

The Mistakes Of Jonah

2 Kings 14:23-27

Jonah 1:3 “Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of Jehovah.”

History Of Jonah

- Son of Amittai [a MIT ih] (2 Kgs. 14:25)
 - From village of Gath-Hepher in Zebulun (2 Kgs. 14:25; Josh. 19:13)
- Served as God's prophet during the reign of Jeroboam II {~780 BC}, who reigned over the northern ten tribes of Israel for 41 years. (2 Kgs. 14:23-27).

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History Of Assyria

- He spoke God's word of Israel's victory and expansion of territory (2 Kgs. 14:25-27)
 - Israel and Judah were able to expand their borders under the reigns of Jeroboam II (in Israel) and Uzziah (in Judah) because of a decline in the power of Assyria.

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History Of Assyria

- Between 841-814 B.C., Jehu, king of Israel, was forced to pay tribute to Shalmaneser, king of Assyria.
- After Shalmaneser, Assyria suffered a period of decline. Their loss of power allowed Israel and Judah to expand their borders. (According to the prophecy of Jonah, 2 Kgs. 14:25-27)
- It was probably during this period, the period during which Assyria was suffering a decline, that Jonah was commissioned to go to Nineveh.

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Importance Of Nineveh

- Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria;
- Assyria was the major nation opposed to Israel in that day.
 - To be sent to Nineveh was the last thing which an Israelite prophet would want to do.
- Eventually this brutal nation conquered Israel, and led Samaria captive in 722 B.C.

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Jonah's Commission

- *Jonah 1:2* “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.”

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Jonah Flees From God ... Jonah 1

Jonah's first mistake.

- *Jonah 1:3* "Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of Jehovah"
- Tarshish was a city in Spain approximately 2,000 miles in the opposite direction.
- Storm Caused by the Lord. *1:4-10*
- Jonah cast into the sea. *1:11-17*
- Great fish "whale" to swallow up Jonah. (Cf. Mt. 12:40)

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Jonah Runs To God ... Jonah 2

- *Vs. 1-4* Out of "Sheol" (the unseen world, the grave or pit), Jonah cried to the Lord. Jonah promised to repent ("*look again toward thy holy temple*").
- *Vs. 5-7* Jonah's described how he faced death.
- *Vs. 8-10* Jonah promised to worship God with thanksgiving, Jonah is delivered to dry ground.

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Jonah Runs With God ... Jonah 3

- He preached the preaching of God. (*Jonah 3:1-2*); cf. *Jer. 18:7-10* Conditional.
- Jonah's message received. (*3:5-9*)
 - Godly Sorrow (*2 Cor. 7:10*)
- God saw their works. (*3:10*)
 - True repentance manifests itself. (*Mt. 3:8; Lk. 13:3*)
 - Works of God. (*Eph. 2:10; Jms. 2:14-24*)
 - God turned from destroying Nineveh. (Cf. *Ezek. 18:21-23*)

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Jonah Runs Ahead Of God ... Jonah 4

Jonah's Second Mistake.

- He explains WHY he ran away from God. (*4:1-5*)
 - Jonah's anger... Sat to see what God would do.
- God uses a gourd, a worm, and a wind to teach Jonah. (*4:6-9*)

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God Teaches Jonah A Lesson...

Jonah 4:10-11

"And Jehovah said, Thou hast had regard for the gourd, for which thou hast not labored, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night: and should not I have regard for Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?"

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Lessons To Learn From Jonah's Mistakes...

1. We cannot flee from God. (*Jer. 23:23-24; Ps. 139:1-2; Heb. 4:13; Gal. 6:7-8; 2 Cor. 5:10; Eccl. 12:13-14*)
2. God's Sovereignty (over Jonah, over nature, over men and nations)
 - a. Merciful...our great God wishes that all men be saved (*2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:4; Ezek. 33:11*).
 - b. Those who are "spiritual" will work to restore the fallen. (Cf. *Gal. 6:1*)

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Lessons To Learn From Jonah's Mistakes...

3. God's Message must be preached. (His word has relevance and application over all men) **Jonah 3:2** (2 Tim. 4:2-4; Acts 20:26-27)
4. Preaching of God brings man to repentance. **Jonah 3:2, 5ff**

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Lessons To Learn From Jonah's Mistakes...

Who needs the preaching of God and what it is.

- Jews on Pentecost. **Acts 2**
- Rebellious son. **Mt. 21:28-29**
- Prodigal son. **Lk. 15:11-21**
- Thessalonians turned from idols. **1 Thess. 1:9**
- Ephesians burned their books. **Acts 19:19**
- Jailor "washed their stripes." **Acts 16:33**
- Corinthians turned from former practices. **1 Cor. 6:9-11**

These all brought forth fruit worthy of repentance!

Cf. Lk. 3:8; Acts 26:19-20

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Lessons To Learn From Jonah's Mistakes...

Who needs the preaching of God and what it is.

- **1 Tim 2:3-4** "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; who would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth."
- **Mark 16:15-16** "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned."

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