

## The Book of Jonah - Overview

# Justice, Mercy, and History

### A. What is the book of Jonah?

**1. a theology book**

**2. a short story**

**3. a series of contrasts**

<b>Ch. 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ God's instructions vs. Jonah's actions</li><li>○ Jonah stated fear of God vs. the sailors' real fear of God</li><li>○ Jonah's attempt to flee vs. God's great storm and great fish</li></ul>
<b>Ch. 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ God's salvation vs. Jonah, who did not deserve God's salvation</li></ul>
<b>Ch. 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The quick repentance of the Ninevites vs. the stubborn rebellion of Jonah</li><li>○ God's readiness to judge vs. God's willingness to show mercy</li></ul>
<b>Ch. 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ God's heart vs. Jonah's heart</li><li>○ God's heart vs. the reader's heart</li></ul>

A point of theology worthy of our attention:

***The character of God sets the standard of what my character should be.***

**4. a true story**

**5. an inspired book**

## B. What is the historical setting?

- 931 B.C. – Israel splits into Northern Kingdom (Israel) and Southern Kingdom (Judah)
- **765-755 B.C. – Events of the book of Jonah**
- 722 B.C. – Northern Kingdom (Israel) taken into exile by the Assyrians of Nineveh
- 700 B.C. – Southern Kingdom (Judah) miraculously delivered from the Assyrians of Nineveh
- 663-655 B.C. – Book of Nahum written, foretelling Nineveh's doom
- 612 B.C. – Assyrian capital of Nineveh is destroyed
- 586 B.C. – Southern Kingdom (Judah) is taken into exile by the Babylonians

Assyria –

Israel –

## C. What are the key themes?

1. God is concerned about Gentile people and always had been.
2. God's work gets done in spite of human imperfections and human weaknesses.
3. God's people can be self-centered.