

Old Testament Sermon Outline No: 12

Subject: The Acts of 'Jonah' The Patience of the Lord

Textual context: The Book of Jonah

Introduction

Jonah is a fascinating person to study. He receives a direct call from God that is specific in its context. The Book explores the consequences of his disobedience and has a surprise ending.

1. The Call of God upon Jonah

The Book starts immediately with the call. 'Go to Nineveh and cry out against it.'

2. Jonah Runs in the opposite direction

He catches a ship to Tarshish. Significant is that he says he is 'from the presence of the Lord.' There is always a danger of not just ignoring the call of God but actively running from it. He is inviting either correction from the Lord or opening himself to Satan's attack because we remove ourselves from the protection of the Lord.

3 Consequences of running from the presence of the Lord

On this occasion it is the Lord that corrects Jonah. Always be relieved when God corrects us. Do not be like the people mentioned in Jer. 7:28

God sends a wind that eventually causes severe problems to their ship. The sailors recognise that Jonah is the problem not the gale blowing.

It is important to realise that when we flee from the call of God, other people notice the consequences and point to the person fleeing.

4 Fish is prepared to swallow Jonah

Jonah is thrown overboard and is swallowed by a large fish (not a whale).

God is prepared to go to any lengths to see that his will eventually prevails. Even to the extent of preparing a fish to accommodate him.

4. Jonah realises his position and prays

A good position to be in. King David realised his awful position he had placed himself and prayed. His prayer can be seen in Psalm 51.

5. The Lord is ready and willing to answer a prayer.

The prayer that brings a repentance person back into the will and purpose of God will be answered every time.

6. Jonah receives the call a second time.

This time however, the wording is different. The first time he was to cry out against the city or their wickedness. This time he was to preach the message God was going to give him. The message was in forty days the city would be overthrown.

7. Result Revival

The whole city turned to God and repented. Incredibly Jonah was angry that they repented because he believed they deserved to be judged. So God goes to great lengths to pacify him. What an incredible God we have!