

Synopsis for Research Paper
OT503 Reading the Old Testament
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Synopsis

The pericope I will be researching for this paper will be Jonah 1:1-6. The objective of this paper is to demonstrate that Jonah 1:1-6 is a prophetic narrative based on historical facts in order to do two things: 1) point to God as the center of the story by highlighting his compassion to save even the enemies of his chosen people, and 2) foreshadow the coming Messiah in the person of Jesus Christ and the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant reflected in the Great Commission. I will demonstrate this by using critical methodologies as I exegete this text.

There are three main questions that come to mind as I prepare for this paper. The first question is what was the author's original intent for writing this text? Second, did the author conceive that their text could take on a greater meaning that was prophetic? Third, how can literary analysis shed light on a prophetic and canonical interpretation of the text?

The two primary methodologies I will be using for this paper include literary and canonical criticism. The reason I've chosen to focus on these two methodologies is that I believe the text calls for these methodologies to be most useful to its interpretation. Through the use of literary criticism, I will discuss the historical, cultural, and literary context of this passage. This will include examining both the structure and rhetorical features of the text in order to come to an accurate interpretation of the text. Through canonical criticism I will demonstrate how the Jonah narrative points to Jesus as the fulfillment of messianic prophecy and the original covenant reflected in Christian canonical theology. Finally, I will conclude by discussing the theological implications and application for the Church today.

- I. Abstract
- II. Authorship
- III. Intended Audience
- IV. Purpose of the Text
- V. Literary Analysis
 - A. Literary Context
 - B. Literary Structure
 - C. Rhetorical Features
- VI. Historical and Cultural Context
- VII. Canonical and Theological Context
- VIII. Implications and Application for the Church