

JONAH

Book note for Jonah

Except for his disobedience, Jonah is a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. In terms of opening up man's eyes to the gospel, he is a type of the Holy Ghost, even as his name means *dove*.

1. Jesus was sent into the world to the Jews first, Jonah's commitment was to the Jews first, though he was sent to the world (Nineveh)
2. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus sought to escape the sin of the world, even as Jonah sought to escape having to defile himself with Gentiles
3. Jesus was three days and nights in the heart of the world, Jonah three days and nights in the belly of a whale (Mat. 12:40)
4. Jesus was resurrected, as was Jonah
5. Jesus was sent to Israel when the Jews did not receive his word; in Jonah's day, Jeroboam the son of Joash ruled Israel and they did not receive Jonah's word (2 Ki. 14:25).
6. After their resurrection, the Gentiles in Nineveh received Jonah's words and the Gentiles received Jesus's words.

Chapter note for Jonah 1

1 Jonah is sent to Nineveh, fleeth to Tarshish. 4 He is bewrayed by a tempest, 11 thrown into the sea, 17 and swallowed by a fish.

Jonah 1:1

Jonah = dove. Cf. 2 Ki. 14:25; Mat. 12:39 v.f. Jonah was from Gath-hepher.

Amittai = truth of the Lord; faithful (i.e., the truth; the way).

Jonah 1:2

Nineveh = dwelling of ease. It types worldliness.

Jonah 1:3

Tarshish = subjection of enemies (cause of poverty and scattering)); beryl.

Joppa = beautiful (city).

Jonah left the presence of the Lord even as the Word left the presence of the Lord to be born as Jesus. Both went voluntarily, Jesus knowing what he was doing, Jonah not knowing what he was doing (Lu. 23:34).

Jonah 1:4

Parallels the events of Mk. 4:37 v.f.

Jonah 1:5

Compare Mk. 4:38.

Jonah 1:12

Substitutionary death, freely offered.

Jonah 1:13

The men are reluctant to accept the free offer and try to work for their salvation by rowing against the sea.

Jonah 1:14

Finally they realize there is no other alternative.

Jonah 1:15

They sacrifice Jonah.

Jonah 1:16

The storm is stilled, the peace of the Lord floods their souls as they have believed and accepted Jonah's free offer.

Jonah 1:17

The great fish was a whale, as related in Mat. 12:40 -- "For as Jonas was three days and 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." Also see Mat. 16:4.

The following story has in some aspects been discredited, but not totally: In 1888 James Bartley served as harpooner on the whaler, Star of the East. One day while harpooning a whale, he was knocked out of his small boat and swallowed whole by the whale. Eventually the whale was killed and butchered. In the course of the cutting, one sailor noticed movement in the whale's stomach. They cut it open and found Mr. Bartley still alive after spending 18 hours in the whale's belly. His skin was bleached white by the gastric juices of the whale, a condition from which he did not recover. He was unconscious for two weeks and when he did come to he forsook the sea and became a shoe cobbler.

Chapter note for Jonah 2

1 The prayer of Jonah. 10 He is delivered from the fish.

Jonah 2:1

Jonah was in the whale's belly three days and nights. In the same sense, Jesus was in Leviathan's belly (heart of the earth--Mat 12:40) three days and three nights.

Jonah 2:2

Jonah's a type of Christ in the tomb.

Psa. 130:1. Contrast Psa. 88:5.

Note: hell cannot be the grave. Verse 6 implies that the corruption of his body had started.

Jonah 2:3

Re waters and waves: Psa. 69:2. Psa. 88:7; 42:7.

Jonah 2:4

1:3. Compare Psa. 88:5.

Jonah 2:5

Psa. 69:1.

Jonah 2:6

Job 17:16.

Jonah 2:7

Soul fainted: cf. Psa. 107:5-6.

Jonah 2:8

I.e., salvation is free, to reject it is vanity.

Jonah 2:9

With the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Rom. 10:10).

Jonah 2:10

According to Assyrian legend, Jonah was vomited out on the shores of Assyria. There is no evidence for or against it in Scripture. It is said that Nineveh worshipped Dagon, the fish god, and that this gave Jonah extra credibility in the eyes of the Ninevites. It seems doubtful, though, in light of the typology presented in Scripture.

Chapter note for Jonah 3

1 Jonah, sent again, preacheth to the Ninevites. 5 Upon their repentance, 10 God repenteth.

Jonah 3:3

Critics discounted the Scripture because they deemed no ancient city could be 3 days journey across with 120,000 infants and children -- implying about 4 million people. Note that this can't be three days in circumference for then a day's journey (v. 4) would have taken him through the city.

Jonah 3:5

Mat. 12:41.

Jonah 3:10

"Repent" means to hold back, with or without regret. It is said that this gave Nineveh an extra 120 years (Gen. 6:3).

Chapter note for Jonah 4

1 Jonah, repining at God's mercy, 4 is reproved by the type of a gourd.

Jonah 4:1

Jonah, as a Jew, is jealous of the grace extended to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:11).

Jonah 4:3

Compare Job 3.

Jonah 4:8

The east wind was to knock down the booth.

The beating of the sun manifests itself as radiation pressure for one, and sun stroke for another.

Jonah 4:11

60,000 toddlers and infants.