

THAT WE **ALL**
MAY BE

ONE

JOHN 17



MAJOR LIFE LESSONS

FROM MINOR PROPHETS

Book of Jonah

(Jonah 1:1,2)

JONAH



REPENT

or

PERISH.

Background

- **Meaning of name: “dove.”**
- **Best-known of Minor Prophets.**
- **Carried the message of peace and salvation to Nineveh.**
- **Jonah’s home: Gath-hepher, four miles north of Nazareth.**
- **Jonah lived during the time of Jeroboam II, king of Israel (780 B.C.).**
- **Contemporary with Amos, Hosea, and possibly Joel.**

The Occasion

- **Nineveh, capital city of Assyria--a powerful, wicked, and cruel nation.**
- **Inflicted great suffering on many people.**
- **God sent Jonah to preach a message of repentance to the wicked city.**
- **This shows God's concern, even for the most wicked of people and nations.**
- **He wanted to spare them—if they would repent!**

Keys to the Book of Jonah

- **Key word—**
Repentance
- **Key Phrase—***“Let them turn every one from his evil way.” (3:8)*
- **Key Verses—**2:7-9

*“When my soul
fainted within me...”*

The Book's Purpose

- **God's mercy.**
 - He is also the God of the Gentiles.
 - He is willing to forgive and redeem sinners.
- **Christ in the book of Jonah.**
 - Prophecying Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.
 - Jonah, a "type" of Christ.
 - *Matthew 12:38-41; Luke 11:29-32*

Miracles in Jonah

- Mighty tempest (1:4)
- Sudden calm (1:15)
- The great fish prepared by God (1:17)
- Jonah's deliverance from the fish (2:10)
- Gourd prepared to shade Jonah (4:6)
- Worm prepared to smite the gourd (4:7)
- Sultry east wind sent by God (4:8)

The Book's Message

- Running from God.
 - Called by God to preach to Nineveh.
 - Jonah went to Joppa, and took a ship to Tarshish (opposite direction).
 - God sent a great wind, which threatened the ship with destruction.
 - They threw the cargo overboard as Jonah slept down in the ship.
 - Lot fell on Jonah—cast into the sea at his request.
 - Great fish prepared by God swallowed him—spent three days and nights in the belly of the fish.

The Book's Message

- Running to God.
 - Jonah thought he would die, but God allowed him to live.
 - From this helpless state, Jonah turned to God.
 - He repented and pleaded for God's mercy.
 - He learned the folly of running away from God.
 - He learned that disobedience has consequences.

The Book's Message

- Running with God.
 - For the second time, God commissioned Jonah to preach to Nineveh.
 - He gave them 40 days to repent!
 - Jonah didn't argue; he arose and went to the city.
 - Upon entering Nineveh, Jonah preached to kings, nobles, and the common people.
 - The king proclaimed a fast and called upon the people to turn from their evil ways.
 - God changed His mind and spared Nineveh!

The Book's Message

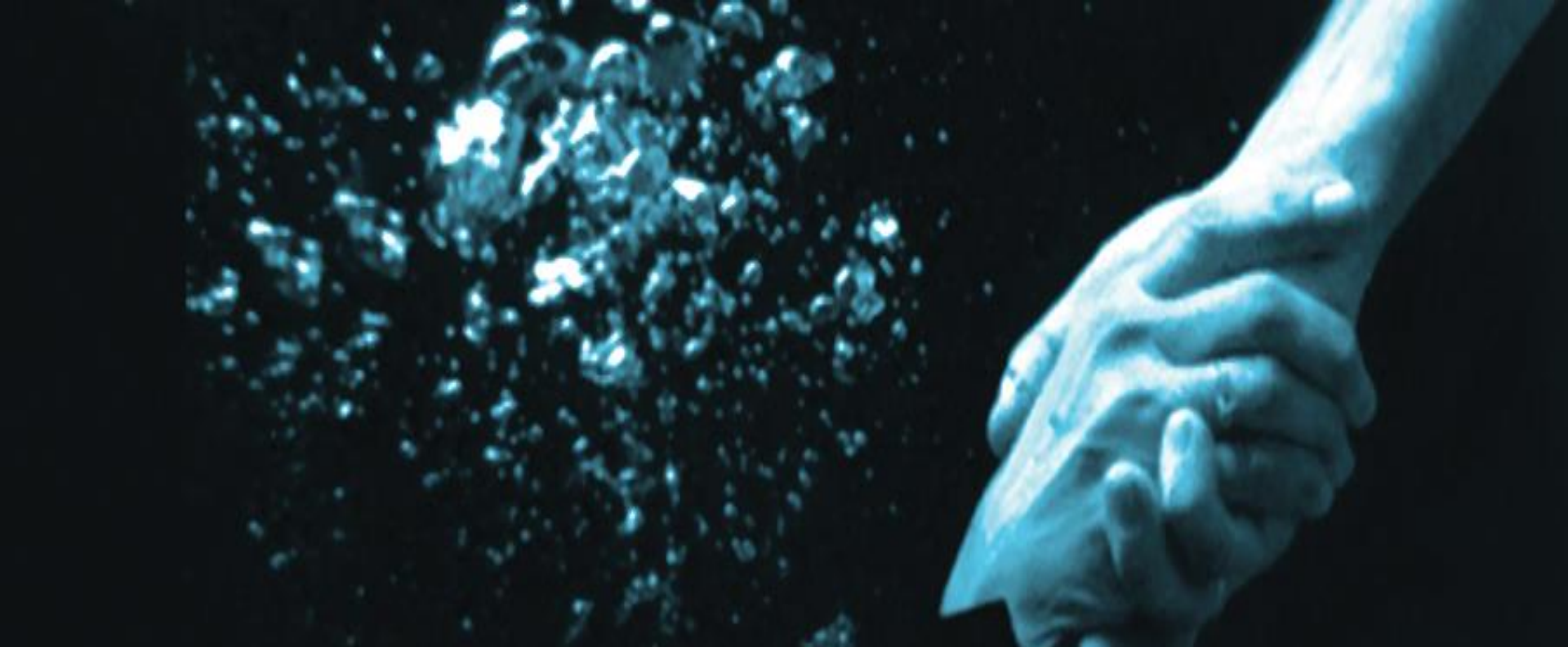
- Running ahead of God.
 - Jonah was displeased because God spared the city.
 - He pouted; he wanted the city destroyed!
 - He became so angry, he wanted God to take his life.
 - God took pity on Jonah and made a gourd vine to furnish him with shade from the heat.
 - Then, God prepared a worm that damaged the vine so it died. Again, Jonah became angry and asked to die.
 - God was using a gourd vine to teach Jonah the value of a lost soul!

Lessons From Jonah

- **Universality of God's presence**
 - Psalm 139:7-12
- **God loves all nations!**
 - Acts 10:34,35
- **God wants men to repent**
 - Acts 17:30
- **One cannot run away from God**
 - Hebrews 4:13

Lessons From Jonah

- **Nineveh--an approved example of true repentance**
– **Matthew 12:41**
- **The teacher has only to preach the message**
– **2 Timothy 2:1-4**
- **Contrast between selfishness and value of life**
– **Colossians 3:12-14**



JONAH

Celebrating God's Grace Amidst Man's Rebellion

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