Jonah:

3. ***The Gift Of Success:***

- One Thing We See Here In 2 Kings 14 Is That:
 - Jonah Was A Successful Prophet At This Point In His Ministry!
- Look At The Prophecy God Gave Him:
 - 14:25 - Talking About King Jeroboam - “ He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto

- the sea of the plain, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher!”
- The Prophecy Of Jonah Was Not A Prophecy Of Judgment!
 - Like So Many Others Had Been!
 - No - It Was A Prophecy Of National Progress!
 - Jonah Was God’s Spokesperson:
 - To Tell Israel That God Was Going To Give It Back Much Of The Land It Had Lost To The Syrians!
 - And God Used King Jeroboam To Fulfill This Promise!
 - More Than Likely, As A Result Of His Prophecy, Jonah Had:
 - A Measure Of Popularity!
 - He Had Become The Prophet Of Israel’s “Restoration!”
 - His News Was Good News To His People!
 - Now, He Probably Had A Great Reputation Before The People & Even The King Himself!
 - Just A Few Years Earlier:
 - King Ahab Asked The Prophet Elijah - “Art Thou He That Troubleth Israel?”
 - But Now:
 - The Prophet Jonah Was The One Who Brought News Of Israel’s Success & Progress!
 - And Along With That, He Also Probably Had:
 - A Measure Of Prosperity!
 - He Would Have Been Able To Live Very Comfortably:
 - During This “Golden Age” Of The Northern Kingdom!
 - In Fact, In Jonah 1:3, It Appears That He Had Enough Money:
 - To “Pay The Fare” To Go To One Of The Farthest Destinations Of The Known World At That Time, Tarshish! Not A Cheap Ticket!
 - Perhaps This Is One Reason Why Jonah Did Not Want To Go To Nineveh!
 - Because Of His New-Found Popularity & Reputation & Prosperity!
 - And He Wouldn’t Want To Lose It!
 - But, This Kind Of Success Never Lasts!
 - It Is Short-Lived & Quickly Fades Away!
 - See, According To Our Text (17:25):
 - Jonah Was From The Town Of Gath-Hepher!
 - Gath-Hepher Was Just 3 Miles Or So From A Town Called Nazareth!
 - Where Jesus Himself Grew Up!
 - And Both Of These Towns Were In The Region Of Galilee!
 - Yet, In Jesus Time, In John 7:52, Several Pharisees Said This To Nicodemus - “Search, And Look: For Out Of Galilee Ariseth No Prophet!”
 - Had They Forgotten About Jonah?
 - Or Perhaps They Disowned Jonah?
 - Because After His Great Prophecy About The Success Of Israel – He Would Then Be Sent By God To Nineveh, A Wicked City That Would Eventually Cause The Downfall Of Israel!
 - Success In This World Is So Fleeting & Temporary!
 - So What Do You Do With The Successes You Have Been Given By God?
 - You May Experience Times Of Popularity!
 - But Are You Using It For The Lord Or For Yourself?
 - You May Experience Times Of Prosperity!
 - But Are You Giving It To The Lord Or Keeping It For Yourself?
 - Are You Using Whatever Success You Have Been Given:
 - To Glorify God & To Serve Him?
 - The Greatest Gift Given To Jonah:

4. *The Gift Of Grace:*

- Jonah Experienced The Free Grace Of God First-Hand!
 - He Received God’s Grace Personally!
 - In His Conversion As A Believer!
 - In His Call As A Prophet!
 - But He Also Experienced God’s Grace With This Prophecy:
 - In 2 Kings 14:25!

- Jonah Was A Citizen Of Israel!
- And He Experienced That Period Of Expansion And Prosperity Himself!
- But Why Did God Give Him This Prophecy To Begin With?
 - After All: Their Leader Was A Wicked King!
 - And The People Were Worshiping Idols At This Time!
 - So, Why Would God Promise To “Restore The Coast Of Israel?”
- The Answer Is Found In 14:26-27 - “For the LORD saw the affliction of Israel, that it was very bitter: for there was not any shut up, nor any left, nor any helper for Israel. / And the LORD said not that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven: but he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash!”
 - God Saved Israel Through Jeroboam ONLY Because Of His Grace And Mercy To Them!
- Through His Great Compassion For His People!
 - 14:26a - “For The Lord Saw The Affliction Of Israel, That It Was Very Bitter!”
 - The Northern Kingdom Of God’s People:
 - Were Facing Great Perils:
 - From The Syrians During This Time!
 - And They Were Experiencing:
 - Great Poverty As Well!
 - It Was Very Bitter!
 - The Population Of The Northern Kingdom:
 - Had Dwindled!
 - Hardly Anyone In The Streets!
 - And Even Hardly Anyone In The Prisons!
 - And There Was Noone To Help Them Overcome Their Oppression By The Syrians!
 - And God Saw This:
 - And Had Great Compassion For Them!
 - Even While They Were Sinning Against Him!
 - He Showed Them His Grace, And Told His People About It Through Jonah!
 - God’s Grace Was Also Seen:
- Through His Great Commitment To His People!
 - 14:27 - “And The Lord Said Not That He Would Blot Out The Name Of Israel From Under Heaven!”
 - God Had Chosen These People For His Own People!
 - And, Although They Disobeyed God & Rejected God Over And Over Again:
 - God Never Rejected Them!
 - And So, He Showed Them His Grace, And Used The Prophet Jonah To Tell Them!
 - God’s Grace Was Also Seen:
- Through His Covenant With His People!
 - See, God Had Made A Covenant With Abraham & His Seed!
 - And God Always Keeps His Promises!
 - In 2 Kings 13:23 - Just A Few Decades Earlier - We Read This:
 - “And the LORD was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had respect unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence as yet!”
- And So God Showed Both Jonah & All Of Israel His Abundant & Free Grace!
 - And “Saved” His People “By The Hand Of Jeroboam The Son Of Joash!” (14:27)
 - Jonah Knew First-Hand The Grace & Mercy Of God!
 - He Was God’s Prophet! God’s Spokesman!
 - In Jonah 4:2 - Jonah Even Tells God What He Knows About Him - “For I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness!”
- Haven’t You Also Experienced The Grace Of God?
 - In So Many Ways & At So Many Times In Your Life?
 - Grace Is The Goodness Of God Given To The Undeserving!
 - God Had Compassion On You & Love For You!
 - Seen In Romans 5:8 - “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!”
 - God Has Made A Commitment To You!
 - 1 Peter 5:10 - “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you!”

- And God Sent His Son, Jesus, To Save You!
- And All Of This Is Completely Undeserved!
 - And Yet Do You Still Forget Or Ignore His Grace!
- Romans 2:4 Asks - "Do You Despise . . . the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"
 - Do Not Despise God's Grace To You!
 - Receive It! Respond To It! Share It!

Conclusion:

1. **IE:** Several Years Ago, I Had An Elderly Woman For One Of My Banking & Investment Clients - She Was Worth Millions Of Dollars - And She Was A Good & Profitable Customer - But She Was Also A Very Sour, Stingy, And Demanding Person - Applied For A Business Loan - Looked At Taxes - Found Out Why She Was Rich & At The Same Time Why She Was Miserable - She Never Gave Any Of Her Money Away To Help Others - No Charity Giving / No Church Giving!
 - How Often Are We Like That, Spiritually, With What God Has Given To Us!
2. What Are You Doing With What You Have Been Given By God?
 - Like Jonah, You Have Been Given:
 - Great Privileges!
 - You Are Called To Be His Child!
 - You Have Been Commissioned To Be His Servant!
 - And Great Opportunities!
 - To Freely Share What We Have Been Given By God & Through The Gospel!
 - Great Successes!
 - And Great, Amazing Grace!
 - You Have Been Given So Much!
 - But What Are You Doing With It Today?
 - Are You Hoarding It?
 - Are You Squandering It?
 - Or Are You Using It!
 - To Serve & To Glorify God!
3. Remember Luke 12:48 - "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required!"

* Marvelous Grace

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