

Intro: A.-Background Information:

- 1-In this modern day when mocking the Bible is good sport the Bk. Of Jonah has received its aggregate of dishonor. It is not at all unusual to hear one referred to as "a Jonah" who seems always to be a target for misfortune. Jonah is not, however, merely a laughing matter. Nor is the Bk. of Jonah one which can readily be passed off with derision.
- 2-The prophet Jonah lived in the prosperous days of King Jeroboam II of Israel. The kingdom of Israel enjoyed the zenith of its prosperity under this monarch. Never again did Israel rise to the heights she enjoyed during the palmy days of 782 through 753 B.C.
- 3-Jonah was the son of Amittai. Nothing is known of his parentage beyond his father's name. He was born in Gath-hepher. This little village was located in Galilee SW of Cana about 1/3 of the distance to Nazareth. Jonah was, therefore, a prophet from Galilee of the northern kingdom of Israel. Had the religious leaders of Christ's day read their Bible instead of just venerating it, they would never have fallen into the error of saying: "Search, and see that out of Galilee ariseth no prophet." (Jn. 7:52) Failure to know the Scripture is responsible for a vast amount of error in our day as it was in the day in which Christ lived (see Mt. 22:29)
- 4-The Bk. of Jonah is not a lengthy volume. It contains 48 verses and somewhat less than 1500 words. The language used is delightful with not a wasted word in the entire book. Few compositions have been written which are as short and still as complete a narrative as the Bk. of Jonah
- 5-Sometimes the literary excellence of this brief brochure is lost in the din made by the carping critics. It is well to recall the tribute paid by Charles Reade, the English literary critic & author, who wrote, "Jonah is the most beautiful story ever written in so small a compass." It is well to keep in mind that we have before us a literary gem and not a fish story.

6-JONAH is the author
B.-Critical Attack:

- 1-Shared in derision with Deut. & Daniel
- 2-Thought by some to be the "Achilles heel" of the Bible
- 3-Reasoned by some to be a fanciful ancient "Gulliver's Travels" or "Robinson Crusoe" — FICTION, not FACT
- 4-Reasons for the attack on the Bk. of Jonah approach
 - View of God as a universal Deity
 - Message of MISSIONS made mandatory
 - Resurrection of Christ is pre-figured
 - Authority of Christ is involved in historicity
 - At least 12 miracles in 4 chapters.

McGee 52 "Since it is clear that the critics were not eye-witnesses to any part of the record, any evidence which they present cannot be in the roll of witnesses, but rather as speculators. The

"Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God"

entire case revolves around the question of authority. Whom do you consider to be the greatest authority on the Book of Jonah? There is one authority whom I consider above all others. His statements ought to be accepted as final. Let us read them.

Luke 11:30

Matt. 12:39-40

Read These w/ the Cong.

Surely the Lord Jesus considered Jonah a real person, and He accepted the Bk. of Jonah as true. When you reject the Bk. of Jonah, you are not merely saying you cannot accept the record as reasonable, but you are saying that you do not believe that Jesus was acquainted with the facts of the case. You break with Jesus when you deny the Book of Jonah. There is no other alternative in spite of all the hedging that is done by the sketical preachers in their ministry.

I.-THE DIVINE COMMISSION 1:1-2:

A.-The Word Of The Lord: (1:1)

AUTHENTICATION + AUTHORIZATION

- 1-Bk. is not just a recorded story of Jonah's activity & min/istry
- 2-But it is the WORD of the Lord to Jonah — *Already & proven*
- 3-Included in the canon as God's WORD to us too *Prophet*
- 4-Jonah — Dove — Mt. 10:16 — "harmless as a Dove" = "harmless as a Jonah"
- Son of Amittai — Truth of God
- Prophet in Samaria with a sedentary ministry
- About 800 — 780 B. C. in time of Jeroboam II — *2 Kgs 14:25*

B.-The Command Of The Lord: (1:2)

- 1-"Arise" — Must stand up before we can speak up
— Change of posture preparatory to a change of ministry & geography
- 2-"Go to Nineveh" — Wicked & cruel city — *Founded by Nimrod (Gen. 10:11-12)*
Capital of Assyria on the banks of the Tigris River
— Only surpassed in all history by Hitler's / Germany
— Oppressors of Israel in the past & still a real threat — *Babylon was more CULTURED*
— City with precious souls (4:11) — *Nineveh was more WARLIKE*
— Largest city of the ancient world — *Gen. 10:11-12 "great city"*
— Gentiles — Zenith of their power
— Rom. 1:5 — "...we have received grace & "

LAYOUT ON OVERHEAD

apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations, for His Name

3-"Go To Nineveh" — GO. The prophet was not asked whether he wanted to go to Nineveh or not; God told him to go. It was Jonah's responsibility to obey. We are sent as sheep among wolves, but God does not expect us to amalgamate with unbelievers in order to reach them for Jesus Christ. Christ is the HEAD. The Church is His BODY. He gives the directions to His Body, of which we became members when we were born of God. There are but TWO CHURCHES! The blood-bought church of Christ and the so-called professing church which is controlled by Satan. There are no others, though denominations & man-made divisions exist. If we are members of the church which is His Body, He has given us the responsibility & commission to carry His gospel to the entire world. We are EACH responsible to obey the orders of the Lord Jesus Christ. We can expect that as a result of such an important task being committed to us, we will have to give a report of our stewardship.

--2 Cor. 5:10

--What & where is YOUR Nineveh; How are you progressing

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done whether it be good or bad."

4-"Cry" against it"

- Raise a voice of protest
- Raise a voice of warning
- Raise a voice of judgment
- Raise a voice of alternative
- Raise a voice of invitation
- "cry"=="preach" in 3:2
- Too high a hurdle for Jonah

2 Tim. 4:2 — Believe **ONLY** Message!

Nahum 3:1, 2:12
3:8 See

5"For the wickedness is come up before me"

- God did know what was going on on earth
- God did observe the treatment his people received
- God is not unaware today either
- God commissioned Jonah to take a message of salvation

to this wicked city of Nineveh, which is something difficult for man to understand. God never provides salvation for the goodness of man. Salvation is provided for the sin of man. God saves men because **they are sinners, & not because they are good.** God's plan of salvation only considers sinners as the objects of His love & recipients of His grace. Anybody can work out a plan to save good people, but only God has a plan with which to save sinners. But "all have sinned", and "when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." It stands forever as a foundational fact that "God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

- It is salutary to take our rightful place before God & to trust His mighty arm of salvation to redeem us entirely & completely.

ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE

Accept God's message of forgiveness + eternal life

OR — Face God's righteous judgment for our sin

Rom. 6:23

Choice is inevitable!

II.—THE HUMAN DESERTION 1:34

A.—Jonah's Reaction:

- 1-Solemn word **"BUT"**
- 2"Jonah rose up to flee"

- heard God's call
- knew God's will
- had God's message

Overhead of map

3-Doubtless Jonah had his reasons (or excuses)

- Nationalism toward Israel
- Prejudice toward Nineveh
- Perhaps friends or family killed by Assyrian thugs
- BUT**.....these excuses do not stand up in the face of a clear command of God.

Neither will your excuses stand up in His eyes

B.—Jonah's Backsliding:

- 1-Wrong direction—God said Go EAST
 - Jonah went WEST
- 2-Wrong Elevation—God said GO UP
 - Jonah went DOWN

Wrong way
Corrigian

- *down to Joppa
- *down into the ship
- *down into the belly of the fish
- *DOWN, not just geographically, but also spiritually

- * Only report in N. Kingdom
- * Jonah flees from here
- * Peter opens the door of faith to Gentiles here (Acts 10)

3-Wrong Crowd--not get where God sends you by running with a worldly crowd

--no encouragement to do the will of God from those who do not know the Lord ^{this world is no friend to grace}

--Jonah went with the world instead of w/ God
--CHOOSE.....which will it be?

4-Wrong Evaluation of God

--Didn't go where God sent him

--"But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord"

--Forgot Ps. 139:1-10 *Read w/ cong.*

--FOLLY to think you can run from God! *and get away*
--Nor can you "RESIGN" from God's call for you!

C.-Jonah's Self-Justification:

1-"Found a ship going to Tarshish"

2-Fortuous concurrence of circumstances....to a superficial examination of the facts

3-Way of disobedience is always EASY.....AT FIRST

4-Can't conclude that this makes it RIGHT

--circumstances

--command of God

--witness of the Spirit

--Common sense

--counsel of others

--these will fit together when you have the PERFECT WILL OF GOD

5-Oftentimes all of us have heard some Xn. explain a particular project as having the blessing of God upon it because all of the difficulties & problems have been removed & everything moves along smoothly. To that Christian, the favorable circumstances seemed to be indicative of the hand of the Lord. On that basis Jonah could have justified his trip to Tarshish. He could have testified that when he arrived at Joppa, there was a ship ready to sail & God provided the money for the fare.

But, friends, do not always interpret favorable circumstances as the pathway of the Lord. It may be the calm before the storm which is ready to break upon a backsliding servant of God. God's servants customarily encounter difficulties & problems as they go along in the pathway of His blessing. Consider the missionary travels of Paul, the life of David Livingstone, the thrilling records of Judson of Burma & John G. Patton of the New Hebrides. These men met disappointments on every hand & had to overcome handicaps daily.

— John 16:33 — "In the world ye shall have tribulation"

This is the record of God's servants as seen in Heb. 11:36-38

6-Cost something to OBEY God?

7-Yes.....But remember, it costs to DISOBEY God Too!

8-"So he paid the fare thereof" — "Consecration always

--high cost of disobedience *appears costly until we*

--no ministerial discount here *taste the subtleties of its*

--he went down, Down, DOWN, DOWN! *fruits.*

--all because of disobedience!

CONCL: A. Lessons From The Prodigal Prophet:

1-Word of God is authoritative

2-Obedience is essential

3-Gospel dissemination is to be universal

4-Disobedience is detrimental

REBELLION

CONCLUSIONS:

A.-Lessons From The Prodigal Prophet:

- 1-Word of God is authoritative
- 2-Obedience is essential
- 3-Gospel dissemination is to be UNIVERSAL
- 4-Disobedience is a detriment
- 5-yet to see.....Prodigal action brings Divine reaction
- 6-LET US LEARN THESE WELL!
- 7

OVER →

B.-Fleeing From God's Presence:

PLUS---In June 1963 a Russian Submarine was detected by a US

Destroyer in the quarantine zone east northeast of Cuba. For 34 hours the US ship kept on the track of the Russian Sub. The Russian sub commander tried all the tricks of the trade to throw off the pursuing destroyer, but it was all in vain. The Russian submarine finally had to surface. To the Russian's amazement the destroyer's captain signalled to the submarine:

"CAN WE BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE?"

Guilty man ever seeks to escape from God's presence. He tries every way of hiding from God. Beginning in the garden of Eden, man's history has been one long "HIDE AND SEEK". And what man forgets or ignores is the fact that God pursues him....

.....not to destroy him

....but to AID him.

When God calls out, "Adam, where art thou?" He calls out of love & compassion for needy man.

Are you like Jonah, seeking to flee from the presence of the Lord? You fear to have an encounter with your Creator. If you will but give up your striving, you will discover to your amazement that heaven is out to HELP, not to HINDER you. At the end of life's road you will find God waiting with arms outstretched, signalling

"CAN I BE OF ASSISTANCE?"

Don't out of folly or fear, reject His offer!

Hymns: In The Service Of The King
Trust & Obey 402
Trust In The Lord - 331

293 Westbrae 2/21/65

11/4/73

7-Quoted by Pusey--P. 397 as "from Lap."

"The whole wisdom, the whole bliss, the whole of man lies in this, to learn what God wills him to do, in what state of life, calling, duties, profession, employment, He wills him to serve Him."

God sent each one of us into the world to fulfill his own definite duties, and through His grace, to attain to our own perfection in and through fulfilling them. He did not create us at random, to pass through the world, doing whatever self-will or our own pleasure leads us to, but to fulfill His will. This Will of His, if we obey His earlier calls, and seek Him by prayer, in obedience, self-subdual, humility, thoughtfulness, He makes known to each by His own secret drawings, and, in absence of these, at times by His Providence or human means.

Bourdaloue says: "...to follow Him is a token of predestination."

Jesus said: "My sheep hear My voice and I know them, and they follow Me, and I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any (man) pluck them out of My Hand."

8-From all this George Hutcheson (P.35) concludes:

"The servants of God are not to be at their own disposing, but to be employed in service as the Lord thinks fit..."

Intro: A.-Who Are We Discussing?:

- 1-Jonah=="Dove"
- 2-Son of Amittai=="Truth of God"
- 3-Born & reared in Gath-Hepher in the Northern Kingdom of Israel in the days of Jeroboam II
- 4-Prophet of God

B.-What Had He Done?:

- 1-Must be a charge for him to be "in court"
- 2-Commissioned to preach to Nineveh
- 3-Rebellion---Wrong direction; West instead of East
 ---Wrong Elevation; Down instead of Up
 ---Wrong Crowd; Ungodly instead of Godly
 ---Wrong Conception; Thought God was a provincial deity instead of the Universal God
- 4-Evidenced---Ran from God
 ---Ran from Commission
 ---Ran from "his mission field"
- 5-COST HIM DEARLY---"and he paid the fare thereof"

I.-INTERVENTION IN JUDGMENT (1:4-6):

A.-God's Dealing:

- 1-1:3 says "BUT Jonah" and 1:4 says "BUT the Lord"
- 2-Story is not over, but just beginning! *"Jonah had done his all. Now God's part began." (Pusey, P. 599)*
- 3-God's reaction is swift
 ---sent a great wind
 ---Heb. says "God hurled a great wind"
 ---mighty tempest arose
 ---no ordinary wind
 ---ship was about to be broken
- 4-LUTHER---"This is a signal token of grace that God seeks Jonah & punishes him so soon after his sin, & does not suffer him to profit by it or continue long therein."
- 5-This is but 1 out of 5 times in the book of Jonah that the Lord "PREPARES" something to do His will in order to bring His erring child to obedience.

- lost God's peace
- lost God's joy
- lost his testimony
- lost a clear conscience
- lost a Divine Commission

WIND
FISH
GOURD
WORM
EAST WIND

B.-Mariner's Activities:

- 1-Men of the sea were afraid for their lives
- 2-Recognized this was no "common storm" *"Distress teaches to pray"*
- 3-Saw it as a DIVINE INTERVENTION *A storm will sooner or later overtake those who rebel against God.*
- 4-Mariners took action
 ---PRAYER---Even the heathen acknowledge the power of prayer
 ---**What a shame when Christians deny it, or doubt it, or neglect it
 ---**Shakespeare---"All lost! To prayers! To Prayers, All lost!" (Antony & Cleopatra)
 ---CAST OVERBOARD---Both tackle & cargo *But the problem --- a PRODIGAL PROPHET --- was still on board.*
 ---Faith without works is dead, but still no avail, for they did not know God
 ---Distress teaches us to pray. The word of the Prophet teaches us to pray to THE God

1st. - "the old salts"

C.-Jonah's Arousing:

1-DOWN lower than before

2-Fast asleep--as tho he were safely in the will of God

* 3-Sleeping off his convictions "Awake to righteousness, + sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God; I speak this to

4-Rebuked by Captain

5-"What meanest thou, O Sleeper?" Perhaps the Captain had somehow perceived that Jonah was a prophet, + so expected more than sleep from him.

--1 Cor. 15:34

--Eph. 5:14-18

READ

6-Rebuke of a worldling to a believer out of fellowship

7-Command-----"CALL..."

8-"Think on us"=="Be propitiated toward us"

9-Believers hold the answers to the world's problems in their prayers, & the mariners got nowhere so long as Jonah slept.

10-1 Tim. 2:1-2

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, + giving of thanks be made for all men; for kings, + for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet + peaceable life in all godliness + honesty"

II.-INTERVENTION IN DISCLOSURE (1:7-12):

A.-Jonah Exposed (1:7):

1-Mariners have found their prayers as ineffectual as their efforts & thus they conclude it is the fault of someone on board upon whom God is visiting judgment

2-Sailors cast lots

--superstitious method of determining something

--shows their parentage

--BUT God overruled it

--Prov. 16:33--"The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord,"

--"and the lot fell on Jonah"

--God put His finger on the sore spot

--Jonah is exposed--

--Heb. 4:13--"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

--Now openly known by all

--"Be sure, your sin will find you out"

3-High cost of disobedience is beginning to be evident

--An Achan in the camp

--Ananias & Sapphira in the church

--In the Body of Christ, the action of 1 affects all of the others

--1 Cor. 12:26-27

"And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular."

4-Doubtless Jonah thought of Ps. 55:6-8

B.-Jonah Interrogated (1:8-11):

1-Seven questions--embarrassing questions

--revealing questions

--touchy questions

--heart searching questions

--"TELL US"

--The world calls on the believer to identify himself & quit hiding

--no "secret" believers

--questions just seem to TUMBLE OUT!

--Philo--"One might see in the scene a terrible tribunal: for the ship was the court of justice, the judges

God knows how to get them to Jonah

DISCERNING

Hieronymus:
"The fugitive is detected by lot, not from any virtue in lots themselves, but by the will of Him, who governs uncertain lots."

were the sailors, the executioners were the winds, the prisoner at the bar was the prophet, the house of correction & prison of safe-keeping was the whale, and the accuser was the angry sea."

2-FIRST QUESTION--"For whose cause (is) this evil upon us"

- Forced confession
- Lots have unmasked him
- "The Buck STOPS here!"
- Admitted he was fleeing from God.

3-SECOND QUESTION--"What is thine occupation"

- Truth requires an honest answer
- to tell is to admit much!
- To deny is impossible
- Confessed he was a Backsliding Prophet
- Confessed he'd ceased walking with God
- 1 John 1:7
- Epp--"They did not ask him for the many side interests

that he might have; their question was related to the main purpose for his life. It is not enough for us to say that we are mechanics or farmers or office workers or something else. There is something more basic to the Christian life than what we do to earn a living. What is the central goal & purpose of our lives. That is what we need to answer.

Paul in writing to the Corinthians said, "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ" (2 Cor. 5) That was not just for Paul. In the rest of that chapter he was talking about all believers for in 5:18 he says, "God hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, & hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation." And then it is in 5:20 we learn we are all appointed ambassadors for the Lord Jesus. This is our chief occupation in life. This is what God has given us to do above all else. We are AMBASSADORS, His representatives!

What would we think of an ambassador appointed by our government to represent us in a Communistic country who, instead of taking up our cause & the interests of the free nations, agreed with the enemy? Or supposing he was afraid to speak up when important issues arose? Would we not say the country would be justified in recalling that man, putting him in prison as a traitor, & replacing him with a patriotic man, one who would stand up for what is right with respect to his country & its interests?

God has the right to expect from us that as ambassadors we will represent Him clearly, forcefully & sympathetically. We who have experienced salvation have the obligation to tell what we know about it. WE ARE WITNESSES by OCCUPATION" (Pp. 29-31) of Jonah

4-THIRD QUESTION--"Whence Comest Thou?"

- "Where do you come from?"
- Admitted he was a Hebrew (1:9)
- Admitted he was going the WRONG WAY
- Admitted he was in open defiance & disobedience to God.

Epp--"The same question is asked of us. Where do we come from? If we give an honest, basic answer, we will say we are born from above. Some may say they belong to denominations, but that is not what the world is really interested in. What they want to know is, DO WE KNOW GOD? Do we have a message from God? Do we know how to contact God?

It is said of Voltaire, the great skeptic, that he became

an infidel because Christians presented no challenge to him. They did not have what they professed to have; consequently he concluded that there was not anything to all the claims of Christianity. The kind of Christianity that Voltaire saw in professing Christians turned him against the claims of the Bible and Christ." (Jonah 31-32)

5-FOURTH QUESTION--"What is thy country?"

- Told them his birthplace was Gath-hepher
- Told them his country was Israel
- Could do no less than make a "clean breast" of his citizenship.

--Epp--"What do we claim is our country? Our country is heaven. We are heaven bound; we have no abiding city here. There will be those who think they have reason to laugh at us if we make such a claim, especially if we are professing one thing & living another. The world calls for REALITY. If we are heaven bound we ought to show it. Our citizenship is in heaven, the Scripture says and we should be identified in our daily experience with the heavenly life." (Jonah, P. 32)

6-FIFTH QUESTION--"Of what people are you?"

- Israelite to them; Hebrew to himself
- Arose out of the people of Privilege
- Rom. 9:4-5
- Rom. 2:17-21

Read

--Epp--"The Christian is chosen of God & belongs to His family. We have been born of God & set apart for Him. We are the Bride of Christ, so, when the world looks at us, they should see us preparing for the coming of the Bridegroom. Are our minds wrapped up in Christ these days? Are we busy preparing for His return, looking forward with happy anticipation to that event? When a father walks down the aisle to give his daughter away in marriage, the eyes of those watching are not on him, but on the bride. Are we attractive enough in our lives to cause the world to look at us with the desire to belong to Christ also? Is the beauty of holiness in our lives? Is reality there?" Jonah. P. 33.

--1:9

--Contrast of FEARS:

- **1:5--fear of sailors for their lives
- **1:10--fear of God's wrath
- **1:16--fear that brings to salvation
- **change is due to the witness of the "fearing prophet" of 1:9

--Jonah tells them HIS GOD has power in heaven, on earth and in the sea

7-SIXTH QUESTION--"Why hast thou done this?"

- Their fear (1:10) is showing
- This is not so much a question as a horrified reaction of reproach & amazement

--Evans "How dare a man who worshipped the Creator of the heavens & earth disobey his God? Did he not realize that the commission of the omnipotent, omnipresent deity he worshipped was not something to be dealt with as a triviality. Since He was Almighty & Sovereign, how could a mere puny man hope to flee from Him? Where could he expect to hide? How could a frail vessel be expected to hide such sinfulness?" VOICE, P.4, Nov. 1954

2- Good reason to be afraid & unable to understand Jonah's calmness

3- Knew he was running from God because Jonah had himself confessed it

4- Wanted to know WHY He was running from God

5- EPP--"The world is (still) asking the Christian that question today also. Why do we seemingly run from Him instead of obeying Him, is their thought. A man who claimed to be an infidel, said that if he believed what Christians believed, that there was a hell to shun & a heaven to gain, he would crawl on his knees, if necessary, to bring the message to every soul in the world. BUT he did not believe Christians believed these things because their lives did not show it." Jonah, P. 34

6- Jonah was an EVANGELIST, though out of the will of God

7- Yet, God's word given in testimony still brings conviction & conversion

8- When he confessed, they honored him as a prophet of God, & believed him.

8-SEVENTH QUESTION--"What shall we do unto thee?"

† Key question

† Take this up in our next study in Jonah

CONCLUSION:

A.-God's Intervention:

- 1- In Judgment of the storm
- 2- In Disclosure of the prophet (1:13-17)
- 3- In Deliverance of the prophet & the pagans/

B.-Lessons From Jonah:

- 1- God controls nature
- 2- God discloses sin
- 3- God brings us to confession
- 4- God will not put up with disobedience
- 5- God permits nothing to come to pass, but what He brings good out of it.
Learn about the power of

This is the answer to how God can save souls in Ecumenical Evangelism

BUT it does not excuse a believer from the command to be separate from an unequal yoke.

Hymns: More About Jesus — 356 2/24/65 - Westhorne
Is Your All On The Altar? — 351 11/11/73 - "

1-10-1964

---when he confessed, they honored him as a prophet

of God, I believed him.

1. The first step in the investigation is to identify the problem.

2- In disclosure of the proposed

1. Lesson from John 1:1-18

1-503 controls nature

Intro: A.-Jonah's Experiences:

- 1-Called to Prophetic office
- 2-Commissioned to Preach in Nineveh
- 3-Rebelled against God — "The Man Who Said — NO"
- 4-Ran from God
- 5-Paid the fare to go to Tarshish
- 6-Awakened in the midst of the storm — Had been trying to "SLEEP-OFF HIS CON-VICTIONS"

B.-God's Interventions:

- 1-Sent storm of judgment
- 2-Overruled the casting of lots
- 3-Unmasked Jonah
- 4-Forced Jonah to confess
 - who he was — Hebrew
 - where he came from — Gath-Hepher
 - what his occupation was — Prophet of God
 - where he was going — Tarshish
 - why he was fleeing — Unwilling to preach to Nineveh

They didn't condemn him w/o hearing him

C.-Key Question:

— "What shall we do unto thee?"

1-1:11

- 2-Figured that the man who knows God ought to know why God is angry
- 3-Figured if Jonah knew why God was angry, he ought to know how to placate & appease Him
- 4-Knew by now that no human means of abatement of the storm would avail.

I.-MAN'S INDEPENDENCE (1:12-13):

A.-Jonah Unrepentant (1:12):

1-Jonah's alternatives

- willing obedience **OR**
- suicide
- soliciting mariners complicity to murder

Only 3 alternatives

2-Jonah's reaction

- rejected obedience; **STILL NO REPENTANCE**
- rejected suicide; as well he should, for this is nothing less than **self-murder**
- continued to involve others in his plight

*** 3-Jonah KNEW he was the real problem**

4-Passed sentence upon himself because unrepentant

5-Said: "**CAST ME FORTH**"

6-BPP—"Will we, like Jonah, be unconcerned & be willing to be cast into the turmoil of things rather than to follow the path of obedience? As I study the Scriptures and Church history & secular history, I find again & again that God's people often will refuse to listen to Him until He sends hardships upon them. The Book of Judges is full of such times of judgment. Seven times during that period of 3-400 years we find that the people of Israel left off seeking God. He had to bring them under affliction before they would cry to be delivered from their load of oppression.

Then God, in mercy, heard them and rescued them. I believe that Christians are living in such a time today. Unless we have immediate and genuine revival, I believe we face grave troubles."
(Jonah, P. 34-35.)

B.-Pagans Unwilling (1:13):

- 1-Pagans knew that to accede to Jonah's sentence was to cause death — MURDER
- 2-Knew that they could be legally & morally implicated
- 3-Sought to save Jonah
 - 1:13
 - one last effort — *They rowed hard!*
 - more mercy in sinners for the prophet than in Jonah for Nineveh
 - Dug in with their oars
 - Depraved men---Rom. 3:10-12
 - Before God they had NO MERIT
 - Before men they had much to COMMEND them!
 - but they were still lost men
- 4-Found that HUMAN means won't save one who is in rebellion against God

II.-GOD'S INTERVENTION (1:14-17):

Human desperation

Divine object of faith

A.-Pagans Converted (1:14-16):

- 1-"They cried unto the LORD"---1:14

- Rom. 10:13--"For whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved."
- Heb. 11:6--"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."
- Sailors are SAVED — *CONTRAST TERMS — God — 1:5 — LORD — 1:14*

* — SPIRITUAL DELIVERANCE by Divine Intervention

- 2--Ask for acquittal on the basis of God's overriding providence in dealing with Jonah---1:14b

3-PHYSICAL DELIVERANCE

- 1:15
- Sea CEASED raging
- One miracle out of 12 to 14 in Book of Jonah

*We did what we could
You (God) did what overruled
all our human efforts.*

4-Proof of conversion

- no more calling on pagan deities
- 1:16 — *"Then" — aftermath of encounter w/ Jonah*
- "Feared the Lord exceedingly"---Godly reverence
- Offered (blood) sacrifices unto the Lord
- Same word in Heb. as the "burnt-offering" of Ex. 23:18, which burnt offering was always a blood sacrifice
- Made vows**Dedication to live a God-honoring life
- Odman---"For salvation to be proven real in the sight of men, there must be a 'burning' that cuts off from the past"
- ILLUS---Acts 19:19
- This vow-making grows out of appreciation for what God has done for us.
- 1:16 is in proper order; order of GRACE
- Not a "foxhole religious experience"

(a)
(b)

(c)

(NE)

B.-Prophet's Preservation: (1:17):

- 1-A "prepared" fish arrives on the scene
- 2-God hasn't forgotten Jonah
- 3-Jonah hasn't escaped either
- 4-Fish is the second "prepared thing" in the Book
- 5-First recorded submarine rescue
- 6-We'll discuss the fish later
- 7-Suffice to say: God's providence is still at work
 - God still has work to do ON Jonah
 - God still has work to do THRU Jonah

- Storm + Wind
- ① Wind
 - ② Fish
 - ③ Gourd
 - ④ Worm
 - ⑤ East wind

8-Therefore, the fish swallowed Jonah, and God's message to Nineveh laid 3 days & 3 nights in the "DEAD LETTER OFFICE"

CONCL:

A.-Contrasts:

• Wind + Storm
• Not fall on Jonah
• Questions he was unable to avoid.

- 1-Man's independence
- 2-God's intervention
- 3-God is still in CONTROL, in spite of the puny efforts of men to the contrary
- 4-God works all things to the performance of His will
- 5-Why, then, fight against God?
- 6-Why not get on His side from the start

West instead of East
Down instead of up
Ingodly companions instead of as his converts.

B.-Blessings:

- 1-God suits blessings to our needs
- 2-Deliverance is God's business---whatever the need may be; either physical or spiritual
- 3-We can completely trust Him
- 4-1 Tim. 1:12-16 — Read
- 5-Hope for Jonah
- 6-Hope for Pagans
- 7-Hope for Paul C. Reiter — In Feb. 1949
- 8-Hope & Deliverance and usefulness for ME.....
.....and for you.....PRAISE GOD!

Rom. 8:28
Gen. 50:20

Right now — Right here
— Tonight

2 Cor. 6:2 — "...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

St. Augustine: "God has promised forgiveness to your repentance; but He has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination."

9- The ancient mariners (Jonah 1:16)

- ① "Feared the LORD" — Exercised Faith
- ② "Offered a sacrifice" — Looked to a blood sacrifice substitute
- ③ "Made vows" — Evidence of a changed heart shows in a changed life.

Weather — 3/7/65
11/25/73

Joy In Serving Jesus — 294
Learning On The Everlasting Terms. — 323

⑩ What is YOUR decision?

:atastn-0-A : 1971

1911-1912

Intro:

A.-Orientation:

- 1-1:17 in A.V. is 2:1 in the Hebrew text
- 2-Really related as the introduction to chapter 2
- 3-Chapter 2 is Jonah's experiential proof of the Scriptural principle:
- 4-Gal. 6:7--"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."
- 5-Jonah couldn't get away from a SOVEREIGN GOD

No one can!

B.-Man Overboard:

- 1-Permitted of God
- 2-Purpose in the Prophet's life
- 3-Remarkable things happened:
 - sea ceased raging
 - sinners called for salvation
 - swallowing of "God's Epistle to Nineveh", so it spent 3 days & 3 nights in the "dead letter office"
- 4-Probably no passage in scripture has come in for so much ridicule as this one in 1:17--2:10 (READ IT)
- 5-Let's look at the details....

G.C. Morgan

"Men have been looking so hard at the GREAT FISH that they have failed to see the GREAT GOD!" (P.69)

I.-THE PREPARED FISH:

THE PREPARED FISH
THE PRESERVED MAN
THE PURPOSES OF GOD

A.-The Term "Fish":

Katos Katos

- 1-Hebrew is translated "great fish" in A.V. & A.S.V.
- 2-Gk. Katos is used in LXX & N.T. of Mt. 12:40
- 3-Erroneously translated in Mt. 12:40 as "whale"
- 4-Means----"great fish" or "sea monster"
- 5-Thus, a WHALE got introduced in translation & instead of swallowing Jonah, it has swallowed the whole book; has become a stumbling block to "swallowing" God's book.

B.-Prepared Fish:

- 1-One of 5 "prepared things" in 4 chapters of Jonah
- 2-Even if it could be proved, which it cannot, that no fish known now could swallow Jonah, it would not affect the Biblical record. The Lord's prepared fish could have been a miraculous creation for that event, & it would not be possible, therefore, to exhibit it today.
- 3-The God of the Bible is certainly capable of such a creative act.
- 4-If God could call the universe into existence by the word of His mouth, the making of one more fish would be a very small thing.
- 5-Heb. 11:3--"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

Great wind worm
Great fish
Gourd Sirocco wind.

CRUX
of the issue

C.-The Possible Fishes That Could Fit This:

- 1-Natural history supports, rather than denies, the plausibility of the account of Jonah.

2-No less an authority than Webster's NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY, second edition, says of the sperm whale (Physeter catodon): "It attains a length of about 60 feet, & is the only whale having a throat large enough to admit a man."

3-Many accounts are on record & thoroughly attested which speak of a whale swallowing a man.

4-Robert L. Ripley in the 2nd edition of his book entitled "Believe It Or Not" quotes "a verbatim translation of the report of the French scientist M. De Parville in the 'Journal des Debats, 1914' which tells of the experience of James Bartley, an English sailor, who was actually swallowed by a whale, & later rescued.

5-The account is as follows: "In February 1891 the whaling ship 'Star of the East' was in the vicinity of the Falkland Islands when the lookout sighted a large sperm whale 3 miles away. Two boats were launched & in a short time one of the harpooners was enabled to spear the whale. The second boat attacked the whale but was upset by the lash of its tail, & the men were thrown into the sea, one man being drowned, & another, James Bartley, having disappeared could not be found. The whale was killed in a few hours, its great body lying at the ship's side, while the crew busied itself with axes & spades removing the blubber. They worked all day long & part of the night. The next morning they attached some tackle to the stomach of the whale & hoisted it on deck. Suddenly the sailors were startled by something in it which gave spasmodic signs of life. Inside was found the missing sailor doubled up and unconscious. He was placed on the deck & treated to a bath of sea water which soon revived him but his mind was not clear & he was placed in the captain's quarters where he remained for 2 weeks a raving lunatic. He was kindly & carefully treated by the captain & the ship's officers & gradually regained possession of his senses. At the end of the 3rd week he entirely recovered from the shock and resumed his duties.

"During the sojourn in the whale's stomach, Bartley's skin where it was exposed to the action of the gastric juices underwent a striking change. His face and neck and hands were bleached to a deadly whiteness, taking on the appearance of parchment."

"Bartley remembered the lash of the whale's tail & then was encompassed by great darkness & he felt that he was slipping along a smooth passage that seemed to move & carry him forward. His hands came in contact with a yielding, slimy substance, which seemed to shrink from his touch. He could easily breathe, but the heat was terrible. It seemed to open the pores of his skin & draw out his vitality. The next he remembered he was in the captain's cabin. While he recovered fully from his mental depression, his skin retained its ghastly pallor to the end and never recovered its natural appearance."

6-There are two other monsters of the deep which could have swallowed Jonah. The sulphur-bottom or blue whale (Balaenoptera sibbaldii) is the largest of living mammals. It is abundant in the cooler portions of both the Atlantic & Pacific, as well as in the Antarctic Ocean, according to Webster. The whale shark (Rhineodon typus), says Webster, is a harmless shark found in all tropical waters which reaches a length of 45 feet. Due to its natural habit of being tropical rather than cooler waters, the Rhineodon is the most likely marine creature which could have swallowed Jonah. Its peculiar feeding habits also make this identification credible.

Its teeth are so small that they serve only as a straining medium. The Rhineodon opens its mouth, submerged its lower jaw, & swims through the water at great speed. After straining out the water, it swallows whatever remains.

7-Thus, we see that science records instances of fish doing exactly what is recorded of Jonah & the great fish

D.-The Real Miracle Related To The Fish:

- 1-Perhaps a special creation a "great fish" for this occasion, but this is impossible to prove. - NOT NECESSARY
- 2-Not that a great fish swallowed a man, for this has been repeated a number of times.
- 3-BUT, that the great fish was THERE at the right time to do God's bidding to give Jonah the earliest recorded submarine voyage
- 4-This would be in the pattern of the Book of Jonah---God miraculously makes use of the natural processes to do His will, as in 4:6, 7, & 8.

Sirocco Wind

Worm

Gourd

II.-THE PRESERVED MAN:

A.-Jonah's Trials:

- 1-We know that out of all this tribulation Jonah finally turned to the Lord. It makes us wonder how much God will have to do to us before He can bring us, as His people, back to the place where we are witnessing for Him as we should and where we should.
- 2-People sometimes ask me, "Why does not God do something concerning the sufferings Christians undergo?"---Remember, God is sovereign, & what He permits to come into the lives of His children is the best for them. Just because some of them suffer is no proof that they are out of His will. It is necessary, however, that we realize that God will not allow those who are out of his will to rest smugly in their self-satisfied ways & go on unchecked in their disobedience to Him. What God has revealed to us & done for us in Christ is for the purpose that we might be witnesses for Christ.
- 3-Our own country is passing thru great crises these days, & the decisions reached in the last months & years are going to be far reaching in their effects upon our present & our future.
- 4-These studies in Jonah should cause us to realize that God is a God of mercy, who does not bring judgment until He has given us fair warning & every opportunity to repent.
- 5-But when people become stubborn, & self-willed, & go on in rebellion, GOD MUST ACT.
- 6-Scriptural precedent--Ps. 119:57, 71--"Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes."

7-LANGE (P.23) "In that which for the moment seems most painful & most insupportable, the gracious hand of God is often very near to us."

B.-Jonah's Prayer:

- 1-Jonah has spurned God's will before, but in this extremity of need he turns to God in prayer.

2-The "THEN" with which 2:1 begins does not denote time after the 3 days & 3 nights in the fish, but merely "AND", thus showing that he prayed upon being swallowed.

3-Whole prayer can be uttered in about 30 seconds & probably was prayed before Jonah lost consciousness & died.

4-Phraseology of the prayer is reminiscent of many passages from the psalms of David about 200 years before.

5-This is a remarkable prayer. Jonah does not utter one single petition for himself. Under the spur of his own affliction he calls to God and justifies not himself, but God. He recognizes that God is right in what He is doing. Jonah's words might be paraphrased thus: "I have tried to run from You, Lord, but now You have caught me, & brought me low thru these afflictions." Jonah recognizes God's sovereign will & power in all this, realizing that no man can disobey God without suffering the consequences.

6-It is well for us to remember, however, that before God & casts off any of us as useless, He reproveth us in order to bring us to our senses. That is what He did with Jonah. Jonah's idea was to be thrown into the sea & die. That was not God's purpose. He wanted His servant to be in the path of obedience. The sternness of God's rebuke was based on the knowledge that Jonah had of God's will and the ability God would have given him to fulfill that will. Jonah knew better than his conduct indicated; consequently, God judged him according to his knowledge.

7-This is a vital principle

8-Stated in Lk. 12:47-48---READ

9-When CYPRIAN read ch. 2, his soul was violently agitated & he became converted thru this description of DEATH, and went on to ultimately be a great teacher & father in the early church.

10-Prayer is more PRAISE than PETITION
= SHEOL = "Place of the departed dead"

C.-Jonah's State:

1-"Out of the belly of hell"

--2:2

--Jonah considered the fish his grave

--The grave is not for the living, but for the dead

2-2:3--Description of a drowning man

3-2:4--expression of ultimate faith in God

--Jonah expected to see God's holy temple again

--surely this man believed in resurrection

4-2:5--Expressive description of a dead man

--Accommodations in a FISH, not a MOTEL

--Those who insist that Jonah was alive & remained alive will have to maintain the thesis that he not only LIVED IN a fish, but he LIVED LIKE a fish.

5-2:6--corruption relates to death

--so used in Acts. 2:26-27

6-Thus, the mightiest miracle of the experience of Jonah was the miracle of RESURRECTION.

7-Parallel---Matt. 12:39-40

D.-Jonah's Rebellion:

1-Why rebellious?

2-Why running away?

Began in fish + Com-
pleted it in SHEOL

KEY

2:1-"I re-
membered the
LORD"

NB

One of 2
reasons
I believe
Jonah
died

3-Great Patriot - "I am an HEBREW" (1:9)

4-Fearful that Nineveh would repent (4:2)

5-Wanted Nineveh destroyed

6-Jonah knew all this but apparently thought that if he did not take the message of warning to Nineveh, & Nineveh was not warned, it would go down under the judgment of God & his own nation would be spared. He deliberately set himself against God's desires in these matters. He looked on the Ninevites as enemies & decided that he would stand by his own nation rather than obey God.

7-Parallel--loyalty to men

--loyalty to organizations

--loyalty to denominations

--loyalty to family ties

--loyalty & faithfulness belong first to God

8-We, in America, have no exclusive right to receive the good news of the gospel. God wants the world to hear the same good news, & he wants them to hear thru us. He has no favorite nation in this respect. He wants all men to know the good news in Christ.

E.-Jonah's Repentance:

1-Running from God brings chastisement

2-When Jonah went DOWN, he kept going DOWN, & he felt God's heavy hand upon him.

3-BUT, this brought him to his senses

4-Jonah's stubborn will was broken

5-2:8-9---READ

6-This is the record of a BACKSLIDER'S RETURN

7-Hard experience

8-Jonah had to DIE in order to live a RESURRECTION life

9-Matt. 10:37-39---READ

10-In God's own time he caused Jonah to be brought to land

-Down in rebellion
UP in repentance

III.-THE PURPOSES OF GOD:

A.-Disciplinary Action:

1-Rebellious prophet was "brought to heel"

2-This was profitable to Jonah

3-Heb. 12:9-11

4-Many a saint has gone thru severe trials in order to be brought back to the recognition of God in his experience

B.-Unique Preparation:

1-Deal with this more later

2-Suffice to say that when Jonah preached in Nineveh, the Scripture says-----HE GAVE A MESSAGE

--HE WAS A SIGN

3-Therefore uniquely prepared to "reach" the Ninevites

C.-Picture Of Christ's Resurrection: *

1-Greatest illustration of this truth in the O. T.

2-Others--Joseph in the pit

Isaac on Mt. Moriah

--but, these were without actual death

3-Duration was similar---3 days & 3 nights

2nd reason
I believe
Jonah
actually
DIED

4-Event was similar---death & burial

5-Mt. 12:38-42

6-Scripture does not state he remained alive, but the implication is very strongly in support of the interpretation that he died & was miraculously raised from the dead.

-skel - 2:2

Corruption - 2:6

CONCLUSION:

A.-Lessons:

1-God cares for His own

2-God hears & answers prayer

3-God keeps "working on" the backslider to bring him to repentance & forsaking of sin & return to fellowship

4-God's word is interdependent for interpretation as is said in 1 Cor. 2:13--"Which things we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

5-Illus-A great many people are inclined to discount the history of "Jonah and the whale" as told in the Bible. They tell us they just can't "swallow it."

One day a man traveling on a train became engaged in a conversation about the Bible with the passenger seated next to him. "If you can prove to me that Jonah was swallowed by a whale, I'll believe all the rest of the Bible," he said.

"WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CHRIST?" asked his companion.

"That's beside the point," he answered

"But do you think that Christ was wise?"

"Yes," he said, "I think Christ was the wisest

Man that ever lived."

"Well, then, if He was the wisest Man that ever lived, & I could show you that He believed that Jonah was swallowed by a great fish, would you believe it yourself?"

"I certainly would," the man answered immediately. So his newly-made acquaintance opened a New Testament & turned to Mt. 12:40 & told the man to read it. He read it aloud: "As Jonah was three days & three nights in the whale's belly, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

The man with the N. T. said, "It was Christ who said that. He believed the account of Jonah & the great fish."

"THANKS, MISTER," was the reply. "I NEVER SAW THAT BEFORE. THAT'S PROOF ENOUGH FOR ME."

If doubters would examine the evidence of the Scriptures, their doubts would fall away into faith.

INTRO:

A.-Purposes Of God Thru Jonah's Experience With The Great Fish:

1-Disciplinary Action

- Rebellious prophet was "brought to heel"
- This was profitable to Jonah
- Heb. 12:9-11
- Many a saint has gone thru severe trials in order to be brought back to the recognition of God in his experience

Bill Davis - 3 times God dealt w/ him to bring him back to himself

2-Unique Preparation

- Deal with this more later
- Suffice to say that when Jonah preached in Nineveh the Scriptures say...He **GAVE** a message
- ...He **WAS** a sign
- Therefore uniquely prepared to "reach" the Ninev/

3-Picture Of Christ's Resurrection

- Greatest illustration of this in the O.T.
- Others..Joseph in the pit
- ..Isaac on the altar
- But those were without actual death
- EVENT** was similar----death & burial
- DURATION** was similar--3 days & 3 nights
- Mt. 12:38-42
- Scripture does not say Jonah remained alive, but the implication is very strongly in support of the interpretation that he died & was miraculously raised from the dead.

*NB. - Personally convinced that Jonah **DIED** + was **RESURRECTED**, but it is not an 'article of faith' demanding unanimity. Could have been an AIR-CONDITIONED FISH!*

B.-Second Chance For Salvation:

- 1-Taught by heretics
- 2-Salvation opportunity during life
- 3-Salvation opportunity after death...when one would know better than to refuse again
- 4-Not taught in Scripture
- Heb. 9:27
- 2 Cor. 6:2
- Matt. 9:6
- 5-Clearly denied by scripture---Luke 16:22-26

C.-Second Chance For Service:

- 1-Commissioned by God
- 2-Failure---through unbelief
- through sins of the flesh
- through fear of man
- through rebellion against the will of God
- 3-Yet, not cast off
- 4-Yet, not put on the shelf
- 5-UNLESS persistent in sin-----1 Cor. 9:27
- 6-But chastened
- 7-For the disciplinary purpose of being brought back to the Lord
- 8-Then.....God gives another chance to serve
- 9-FAILURE NEED NOT BE FINAL!

Praise God !!

I.- JONAH'S CASE:

A.-Recapitulation:

- 1-Called of God
- 2-Running from God
- 3-Unmasked by God
- 4-Preserved by God thru the great fish
- 5-Crying out to God--Jonah 2:1-7
- 6-Repenting toward God--Jonah 2:8-9
- 7-Released by God--Jonah 2:10

B.-Recommissioning:

1-Place of landing?

- Where did Jonah hit dry land?
- Much speculation, but no sure answer
- Agree with Bpp when he says, "I believe the principle which points to the answer is found in Revs 2:5 where the words are, 'Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, & will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.' The principle in this passage of Scr. leads me to believe that God brought Jonah back to the place where he started running. Jonah went down to Joppa, & no doubt that is the place to which God brought him back & recommissioned him." (Jonah, P. 51)

2-Natural reaction

- Hit the beach at a run
- Not stop running until at Nineveh
- But, not so!
- Jonah must have camped right on the beach

3-Needed a REcommissioning

- He'd disobeyed his first call
- He'd repented after that
- But, what should he do now?
- Didn't know for sure whether God would give him a second chance.

4-Lesson for us

- Don't we often think that obeying God is something we can do anytime?
- Don't we often think, "Tomorrow will be time enough"
- Don't we often delay & postpone?
- BUT are we justified in living today by yesterday's orders? ? ? ?
- It does not necessarily follow that because God told us to follow a certain path before, that He necessarily now expects us to follow that same path.
- "David illustrates the proper action when the Philistines spread themselves in the valley of Rephaim on two consecutive occasions (2 Sam. 5:17-25). On the first occasion, inquiry of the Lord revealed to David that he was to attack. On the second occasion, David did not follow the plan which God instructed him to follow (before) even though the circumstances were the same. He inquired of the Lord and was told to wait & then "come upon them over against the mulberry trees". The wisest course of action is to seek the mind of God rather than assume that previous guidance is still to be followed." Evans, Jonah The Sign, P. 5, VOICE, Jan '55.

5-So with Jonah

- Fumbled his first call to Nineveh
- God of grace gives Jonah a second chance

6-WORD FROM GOD--3:1-2

- Authoritative word--"And the word of the Lord"
- Personal word---"came unto Jonah"
- Gracious word---"the second time"
- Specific word--"saying, Arise, go"
- Directive word--"Unto Nineveh, that great city"
- Explicit word--"and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee"

7-"The question has been logically asked, 'If Jonah had refused to go the 2nd time, what would have happened?' The answer, we believe, is obvious. There would have been another experience with the fish. If Jonah had bought a 2nd ticket to Tarshish there would have been another fish prepared to receive him. God would have seen to it that His servant did not go to Tarshish." (McGee, P. 29, Jonah)

8"There is another element involved here. God's purpose of grace cannot be frustrated. If there were any possibility that Nineveh would turn to God, then God would see to it that Nineveh heard the message. If Jonah would not go, then another messenger would be raised up to go. If we in this present day, will not preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, then God will raise up another instrument. God is not, & was not in Jonah's day, limited by the lack of vision or the hardness of heart on the part of His chosen messenger." (McGee, Jonah, P. 30)

II.-PARALLEL CASES: — Not an isolated case but a human problem.

A.-Joshua's Experience: (Joshua 9 & 10)

1-Joshua's failure

- Gibeonites come with deception (9:3-5)
- Gibeonites come with lies (9:6-7)
- Gibeonites come with flattery (9:8-11)
- Gibeonites come with false proofs (9:12-13)
- Gibeonites request a LEAGUE--(9:11; Ex. 34:12)
- COVENANT is made on false premises, without prayer, & without counsel (9:14)
- TRUTH comes out in only 3 days (9:16)

2-Threat comes (10:1-6)

- 5 kings of the south arise together
- Plan to smite Gibeon for treason — Angry at traitors who capitulated
- Gibeonites call on Joshua for aid — Come help us QUICKLY!
10:6

3-Reassurance (10:7-9)

- Joshua still in authority, but only with human power
- Has cut himself off from his commission thru disobeying
- Can go to the place of battle, BUT NOT INTO BATTLE (10:7)
- God RE-CALLS Joshua--(10:8)
- Joshua "THEREFORE" could go on to war. — 10:9
+ God gave victory (10:10)

B.-Jacob's Experience:

1-Gen. 27--Stole Isaac's blessing intended for Esau

2-Gen. 28:11-18--Met God & thought it DREADFUL — WHY? Because not in Fellowship

- 3-Wasted years in Haran
- 4-Jacob failed again & again until he became a source of embarrassment to God, but God did not give up on him, though 20 years were involved.
- 5-At Peniel God tackled this man directly & brought him to the place of decision
- 6-Jacob met God & found out his own weakness
- 7-Prevailed because he couldn't win & could only "hang on" & God changed him
- 8-After that, Jacob was different New name — Israel
Crippled leg — Don't rely on flesh
- 9-We can rejoice that God did not reject Jacob after his 1st, or 2nd or 3rd failure
- 10-God is FAITHFUL

C.-David's Experience:

- 1-Moment by moment experience (2 sam 2:1) *Read*
- 2-Sin enters with Bathsheba (2Sam. 11:2 ff.)
- 3-Nathan discloses the sin (2 Sam. 12:1-12)
- 4-David repents (2 Sam. 12:13)
- 5-David committed a horrible sin & men have wanted to stone him for it
- 6-But God never did give David up. But God made David give up the sins.
- 7-David wrote Psalms 23, 32, & 51 after this awful failure
- 8-Stumbling sinners can be restored & used
- 9-Aren't you glad that God did not reject David?

D.-Peter's Experiences:

- 1-Boasts of love & devotion — *lovable hunk of a man!*
- 2-~~Warned~~ --- Lk. 22:31-34
- 3-Denies Christ three times — Lk. 22:57, 58, 60
- 4-"And Peter" --- Mark. 16:7
- 5-Interrogated about his love for Christ -- Jn. 21:15-17
- 6-Restored & recommissioned
- 7-Slipped AGAIN --- Gal. 2:11-14
- 8-Must have been restored AGAIN.....and AGAIN !!!

E.-John Mark's Experience:

- 1-Nephew of Barnabas *his uncle*
- 2-Taken by Paul & Barnabas on 1st Missionary Journey (Acts 12:25 & 13:5)
- 3-Failed & deserted from that labor because of perils (13:13)
- 4-Caused split because Barnabas wanted to take him again, (15:36-41)
- 5-Paul refused Mark, But God never did
- 6-Restored & made useful
- 7-Paul even changed his mind --- 2 Tim. 4:11
- 8-Mark "made good"....& Paul admitted he'd been wrong
- 9-God had been right.....& entrusted the authorship of Mark's gospel to John Mark.

III.-MODERN CASES:

A.-Failures:

- 1-These abound
- 2-Causes are many

Babe Ruth
- 1320 strike-outs
- 714 home runs

- 3-Defeat is the result
- 4-Impotence follows *always & inexorably*
- 5-Threats multiply
- 6-Bitterness sets in

B.-Restoration:

- 1-Even though some might desire to return to the Lord, they do not always know how to do so.
- 2-Method for restoring the prodigal
 - Confession of sin---1 John 1:9
 - forsaking of sin---Pr. 28:13
 - confidence in God---Jonah 2:9
 - wait upon God-----Jonah 3:1
- 3-God speaks to such a heart *you can count on it*
- 4-God brings such a one to the place of real victory
- 5-Jonah 3:1- can become the most important verse in the book of Jonah to YOU
- 6- See it also in Luke 13:6-9

CONCLUSION:

A.-Application Is Clear:

- 1-Bph. 5:14-17
- 2-We are to arise as from the dead, & be filled with the life of Christ & do His work. This is God's present commission to us. Whether Jonah actually died or not is not the point here. The fact is, he was in the place of death & needed to be released from it.
- 3-The same holds true for us. We also are to arise and go and do the work of the Lord.
- 4-Our Lord said---John 15:16---"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, & ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit."
- 5-There is effort to be made & obedience in this realm will cost us something. We cannot fold our hands & expect things to happen. God's people must be aroused to be obedient to Him.

B.-Personalization:

- 1-Called to serve
- 2-Have you FAILED.....or....FORGOTTEN?
- 3-Restoration is the answer
 - confession of sin--1 Jn. 1:9
 - forsaking of sin---Pr. 28:13
 - confidence in God--Jonah 2:9
- 4-Reassured.....WAIT UPON GOD-----Jonah 3:1
- 5-Why not NOW? ? ? Rev. 2:5 *"Thou hast brought up my life" (2:6)*
- 6-God of all grace is the GOD OF THE SECOND CHANCE
.....for SERVICE

Will you invest your life for the Lord's use & glory & blessing?

If so — He will surely "bring up your life"

FOR

YOU!

Westhaze 3/21/65 - Rescue The Perishing 397.....
 Channels Only 387
 12/9/73 PM

2-Why not hold ?
 3-Did of all grace is the son of the living
 4-Resurrection..... in John 3:1
 1-Confidence in God-John 3:9
 2-Taking of sin--19:28:13
 3-Commission of sin-1 John 1:9
 Restoration is the answer
 2-Have you failed.....
 1-Called to serve
 B-Personalization:
 must be prepared to be obedient to him,
 lands & expect things to happen. God's people
 remain will cost us something. We cannot fail
 3-There is effort to be made & obedience in this
 we should go and bring forth fruit.
 me, but I have chosen you, & ordained you, that
 4-Our Lord said---John 15:16--"Ye have not chosen
 and go and do the work of the Lord.
 3-Why am I doing this for you. We also are to arise
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 with the life of Christ & do His work. This is
 2-We are to arise as from the dead, & be filled
 A-Application is clear:
 of John 3:1-3

of John 3:1-3
 2-John 3:1-3 can become the same important verse in the book
 4-Did bring such a one to the place of great victory
 3-Did speak to such a heart
 1-Wait upon God-John 3:1
 2-Confidence in God-John 3:9
 3-Taking of sin--19:28:13
 4-Commission of sin-1 John 1:9
 2-Method for restoring the prodigal
 3-Do not always have to do so.
 1-Which though some might desire to return to the Lord, they

"A VOICE CRYING IN A METROPOLIS"

INTRO:

B. - Definition Of Terms:

1-Revival--Message to Believers to RETURN to God

2-Evangelism--Message to Unbelievers to TURN to God **ism**

3-Thus, Really, Ch.3 deals not with revival but evangel/

--Ch3 records the most fabulous moving that the Spirit of God has ever had among men

--Ch.3 dwarfs the day of Pentecost

--Ch.3 dwarfs any subsequent movement of God to date

--Greatest evangelistic movement in history

A. - ILLUS:

Clipping

- Word is not from God

- RESPONSE is not repentance.

I. - THE RENEWED COMMISSION (3:1-2):

A. - Great Fact:

1-Not just forgiven

2-But restored to responsibility

3-So with Peter, David, Joshua, Mark, etc. *Isaiah*

B. - Great City:

1-Magnitude of the task of proclamation

2-"Great City"--not just from man's viewpoint

--600,000 to 1,000,000 population to have 120,000 children as in 4:11 *around*

--Took 3 days to walk ~~over~~ it--metropolitan area

--Great also in God's sight!

3-"It is no mean errand of mercy, not to save a few only from destruction that I bid you go"

4-Yet, Jonah was not afraid

--because sent by God

--because sent with God's message

--Parallel--Jn. 1:6--"There was (arose) a man sent from God, whose name was John" **FEARLESS +**

FORTHRIGHT

C. - Great 3-Fold Commission:

1-Arise & Go *2*

2-Preach *3*

3-Preach according to the Word God gave him

4-2 Tim. 4:2-5

COULD DO NO OTHER!

D. - Great Verses:

1-3:1 for believer

2-3:5 for unbeliever

3-Greatest verses in Jonah are here in chapter 3

Message from God + not of man

II. - THE RESPONSIVE PROPHET (3:3-4):

A. - His Going:

1-"So Jonah arose, & went"

2-Contrast with 1:3

3-"He is still the same man. There is still the same energy and decision of character. But he is now as ready to obey

as before to disobey." T.T. Perowne

4-Jonah had more "company" in the way of flight than in the way of obedience.

5-Sometimes the way of obedience is a lonely way

6-"And Jonah began to enter"

--Moral grandeur of the scene: The promptness of Jonah's action in entering without delay or hesitation or enquiry, immediately, as it would seem, upon his reaching the city, upon his difficult & dangerous task; his boldness, as a helpless & unprotected stranger, in standing in the heart of the bloody city & denouncing destruction upon it. It was, indeed, to 'beard the lion in his den' to adventure himself on such an errand.

--I often picture Jonah entering that city a stranger & the member of a nation which the Ninevites had vowed to conquer. Nevertheless, he boldly walked its streets in the garb of an Israelite, stopping at first 1 corner & then another, crying to the people concerning the impending doom of their city.

--It is not hard to visualize them running together & listening to him; & instead of looking on Him as a fool or a crackpot, they took his words to heart. Thus the people of Nineveh were brought under deep conviction.

7-"And he cried"--same word as "preach" in 3:2

--Voice crying--not in a wilderness, but in a metropolis!

--Heralding God's message forth

--What authority !!!

B.-His Gospel:

1-Jonah GAVE a message

2-Jonah WAS a sign-----more about this later (Lk. 11:30)

3-Message--"Yet 40 days, & Nineveh shall be overthrown"

--Seems unconditional, yet God's threatenings are implied promises: (Ge19:

--"Overthrown"...Same word used of Sodom & Gomorrah

--Not "destroyed"--This allowed for the repentance of the people. Conditional character of the prophecy if repentance does not come.

--Simple 8 word declaration

--Simplicity is always impressive

--ILLUS---Dan. 5:25

4-What effective preaching consists of

--A message from God

--A message believed

--Evidence of a change of heart that changes the life

--Confession & forsaking of specific sins

5-Lack of results or Presence of results do not generally depend upon the prophet of God, but upon the receptivity of the people addressed

III.-THE REPENTANT PEOPLE (3:5-10):

A.-The People Of Nineveh Believed God:

1-Tremendous statement!

2-Believed in the God of the Hebrews as the TRUE GOD

3-Believed God had the power to execute judgment which He had threatened

- 4-Believed in God's mercy & willingness to receive the penitent who believes with Divine forgiveness
- 5-The people of Nineveh believed God. When they believed God, they believed His Word & trusted in His mercy. It is one thing for us to believe the facts about the life of the Lord Jesus Christ when He came to die for our sins but it is another matter to place personal faith in Christ as Savior & Lord & as the One who has the right to judge
- 6-It is noteworthy that in the rest of this 3rd chapter of Jonah, the prophet himself is not mentioned. Nineveh believed God because of the message Jonah presented. A true message will hide the messenger. He will not be prominent, but God's Word will.
- 7-This reaction of FAITH by the Ninevites contrasted favorably with the faith of God's Chosen people
- 8-Mt. 8:10--"Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel."
- 9-100% response--Greatest on record.....EVER
 - The Heb. word "BELIEVE" here, as often elsewhere, is used with special reference to the APPROPRIATION of prophetic instruction to the soul's inner life.

B.-The Word Came:

- 1-No other way to be saved
- 2-Rom. 10:17
- 3-Word came to the people---3:5
- 4-Word came to the rulers---3:6
- 5-Reaction--Personal & voluntary
 - Spontaneous & genuine repentance
 - No one pleaded that HE was not guilty & thus not in need of repentance
 - Humiliation & mourning were open & widespread
 - Remarkable when you remember that PRIDE & VIOLENCE were characteristics of the Assyrians

Attached quote from Sennacherib's Monument

C.-The Grace Of God:

- 1-What God saw--Not merely sackcloth & ashes
 - Not merely cries of fear
 - But that Ninevites turned from their former evil works
 - And that they turned from their former evil in hearts
 - God saw that they "BELIEVED GOD" (3:5)
 - God saw a changed life
 - 2 Cor. 5:17
 - 1 Thess. 1:9-10
- 2-God repented--not from the Divine point of view
 - Num. 23:19--"God is not a man that he should lie; neither the son of man that he should repent:"
 - Jas. 1:17--"...the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning"
 - Rom. 11:29--"For the gifts & callings of God are without repentance"

note at bottom of P.944 on 3:7

Acts 15:18--"Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world."
-Repentance APPEARS to take place from the human point of view
-Gen. 6:6--"And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth,"

Principle

- 3-See Jer. 18:7-8--"At what instant shall I speak concerning a nation, & concerning a kingdom, to pluck up to pull down, & to destroy it. If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them."
- 4-Both views are equally true! Both views are in perfect harmony! But Scripture never attempts to harmonize them!
- 5-Nor is it for us to attempt to do so, for we cannot look on both sides of the issue at once
- 6-God's immutability is that of principle--not of plan or action. He immutably hates sin & punishes sin; hence, when a sinner becomes a penitent, God turns from threatening vengeance to free pardon

CONCLUSION:

A.-Message Of Jonah:

- 1-Jonah entered the city of Nineveh & began to give the startling news, "Yet 40 days, & Nineveh shall be overthrown." How did he reach the ears of the people? Why did the king on the throne hear & obey the message? Evidently Jonah's strange appearance made his approach easy. This prophet of God had spent 3 days & 3 nights beyond the esophagus of a fish, & the gastric juices had poured profusely over this backsliding prophet as the fish attempted to "stomach" Jonah. The effect upon the epidermis of the prophet was terrific.
- 2-Dr. Harry Rimmer, President of the Research Science Bureau of L. A. wrote of a similar case: "In the Literary Digest we noticed an account of an English sailor swallowed by a gigantic Rhinodon in the English Channel. Briefly, the account stated that in the attempt to harpoon one of these monstrous sharks, this sailor fell overboard, & before he could be picked up again, the shark turned & engulfed him. Forty-eight hours after the accident occurred, the fish was sighted & slain. When the shark was opened by the sailors, they were amazed to find the man unconscious but alive! He was rushed to the hospital where he was found to be suffering from shock alone, & a few hours later was discharged as being physically fit. The account concluded by saying that the man was on exhibit in a London Museum at a shilling admittance fee; being advertised as "The Jonah of the 20th Century"
- 3-"In 1926 Dr. Rimmer met this man, & writes that his physical appearance was odd; his body was devoid of hair & patches of yellowish-brown color covered his entire skin."

4-Jonah must have been a strange sight, too. Possibly his hair was gone & his epidermis assumed some strange color which had not been seen on land or sea. When he stopped on a street corner in Nineveh, the crowds gathered with a query concerning his strange appearance. After that, Jonah could launch into his message; he could truthfully say that he was a man who had come back from the dead to tell the people of the doomed city of Nineveh what God wanted them to know---namely, JUDGMENT WAS IMPENDING BECAUSE OF THEIR SINS!

5-Lk. 11:30--"For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the son of man be to this generation."

6-Jonah PREACHED a message to Nineveh

7-Jonah WAS a message to Nineveh

8-The message which Nineveh heard was one of resurrection. God sent a man back from the grave to save a multitude of people.

B.-Response Of Nineveh:

1-Repented & believed

2-Gentiles dealt with

--Rom. 3:29-30

--Acts 10:34-35

3-Jonah had the experience of seeing an entire city repent and turn to God. No servant of God has yet been able to turn in such an optimistic report. The statistics of no evangelist have yet presented such a rosy hue. Nineveh was the center & capital of the world power of that day. Its prestige cannot be overestimated. The Assyrian empire was the fear & dread of the ancient world. The total conversion of this wicked & brutal city had repercussions over the then-known world. Multitudes elsewhere must have heard the news & followed the lead of Nineveh. Let us not minimize the world-shaking message of Jonah. The effect upon Nineveh itself was startling enough. The city cried to God, put on sack cloth and ashes & turned from their evil ways. This is breath-taking because it was a God-breathed time of heart-searching which brought about a turning to God which was total & entire in its compass & range.

C.-Response Of God:

1-God will rather that the ungodly turn from their evil way than that they should die. (Ezek. 18:23,32)

2-God didn't change

3-But the heathen Ninevites did

4-Heathen still must change---be converted---or face awful judgment

5-Rom. 6:23

6-Will you join the Ninevites in believing God?

7-Or will you have them rise up in judgment against you?

8-Lk. 11:32--"The men of Nineve shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here"

9-Will you be A VOICE crying in a METROPOLIS today?

...had not been seen on land or sea...
 ...a street corner in Nineveh...
 ...After that...
 ...query concerning his...
 ...Jonah could launch into his...
 ...say that he was a man who had come back from the dead to...
 ...tell the people of the doomed city of Nineveh what God...
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 breathed time of heart-searching which brought about a
 turning to God which was total & entire in its compass &
 range.

4-Response of God:
 1-Will rather that the ungodly turn from their evil way
 than that they should die. (Exek. 18:23,32)
 2-Don't change
 3-But the heathen Ninevites
 4-Heathen still want change--be converted--of fact & mind

Hymns - Ye Must Be Born Again²⁶³ - Westbrae 7/28/65
 Just As I Am 194 12/30/73

INTRO: A.-God's Dealings:

- 1-Ch. 3 shows God dealing with a Metropolis
- 2-Ch. 4 shows God dealing with an Individual
- 3-God had more trouble with JONAH than with NINEVEH
- 4-Repentance was more difficult to get from Jonah than from the wicked city of Nineveh
- 5-Took one "prepared thing" to bring Nineveh to its knees before God — Prepared Prophet
- 6-Took 3 "prepared things" to bring Jonah to his knees before God

- Prepared Gourd
- Prepared Worm
- Prepared East Wind

B.-God's Ways:

- 1-Not all His ways are always known by man
- 2-Not even by God's own prophets
- 3-"Selfish jealousy for his own reputation, jealousy for the honor of the prophetic office, a mistaken patriotism disappointed that the great enemy of his country should go unpunished, Jewish exclusiveness which could not endure to see the Divine clemency extended to the heathen, have each been adduced as the motive of Jonah's anger. Possibly something of all these blended in his mind." Ellicott
- 4-But Jonah did not understand that God is always willing to sacrifice what man would call "His honor" to see men saved from eternal destruction
- 5-Reminds us of Isa. 55:7-9

*Motives for
Jonah's anger*

I.-MISSIONARY MISERY 4:1-5:

A.-Discontent of Jonah:

- 1-"But it displeased Jonah" --4:1
- 2-God's response to the repentance of Nineveh was an abhorrence to Jonah
- 3-Displeased at God's MERCY to HEATHEN enemies of Israel
- 4-Described--"he was very angry"--4:1
--"I do well to be angry"--4:9
- 5-"It is awful that a sinner, plucked himself as a brand from the burning, & living on mercy alone, should object to God's showing the same mercy to his fellow sinners." COWLES
- 6-Cause of this discontent is that he sees that God is not going to destroy Nineveh, because it has repented.

B.-Actions Of Jonah:

- 1-Went thru the city preaching---somewhere between 3 & 40 days
- 2-Took up a vigil on the East side of the city of Nineveh, where there are hills with a view of the city
- 3-Built a "booth" there to wait & see if God would repent of His repentance
- 4-Prayer--4:2-3
--Makes prayer an avenue of complaint to God
--Says this is why he fled to Tarshish to begin with
--This is a wicked prayer of accusing God of being wrong!
--"It is not a mark of piety, therefore, to disburden

one's heart before God, but to pray in the Name of Jesus in the pattern of Lk. 22:42 **LANGE**

5-Weariness with life & wants to die --4:3, 8

"Not my will, but Thine be done"

--As Moses--Nu. 11:14-15

--As Elijah--1 Kings 19:4

--Both of them with better cause!

--NOTICE the DIFFERENCE for it brings out the contrasting states of mind of the 2 prophets. "In the inward conflict that had come upon Elijah he wished for death, because he did not see the expected result of his zeal for the Lord of Hosts; in other words it was from spiritual despair, caused by apparent failure of his labors. Jonah, on the other hand, did not wish to live any longer, because God had not carried out His threat against Nineveh"

(Keil---411)

--"It was not that God's kingdom was overthrown in Israel, but that it was extended to the heathen world, that made him weary of his life. Elijah grieved because he had failed to convert & save Israel; Jonah (grieved) because he had succeeded in converting & saving Nineveh." (PEROWNE 90)

--YET, life is realized as a sacred deposit to be relinquished only at God's bidding, or in accordance with His will

Rules out * Suicide
* Abortion

No way these can be a "Christian Answer" to a problem

6.-Strains On Jonah:

- 1-Sometimes in appraising the conduct of some one of God's children, we overlook the fact that such a one is still human & may have passed thru situations that have put them under strains far beyond the usual faced by men.
- 2-So, in all fairness to Jonah, let us look again at the things he had just passed thru. Spending 3 days & 3 nights in the belly of the great fish must have been a harrowing experience, one that we would describe today as "nerve-wracking." Following his deliverance from the fish he journeyed to Nineveh & then spent whatever time was necessary; a week or 2 weeks--whatever it was--traveling about in the city preaching the Word. He preached day after day persistently, until, from the physical standpoint, he must have reached the end of his strength. Now, that is the human side of Jonah's experience up to this point covered in the 4th Chapter.
- 3-Times of depression are likely to come upon us after some experience that has exhausted our physical & nervous energies. Perhaps a hard day, or a hard week, or a hard season leaves us wondering if it is worth continuing the battle for the Lord. --TARGET for Satanic attack
- 4-God is gracious & kind in His dealing with us, just as He was with Jonah. The Lord understood the condition of Jonah's mind & body at this time, & also knew how that condition affected Jonah's spiritual life. God dealt with him in mercy & with longsuffering & kindness.
- 5-Always remember---1 Cor. 10:13

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

II.-MISSIONARY MOTIVES:

A.-Primary Reasons To GO:

1-NEED of the heathen

2-KNOW what the heathen do not know

3 of them
LOST
DEAD
ALIENATED

No hope as they now are!

--4:2

--Character of God

--Mercy of God

--Plan of God

--Not angry at man, as Ninevites thought--3:9

--But only angry at SIN

--"And of great kindness"=="abundant in loving kindness"/

--Tit. 3:4--"But after that the kindness & love of God our Savior toward man appeared"

--Tit. 3:5

--Put in TRUST when we have the gospel & others do not know it--1 Thess. 2:4--"But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak..."

--Rom. 1:14--"I am debtor both to the Greeks, & to the Barbarians; both to the wise, & to the unwise."

--ILLUS--2 Kings 7:9--"Then they said one to another, 'We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, & we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go & tell the king's household.'"

3-Love for God

--We don't go with the gospel because we love the heathen

--We go to the heathen to tell them about God, because He loves THEM, and we love HIM

--2 Cor. 5:14-15 READ

--ILLUS--A Pastor wrote his testimony: "I never have gone to a church because I loved the people, but because I felt God called me. I never left a church yet, but that I did not love the people. After you share the experiences of people, both joy & sorrow, you learn to love them. After standing at the grave side with some, and after marrying the sons & daughters of others, you find that you love them."

God has not promised to give you a love before you take the Gospel to folk. That is getting the cart before the horse. He has said to go & then He would give you a real love for the people to whom you go. Many are standing on the sideline & sitting on the fringe of God's great commission, waiting until their hearts are moved. Like the poor man sitting at the pool of Bethesda, 'waiting for the moving of the water', they are destined to disappointment. Start going & you will start loving. God says 'GO'" (MCGEE) 42

--ILLUS--Eva M Swift from Scofield Church & her conversations with Dr. Scofield.

B.-Obscuring Factors For Jonah:

1-Excessive nationalistic love

2-Jealousy at God's blessing upon Nineveh

3-Hardness of his own heart toward Nineveh

4-What is obscuring YOUR WILLINGNESS To go? Will it stand up as a

III.-MISSIONARY CIRCUMSTANCES 4:4, 6-11:

"REASON" any better than did Jonah's?

A.-The First Question (4:4):

1-"Then said the Lord, 'Doe~~st~~ thou well to be angry?'"

2-God will not neglect the INDIVIDUAL who is in need of repentance while He deals with the NATION at the same time.

3-It is the gentle question of suggested reproof, designed to still the tumult of passion & lead to consideration & reflection.

4-God does not as judge condemn Jonah's unreasonable anger, but invites him to judge & condemn himself.

5-Jonah's silence is noteworthy... & self-incriminating

6-May I have the grace to be - QUICK to anger over SIN
SLOW to anger over REPENTANCE

B.-The "Prepared" Gourd (4:6):

1-First of 3 "prepared things" to bring Jonah to repentance

2-Sent by God "to deliver" him from his grief

3-God designed to refresh Jonah as an act of grace & as a step in His lesson of correction & amendment

4-Gourd grew--overnight it attained full size of 3-6 months

--Can imagine Jonah's pleasure at this

--May have thought it an omen that God would YET destroy Nineveh

--Doubtless Jonah carried water to the gourd

--Became attached to a "THING"

--More concerned about his own personal comfort than about eternal souls

--Eyes were on GOURD instead of upon GOD

--Difference & problem??.....UR

--God had given grace upon grace, but Jonah did not respond in his heart

--Trust in Gourd & not in God where it belonged

C.-The "Prepared" Worm (4:7):

1-How quickly God can rearrange & change the circumstances

2-Have we learned---Phs 4:11? ? ? "... For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

3-The destruction may well have been altogether in the way of nature, except that it happened at the precise moment when it was to be a lesson to Jonah

4-Even the worms obey God.....WHY DOESN'T MAN??

5-Ps. 107:8--"Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, & for His wonderful works to the children of men."

6-ALL that we put confidence in, or find joy in apart from God will eventually

WITHER AWAY. -- or our soul will wither up!

D.-The Sun And The "Prepared" Wind (4:8):

1-Sun arose

2-Sultry east wind came up at God's appointment

3-Beat on Jonah

4-Jonah faints as a sun-stroke victim

5-Jonah plays God

--wishes to die

--decides that it is better than living

--This is NEVER the prerogative of man to decide

--But it is typical of a man who is arguing with God

SIROCCO

Jonah is about at the end of Jonah.

E.--The Second Question (4:9):

- 1-God again administers the "gentle rebuke".
- 2-4:9
- 3-Jonah is irritated over a "little thing"
- 4-Jonah is sorry for the loss of the gourd's shade, but he is not sorry for the gourd
- 5-NOR was he sorry for Nineveh when destruction was imminent
- 6-Responds to God that he has a full right to be angry, because the gourd--which gave him some comfort--has been taken from him

F.--The Third Question; THE CLINCHER--(4:10):

- 1-Jonah's compassion-----A GOURD
- 2-God's compassion-----A CITY
- 3-"Pity"===="spare".....same Hebrew word
- 4-"Jehovah directs Jonah's attention to the contradiction into which he has fallen, by feeling compassion for the withering of the miraculous (gourd) tree, & at the same time murmuring because God has had compassion upon Nineveh with its many thousands of living beings, & has spared the city for the sake of these souls, many of whom have no idea whatever of right or wrong." (Keil 415)
- 5-"This final appeal is forcible & conclusive; a grand & worthy climax to this remarkable book. The contrasts are striking & designed: 'THOU' and 'I' (the pronouns are emphatic, & each of them introduces a member of the comparison), man and God; the short-lived palmchrist & Nineveh that great city; the plant that cost thee nothing, and the vast population, the sixscore thousand children, the very much cattle, which I made & uphold continually. Jonah is met upon his own ground, the merely human sentiment of compassion, regard for what is useful & good after its kind, sorrow for its loss, unwillingness to see it perish." (PEROWNE 90)
- 6-God is concerned about
 - cattle----unoffending creatures
 - children--undiscerning creatures
 - God has a right to pity Nineveh & its inhabitants for they are HIS CREATURES which He has nourished.
- 7-No answer forthcoming from Jonah
- 8-No answer could be forthcoming from Jonah!
- 9-Jonah is caught in his own logic.....AND CONVICTED!
- 10-Actually Jonah had become a petulant child who wanted to "end it all". He despaired of his life and, like Elijah, wanted to die, but God had something better for both of his servants. Elijah did not die under a juniper tree & Jonah did not die under the gourd vine. There was a chariot of fire waiting to take Elijah to the throne of God, and here was a lesson for Jonah which evidently brought him to the heart of God.
- 11-I believe that Jonah repented after God had so dealt with him, or he could not have written this book with its valuable lessons for him & for us. I believe Jonah permitted God to speak to his soul thru these experiences
- 12-After all-----REMEMBER-----this account is written autobiographically by Jonah AFTER the issue was settled!

13-2 Cor. 7:9-10--"Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner,.....for godly sorrow worketh repentance...."

14-----REAL QUESTION-----

Will we turn to God who will abundantly pardon & allow Him to revive us to where He can witness thru us to a lost world

15-----OR-----will we remain like Jonah was before his second repentance.....

....A MISSIONARY IN MISERY?

— what will you write in Jonah 4:12?

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