OLD TESTAMENT · MINOR PROPHETS · BOOK 32 OF 66

Jonah

Salvation is of the LORD (2:9)

4	Jonah	c. 760 B.C.	120,000
Chapters, 48 Verses	Son of Amittai	Under Jeroboam II	In Nineveh (4:11)

STRUCTURE

The Book in Four Parts

Two calls and two responses: Jonah runs (1–2), then obeys (3–4); the heathen sailors and Ninevites turn to God, while the prophet sulks.



Each bar shows that part's share of the 48 verses.

I 1 · 17 verses

Jonah Runs

A storm and a great fish.

II 2 · 10 verses

Jonah Prays

"Salvation is of the LORD."

III 3 · 10 verses

Nineveh Repents

A city turns to God.

IV 4 · 11 verses

God's Compassion

A gourd, a worm and a question.

GOD AT WORK

The LORD Prepared

Four times the book says God "prepared" something. All creation obeys Him, except His prophet.

1 1:17

A Great Fish

To swallow up Jonah

2 4:6

A Gourd

To shadow his head

3 4:7

A Worm

To smite the gourd

4 4:8

An East Wind

Vehement and hot

JONAH 1–2

Down, Down, Down

Running from God, Jonah kept going down, until God brought him up.

1:3

Down to Joppa

To flee from the presence of the LORD

1:3

Down into the Ship

Bound for Tarshish

1:5

Down into the Sides

Fast asleep in the storm

2:6

Down to the Mountains' Roots

"Yet hast Thou brought up my life"

> *"I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and He heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and Thou heardest my voice."*
>
> Jonah 2:2 (KJV)

Nineveh or Tarshish

MAP

Nineveh or Tarshish

God sent Jonah east to Nineveh. Jonah went to Joppa and took a ship west toward Tarshish, as far the other way as he could go. The numbers match the cards below.

JONAH 1–3

Nineveh or Tarshish

Sent east to Nineveh, Jonah fled west by sea

c. 760 B.C. · Places approximate



Jonah's home
Gath-hepher (2 Kings 14:25)

The flight
Joppa, toward Tarshish (1:3)

The call
Nineveh, that great city (1:2)

"Salvation is of the LORD."

JONAH 2:9 (KJV)

Nineveh lay on the Tigris, about 800 km (500 mi) from Israel by land.

BibleStudyForAll.com · Map positions approximate · Scripture from the King James Version

1 2 Kings 14:25

Gath-hepher

Jonah's home. Jonah's home town in Galilee, near later Nazareth.

2 1:3

Joppa

The flight. Jonah "went down to Joppa" and found a ship going to Tarshish.

3 1:2; 3:3

Nineveh

The call. "That great city" of Assyria, "of three days' journey."

JONAH AT A GLANCE · PART 3 OF 4

Nineveh Repents, and Jonah's Heart and God's

JONAH 3

The People of Nineveh Believed God

A short message, and a whole city turned, from the king down to the cattle.

3:4
The Warning
"Yet forty days"

3:5
They Believed
Fasting and sackcloth

3:6–9
The King
Sat in ashes; "Who can tell?"

3:10
God Spared
He saw their works

JONAH 4

Jonah's Heart and God's Heart

The book ends by setting Jonah's small heart beside God's great one.

JONAH	GOD
Angry that Nineveh was spared 4:1	**"A gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger"** 4:2
Pitied a gourd he did not plant 4:10	**Pitied a city of more than sixscore thousand** 4:11
"I do well to be angry, even unto death" 4:9	**"Should not I spare Nineveh, that great city?"** 4:11

JONAH AT A GLANCE · PART 4 OF 4

Christ in Jonah, Key Themes and Key Verse

LOOKING FORWARD

Christ in Jonah

Jesus pointed to Jonah as a sign of His own death and resurrection.

1:17 · MATTHEW 12:40

The Sign of Jonas

Three days and three nights, then raised up: so the Son of man.

MATTHEW 12:41

A Greater Than Jonas

Nineveh repented at Jonah's preaching; "a greater than Jonas is here."

1:12 · JOHN 11:50

One for Many

Jonah was cast out to save the sailors; Christ died for the people.

4:11 · JOHN 3:16

For the World

God's compassion for Nineveh points to His love for all nations.

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

God Is Sovereign

Wind, fish, gourd and worm obey.

1:4, 17; 4:6–8

No Running from God

From the presence of the LORD.

1:3

Prayer

He heard me.

2:2

Salvation

Is of the LORD.

2:9

Second Chances

The word came the second time.

3:1

Repentance

They turned from their evil way.

3:10

God's Mercy

Gracious and merciful.

4:2

Love for Enemies

Should not I spare Nineveh?

4:11

Our Hearts Exposed

Doest thou well to be angry?

4:4, 9

KEY VERSE

"But I will sacrifice unto Thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."

Jonah 2:9 (KJV)