Jonah – Selected Verses

Key Verse – 2:6 “*I went down to the foundations of the mountains; the earth with its bars was around me forever; yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God.”*

Chapter 1 – Jonah Called

1. vs . 1-3 Jonah was called to preach to a Nation he hated, so he tried to run from God.
2. When you are called you have two options. Obedience or Disobedience
   1. 1 Samuel 15:22 “...it is better to obey than to sacrifice.”
   2. Disobedience cause discontent and frustration. It causes stress and anxiety in the highest forms.
3. Times of trouble even the world looks to the heavens.
   1. Everyone looks to something when they are in trouble, but most look to the wrong thing. There is only One God. Isaiah 44:6 “Isaiah 44:6 The LORD is Israel’s king and defender. He is the LORD of Armies. This is what the LORD says: I am the first and the last, and there is no God except me.”
   2. When they hear about the One True God many will reject and become angry. Will want Him as far away as possible. Evidence of this can be seen in the world we live in today. Wherever the Gospel is preached, hatred for the Word seems to follow.

Chapter 2 – Jonah Repents

1. God caused the storm that led to Jonah’s repentance

a. All the things that happen to us in our lives are God’s will

b. God allows things to happen to us, not because He is mean or unmerciful. It is quite the opposite. He allows things to happen to us to get us to be close to Him.

1. God will bring you to a place of repentance if you are truly His.
   1. The world does not repent, they do not see wrong in their lives.
   2. We repent because we know we are sinners.
2. Jonah had to be brought back to life.
   1. Scripture does not say, but the Words of Jesus state in Matthew 12:39-40 “But He answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”
   2. Jonah knew who He had to repent to, and what he was repenting from. He knew he disobeyed but God was bringing him back to obedience.

Chapter 3 Jonah Obeys and Nineveh is Saved

1. When we repent, God makes things happen.
   1. Our one goal is Christians is to get closer to Christ. We do this by constantly obeying His statutes and following His life.
   2. The more we obey the easier it is to be in constant fellowship with Christ. There is nothing in the way then.
2. Nineveh repented from the highest to the lowest and were saved.
   1. Nineveh knew they did wrong and messed with the wrong person.
   2. God is a Just God and will always do Just acts upon those on the earth.
   3. Jonah 3:6-10 The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, 8 but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. 9 Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”

Chapter 4 – Jonah gets Angry, and God has compassion.

1. Jonah wanted Nineveh to burn.
   1. 4:4 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly,[a] and he was angry. 2 And he prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. 3 Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”
   2. Though we are told to be compassionate, sometimes our human emotions get in our way and we become angry.
   3. We say everyone deserves salvation, but do we believe it. Murderers, thieves, rapists…. Etc.
   4. We as American do not understand why such hate for a nation being saved. It is hard for us to fathom hating something this much. But for Israel they hated Nineveh, and the Ninevites truly hated Israel.
2. Jonah put in his place.
   1. Jonah cared more for a plant than human beings.
   2. 4:10 And the Lord said, “You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. 11 And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?”
   3. People put animals and other things in place of God and care more about hurting them than they do disobeying God.

Closing

God is merciful enough to not give us what we deserve. One day all the unjust things in this world will be judged and justified by Christ.

We do not know what ever happened to Jonah, that is not recorded. One thing I can tell you is that God is in control of our lives just like He was in Jonah’s.