



Jonah

Rebellion, Repentance
& Redemption

Brief Outline

Panel One:

- A. Jonah's Commission (1:1-3)
- B. Jonah & Pagan Sailors (1:4-16)
- C. Jonah's Pious Prayer (2:1-10)

Panel Two:

- A. Jonah's Re-commission (3:1-3)
- B. Jonah & Pagan Ninevites (3:4-10)
- C. Jonah's Angry Prayer (4:1-4)
- D. YHWH's Compassion (4:5-11)

Jonah's Re-commission (3:1-3)

○ Similarities

- Initiator: 'word of YHWH came to Jonah' [2nd time]
- Instruction: 'Go to Nineveh... call out against it'
- Initial: 'Jonah arose'

○ Differences

- Report: 'the message that I tell you' [*source*]
- Reaction: 'went to Nineveh, according to the word of YHWH' [*not away from YHWH*]
- Reason: 'a great city belonging to God' [*no emphasis on evil*]

Jonah & Pagan Ninevites (3:4-10)

- **Reckon**: '40 days, Nineveh will be overthrown'
[*no condition... and goes only a short way into the city*]
- **Response**: 'people believed in God, great to least'
word 'cry out' & **deed** 'sackcloth, fast, reform,' animals?
[*irony: abrupt pagan response/Israel's continued rebellion*]
- **Relent**: 'God saw their **deeds**, how they turned from their **evil**, He did not **do evil** He promised'
[*God wants obedience in attitude & action, how about us?*]

Jonah's Angry Prayer (4:1-4)

- **Rage:** 'It was **evil** to Jonah, a **great evil**'
[*irony: evil has shifted from pagans to God's prophet*]
- **Rationalize:** Jonah justifies his rebellion [*repent?*]
[*irony: God's prophet knew His character, 'slow to anger, relenting of calamity' (Ex. 34:5) but is angry & vengeful*]
So, what did Jonah really desire for Nineveh?
- **Request:** 'Better for me to die than live' Really?
[*irony: Saved by God's mercy, Jonah now wants to die because God is showing the same mercy to his enemies, ones he wished that God would kill*]

Yahweh's Compassion (4:5-11)

- **Await**: '... to see what would happen to city'
[*Implication about prophet's true heart desire?*]
- **Attitude**: God **appoints** plant for comfort, a worm to destroy it, wind/sun to torment Jonah. Why?
[*God sought to deliver Jonah from the evil of his heart!*
He is more concerned with our holiness than our happiness]
Note: Switch of divine name shows Jonah's equal need!
- **Application**: 'Do you do well to be angry?'
[*irony: you're upset about plant (no direct investment), I should not pity 120K people (belonging to God) & cattle, if not the people, but maybe pity the cattle?*]

Summary

Through the book of Jonah, the author contrasts the repeated **rebellious** actions (disobedience) and attitudes (desire for destruction) of God's prophet with the pagans' (sailors & Assyrians) immediate **repentant** response to God's message. This implicitly rebukes the nation's recurring rejection of God's message and explicitly highlights His heart & plan for **redemption** for both Jew & Gentile.

Applications

- **Rebellion**: Do our actions *reflect* or *refute* the character of God? God is concerned more about our holiness than our happiness!
- **Repentance**: Are we quick to respond to God's actions (*creation/pagans*) or has our self-focused theology dulled our fear of God? (*Jonah*)
- **Redemption**: Do we share the message of mercy that we received (*Jonah*)? If not, we make the gospel exclusive, not reflecting God's grace and desire to see the redemption of all peoples.