

The Teachings of Jonah

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First Edition on 7/27/2025

Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper

4/29/2024

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Jonah 1

Jonah 1:1: "Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,"

- God spoke to Jonah.
- Jonah was a prophet.
- Jonah was the son of Amittai.
- Jonah was male.
- The message that Jonah received was from the Lord. It didn't come from men.

Jonah 1:2: "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me."

- God commanded Jonah to travel to Nineveh and speak against it.
- The city of Nineveh existed during the days of Jonah.
- In the time of Jonah, Nineveh was a great city.
- God told Jonah to prophesy against Nineveh because the city was wicked.
- It's possible for cities to be wicked.
- The wickedness of Nineveh had reached such an extent that God sent Jonah to that city to prophesy against it.
- God cares about the sins of Gentile cities and doesn't overlook them.
- God doesn't reserve His judgment for nations that have a covenant relationship with Him, or nations that believe in Him. Instead He holds each city accountable for its

actions.

Jonah 1:3: "But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD."

- Jonah refused to go to Nineveh and cry against it.
- Jonah disobeyed the Lord.
- Jonah fled from the presence of the Lord and sought to go to a distant land.
- Jonah went to Joppa.
- In the days of Jonah, Joppa was a port city with ships that traveled to distant lands.
- Jonah found a ship in Joppa that was going to Tarshish.
- Jonah paid the fare to travel by ship to Tarshish.
- Jonah boarded a ship to go to Tarshish, instead of obeying the Lord and traveling to Nineveh.
- Jonah thought that if he went to Tarshish instead, he could escape the presence of the Lord and defeat God's plan.

Jonah 1:4: "But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken."

- God sent a great wind into the part of the sea where Jonah's ship was located.
- The great wind that God sent caused the sea to become

very rough.

- The rough sea threatened the safety of the ship that Jonah was on.
- God controls the wind.
- There are times when God uses the wind to accomplish His purposes.
- There are times when God sends storms to accomplish His purposes.
- The storm that God sent against Jonah's ship was very violent.

Jonah 1:5: "Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep."

- The sailors were afraid of the storm.
- The sailors were pagans.
- When the sailors were afraid, they cried out to their false gods for help.
- The false gods of the sailors didn't help them.
- The ship was carrying merchandise.
- When the sailors were afraid, they cast the merchandise overboard.
- The reason the sailors cast the merchandise overboard was to lighten the ship, in order to keep it afloat in the storm.
- When God sent the storm, Jonah was located inside the

ship.

- When God sent the storm, Jonah was asleep below deck.
- The storm didn't wake Jonah up.
- The ship had an interior.
- The merchandise on the ship didn't make it to Tarshish.

Jonah 1:6: "So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not."

- The master of the ship woke Jonah up.
- The master of the ship told Jonah to call upon his God, in hopes that God would save them from this storm.
- The master of the ship was hoping that Jonah's God would save them.
- The master of the ship wanted to use Jonah to talk to Jonah's God.
- The master of the ship believed that only divine intervention could save them.
- The master of the ship believed that if God didn't save them then they would perish.
- The master of the ship wanted Jonah's help.

Jonah 1:7: "And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah."

- The sailors believed that if they cast lots then they could figure out who was responsible for the storm.

- The sailors believed that someone on board was responsible for the storm.
- The sailors didn't believe that the storm was natural. They thought someone had done something to cause it.
- The sailors believed they could cast lots to determine who was to blame for something.
- The sailors believed that casting lots had powers of divination.
- When the sailors cast lots, the lot fell upon Jonah.
- The lots testified that Jonah was responsible for this storm.

Jonah 1:8: "Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou?"

- The sailors asked Jonah to tell them what he had done to cause this storm.
- The sailors asked Jonah what his occupation was.
- The sailors asked Jonah where he was from.
- The sailors asked Jonah what his nationality was.
- The sailors believed the lots and thought that Jonah was responsible for this storm.
- The sailors wanted to understand why this terrible storm had been sent upon them.
- The sailors believed that Jonah knew what was really going on.

Jonah 1:9: "And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land."

- Jonah told the sailors that he was a Hebrew.
- Jonah told the sailors that he feared the God of heaven.
- Jonah told the sailors that his God made the sea.
- Jonah told the sailors that his God made the dry land.

Jonah 1:10: "Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him. Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them."

- When the sailors found out what deity Jonah worshiped, they became extremely afraid.
- The sailors asked Jonah why he had fled from his God.
- Jonah had previously told the sailors that he was fleeing from his God.
- The sailors believed that Jonah's God had caused this storm.
- Jonah didn't hide the fact that he was fleeing from God.
- The sailors didn't doubt that Jonah's God was real or powerful.

Jonah 1:11: "Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous."

- The sailors asked Jonah what they needed to do to calm the sea.

- The sailors believed that Jonah knew what to do to calm the sea.
- The sailors wanted the sea to be calm.
- The sea was very agitated and dangerous.
- The storm was dangerous and was threatening the ship and the lives of the sailors.

Jonah 1:12: "And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you."

- When the sailors asked Jonah what to do, he didn't pray to the Lord. He didn't pray that God would calm the sea, or tell the sailors to turn the ship around so he could get off. Instead he told the sailors to cast him overboard.
- Jonah didn't talk to God to find a way to save the lives of the sailors, or to find a way to go back to shore so he could travel to Nineveh. Instead he told the sailors to cast him overboard.
- Jonah's plan didn't involve prayer, repentance, or obedience. Instead he chose suicide.
- Jonah told the sailors to cast him into the sea.
- Jonah told the sailors that the stormy sea had been sent because of him.
- Jonah told the sailors that they were suffering greatly because of something he had done.
- Jonah was the reason why the sailors had lost all their merchandise.
- Jonah's presence on the ship cost the sailors their

merchandise.

- Jonah told the sailors that if they threw him overboard, the sea would become calm.
- Jonah told the sailors that casting him overboard would save them.

Jonah 1:13: "Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them."

- The sailors didn't want to throw Jonah overboard.
- Even when the sailors knew that the storm was Jonah's fault, they still didn't want to throw him overboard.
- The sailors thought it was wrong to throw Jonah overboard into the stormy sea, where he would surely drown.
- The sailors tried to find a solution that didn't involve killing Jonah.
- The sailors had the ability to row the ship.
- The sailors tried to row to shore.
- The sailors tried to reach land so that no one would have be thrown overboard into the raging sea.
- The sailors were unable to reach land.
- The sea was so stormy and dangerous that the sailors couldn't row to shore.
- The storm fought against the sailors and prevented them from reaching land.
- The sailors tried to save Jonah.

Jonah 1:14: "Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee."

- Before the sailors threw Jonah overboard, they prayed to Jonah's God.
- Jonah didn't pray before he was thrown overboard.
- Jonah made no attempt to pray before he was thrown overboard.
- The sailors prayed that they wouldn't be held responsible for killing Jonah.
- The sailors didn't want to be guilty of shedding innocent blood.
- The sailors were afraid of shedding innocent blood.
- The sailors were afraid that God would be angry with them if they shed innocent blood.
- The sailors were worried about the wrath of God.
- The sailors prayed to Jonah's God and asked Him to spare them, and not kill them along with Jonah.
- The sailors said that God had done as He pleased in this situation.
- When the sailors begged God to spare them, they didn't condemn God for sending the storm.
- Jonah didn't pray that God would save the life of the sailors.

Jonah 1:15: "So they look up Jonah, and cast him forth into

the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging."

- The sailors cast Jonah into the sea.
- When the sailors cast Jonah into the sea, the sea became calm.
- The sailors were saved when they cast Jonah into the sea.
- God granted the prayer of the sailors and saved their lives.
- The sailors weren't killed by the storm.
- God has the power to send storms, and to stop them.

Jonah 1:16: "Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows."

- After God stopped the storm, the sailors greatly feared the Lord.
- After God stopped the storm, the sailors offered a sacrifice to the Lord.
- After God stopped the storm, the sailors made vows.
- The miracle of the storm made a huge impression on the sailors.
- The sailors believed that God was responsible for sending the storm and for stopping it.
- Witnessing the storm changed the lives of the sailors.

Jonah 1:17: "Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights."

- Jonah didn't drown when he was thrown into the sea.

- When Jonah was thrown into the sea, a great fish swallowed him.
- God prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah.
- God didn't allow Jonah to die in the sea.
- Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights'
- God used a fish to rescue Jonah from the sea.
- The great fish that swallowed Jonah had been specifically prepared by God to do that.
- The Bible doesn't identify the fish that swallowed up Jonah. Instead it simply says that it was a fish God had prepared for that task.
- God used a fish to accomplish His purposes.
- There are times when God uses animals to accomplish His purposes.
- God has control over animals.

Jonah 2

Jonah 2:1: "Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,"

- Jonah prayed when he was inside the belly of the fish.
- Jonah was alive when he was inside the fish.
- Jonah only prayed once he had been swallowed by the fish.
- Jonah prayed to the Lord.
- The Lord was still Jonah's God, even though Jonah had

fled from Him and disobeyed Him.

Jonah 2:2: "And said, 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 cried out to the Lord when he was afflicted.
- Jonah compared being in the belly of the fish to being in hell.
- God heard Jonah when he cried out.
- At no point in Jonah's prayer did he repent of his disobedience or ask forgiveness for what he had done.
- At no point in Jonah's prayer did he express remorse for endangering the sailors on the ship.
- Jonah's prayer was entirely about how he was afflicted. He had no sympathy or concern for anyone other than himself.
- The only person Jonah asked God to save and show mercy on was himself.

Jonah 2:3: "For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me."

- Jonah blamed God for casting him into the sea. He took no responsibility for his disobedience in taking a ship to Tarshish, or for the fact that *he* was the one who told the sailors to cast him into the sea.
- In Jonah's prayer he acted like he was an innocent victim who had done nothing wrong, and God came along and

cast him into the sea for no reason. Even when he was inside the fish he refused to repent.

- When Jonah was cast into the sea, he sank beneath the waves.
- Jonah's main concern in his prayer was how he was afflicted, instead of the thing he had done that put him in that position.

Jonah 2:4: "Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple."

- Jonah was the one who fled from the presence of the Lord in an act of disobedience and rebellion, and yet he claimed that when the sailors cast him into the sea they cast him out of God's sight. He took no responsibility for the fact that *he* was the one who chose to flee from the Lord.
- Instead of repenting, Jonah said that he would look toward the holy temple of the Lord.
- The temple was still standing in the days of Jonah.
- Jonah believed that it was important to pray while facing toward the temple in Jerusalem.

Jonah 2:5: "The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head."

- When Jonah was cast into the sea, he sank beneath the waves.
- When Jonah was cast into the sea, he became entangled in seaweed.

- Jonah was very concerned about the fact he had been cast into the sea, but he was *not* concerned about the fact he had disobeyed God and was suffering for that reason.

Jonah 2:6: "I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God."

- When Jonah was cast into the sea, he sank to the bottom.
- When Jonah was cast into the sea, God saved his life. God saved him from drowning in spite of the fact that he never repented.
- Jonah keeps calling God his Lord, and yet he didn't repent of his disobedience.

Jonah 2:7: "When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple."

- Jonah seemed to believe that God lived in the temple in Jerusalem, and that his prayers went to the temple in Jerusalem and God listened to them there.
- Jonah seemed to believe that the temple in Jerusalem was the conduit through which God heard prayers, and that he needed to send his prayers in that direction.
- Jonah seemed to have cried out to God while he was drowning in the sea.
- It apparently didn't occur to Jonah to cry out to God until *after* he had been thrown overboard.

Jonah 2:8: "They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy."

- In Jonah's prayer he doesn't repent of what he had done, or even acknowledge what he had done, but he does find time to condemn idolaters.
- In Jonah's prayer he finds time to condemn other people for their sin, and state that they don't deserve mercy, and yet he never deals with his own sin or the fact that he didn't deserve mercy either.
- Jonah believed that he deserved God's mercy in spite of his unrepentant sin, but other people didn't deserve any mercy at all.
- Jonah sought God's mercy, but he didn't want God to give that same mercy to others.
- Jonah wanted God to save him, but he didn't want God to save others.
- Jonah believed that he was better and more deserving than other people.

Jonah 2:9: "But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."

- At some point in Jonah's past he had made a vow that he hadn't fulfilled.
- Jonah promised to carry out the vow he had made.
- Jonah said that salvation comes from the Lord.
- Jonah promised to sacrifice to the Lord.
- Jonah promised to make a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

- At no point in Jonah's prayer did he say that he would go to Nineveh and do what God had commanded him to do.
- At no point in Jonah's prayer did he ask God to save him from the fish, even though he prayed this prayer while he was inside the fish.

Jonah 2:10: "And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land."

- Even though Jonah didn't pray for God to deliver him out of the fish, God rescued him from the fish anyway.
- Even though Jonah didn't repent of his sin, God rescued him from the fish anyway.
- God used the fish to carry Jonah back to dry land.
- Jonah was vomited out of the fish.
- The fish vomited out Jonah after God spoke to the fish.
- The fish obeyed God (which means it was more obedient than Jonah).
- God can speak to fish and give them commands.
- God can work through fish to accomplish His will.
- Sometimes God speaks to fish.

Jonah 3

Jonah 3:1: "And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying,"

- God spoke to Jonah a second time.
- The command that Jonah received was from the Lord.

- God didn't cast Jonah aside after his disobedience, even though he never repented of it or sought forgiveness. Instead He spoke to Jonah a second time.

Jonah 3:2: "Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee."

- God commanded Jonah to go to Nineveh.
- God commanded Jonah to preach to Nineveh the message that God gave him.
- Jonah's disobedience didn't change God's plan.
- Jonah wasn't able to run away from God. The Lord used a storm and a fish to draw him back to dry land, and then commanded him a second time to do what He had told him to do.
- Jonah's plan to run away from God failed.
- God sent Jonah to Nineveh to preach in spite of Jonah's rebellion, in spite of Jonah's hatred for the Ninevites, and in spite of the fact that Jonah didn't want to see any of them saved.
- Jonah's sinful rebellion and wicked heart didn't stop God from sending him to Nineveh to preach.
- Nineveh was a great city.

Jonah 3:3: "So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey."

- When God commanded Jonah a second time to go to Nineveh, Jonah obeyed.

- In the time of Jonah the city of Nineveh was so large that it took three days to travel from one end of it to the other.
- Nineveh was an exceedingly large city.
- Jonah didn't try to flee from God a second time.
- God was the one who sent Jonah to Nineveh to preach. It was His will for this Jewish prophet to go to Nineveh and preach, even though the Ninevites didn't believe in God and He didn't have a covenant relationship with them.

Jonah 3:4: "And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown."

- Jonah went a day's journey inside the city of Nineveh.
- Jonah preached that in 40 days the city of Nineveh would be destroyed.
- Jonah went inside the city of Nineveh and preached about its judgment and coming destruction. He didn't preach that God loved them and had a wonderful plan for their life.
- God sent Jonah to Nineveh with a message of judgment and destruction (which is the same sort of message that God had sent to Israel and Judah on many occasions).

Jonah 3:5: "So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them."

- When Jonah preached against the city, the people of Nineveh believed God.

- Even though Israel and Judah refused to repent when God sent prophets to them, the people of Nineveh *did* repent.
- The people of Nineveh demonstrated their repentance by proclaiming a fast.
- The people of Nineveh demonstrated their repentance by putting on sackcloth.
- Everyone in the city repented, from the least to the greatest.
- God used the preaching of Jonah to save the city, even though Jonah hated both the city and the people who lived there, and even though Jonah didn't want to be there at all.
- There was once a time when an entire major city repented all at the same time, from the least to the greatest.
- The reason the people of Nineveh repented was because they believed God.

Jonah 3:6: "For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes."

- The city of Nineveh had a king.
- The king of Nineveh was a male.
- The king of Nineveh had a throne in the city.
- The king of Nineveh was in the city of Nineveh when Jonah was there preaching.
- The message of Jonah reached the king of Nineveh.

- When the message of Jonah reached the king, he believed the message and repented.
- The king got up off his throne, took off his robe, put in sackcloth, and sat in ashes. He did these things to demonstrate the sincerity of his repentance.
- The king of Nineveh publicly humbled himself before the Lord.
- The king of Nineveh didn't persecute Jonah for preaching this message (which is what the Israelites did when God sent prophets to them). Instead he believed him and repented.

Jonah 3:7: "And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water:"

- The king of Nineveh issued a city-wide proclamation that both man and animal should fast.
- The proclamation was issued by both the king of Nineveh and his nobles.
- The nobles of Nineveh were in agreement with the king that the city should fast and repent.
- The people were told to not eat any food or drink any water. This applied to both people and animals.
- In the entire history of Israel and Judah, there was never a time when the people repented of their sins and fasted before the Lord when a prophet confronted them about their sin. Yet Nineveh did that immediately the *very first time* God sent a prophet to preach to them.

Jonah 3:8: "But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands."

- The king of Nineveh said that every person should be covered in sackcloth.
- The king of Nineveh said that every animal should be covered in sackcloth.
- The king of Nineveh said that every person should cry out to God with great passion.
- The king of Nineveh said that every person should repent of his sins and stop being evil.
- The king of Nineveh said that every person should stop being violent.
- The king of Nineveh wanted his nation to repent of the evil things they had done, to stop doing evil, and to demonstrate their change of heart through fasting and sackcloth.
- The king of Nineveh wanted his entire nation to humble themselves before God. This included both people and animals.
- Genuine repentance involves not only seeking forgiveness, but also turning away from evil and doing what's right.
- Fasting needs to include genuine repentance, which is seeking forgiveness for sin and turning away from it.

Jonah 3:9: "Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?"

- The people of Nineveh repented of their sins and fasted before the Lord, even though they didn't know if God would spare them.
- The king of Nineveh believed that God was fiercely angry with them.
- The king of Nineveh believed that if God didn't turn away His wrath then they would all die.
- The king of Nineveh was hoping that if they repented and fasted, God would spare them and they wouldn't die.
- God hadn't promised to spare them if they repented, but they repented anyway.
- The king of Nineveh knew that their lives were in the hands of God, and no one could save them from Him. The only way they could be saved is if God had mercy on them and spared them.

Jonah 3:10: "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not."

- God saw that the people of Nineveh had repented of their sins and had stopped being evil and violent.
- God didn't destroy the city of Nineveh.
- The actions of the Ninevites proved that their repentance was genuine. Their works demonstrated their faith.
- When the Ninevites repented, God spared them.
- God spares those who repent.
- In order for a city to be saved it must wholly turn away from the evil things that it's doing, and do the things that

are right in the sight of God.

- God used Jonah to save an entire city – one that was exceedingly large.
- God used Jonah to save more people at one time than anyone else in the Bible, in spite of the fact that Jonah didn't want to be there and didn't want to see those people saved. This proves that God can work through anyone, in spite of the sin that may be in that person's life.
- The sinful rebellion of individuals can't stop God from carrying out His purposes. He can work through both the wicked and the righteous.
- Just because God works through someone in an incredibly mighty way doesn't mean that person is righteous, or has a good heart, or is right with God. The Lord may work through people who have terrible sin and hatred in their heart.
- The magnitude of the work that God does through someone isn't an indication of how righteous that individual is. There were righteous prophets who never saw anyone repent, and there were wicked prophets like Jonah who saw multitudes repent.

Jonah 4

Jonah 4:1: "But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry."

- Jonah was very angry that the Ninevites repented.
- Jonah was very angry that God spared the Ninevites and didn't destroy them.

- When Jonah preached to the Ninevites, he was hoping that they wouldn't repent and they would all die.
- God used Jonah to save the Ninevites in spite of the fact that Jonah hated them and wanted them to die.
- The fact that God used Jonah to save the Ninevites doesn't mean that Jonah was right with God, or that Jonah's heart was in the right place, or that Jonah was righteous.
- God may work through wicked and sinful people in order to do great things for His kingdom and save many souls.
- The fact that God is working through someone to save souls doesn't tell us anything about how righteous that person is.
- The most successful missionary in the Bible hated the people who were saved by his preaching, and wanted them all to die and go to Hell.

Jonah 4:2: "And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil."

- Jonah criticized God for saving the Ninevites.
- The reason Jonah refused to go to Nineveh and tried to flee to Tarshish was because he was afraid the Ninevites would repent and God would save them.
- Jonah hated the fact that God was gracious.
- Jonah hated the fact that God was merciful.
- Jonah hated the fact that God was kind.

- Jonah hated the fact that God saves people who repent.
- Jonah wanted a God who would save him personally, but send the Ninevites to Hell.
- Jonah didn't want a God who would save the Ninevites.
- Jonah criticized God for being merciful, kind, and gracious.
- Jonah wanted a God who didn't give people a chance to be saved, but instead killed them on the spot and sent them straight to Hell.
- Jonah wanted God who was merciful and kind to him personally, but not to others.
- Jonah believed that he deserved the mercy and love of God, but other people didn't.

Jonah 4:3: "Therefore now, O LORD, take, I beseech thee, my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live."

- Jonah was so angry that God saved the Ninevites that he asked God to kill him.
- Jonah said that he would rather be dead than live in a world where the Ninevites had repented of their evil and were doing what was right in God's sight.
- Jonah asked God to kill him.
- Jonah was so outraged that God saved an entire city that he wanted to die.

Jonah 4:4: "Then said the LORD, Doest thou well to be angry?"

- God asked Jonah if it was right for him to be angry over the salvation of the Ninevites.
- Jonah didn't respond to God's question. He didn't repent or express any remorse
- Jonah ignored God's rebuke.

Jonah 4:5: "So Jonah went out of the city, and sat on the east side of the city, and there made him a booth, and sat under it in the shadow, till he might see what would become of the city."

- Instead of going home, Jonah stayed at Nineveh in hopes that God would destroy it and he could watch everyone die.
- Jonah was hoping that even though the Ninevites repented, God would still kill them all anyway.
- Jonah wanted the repentant Ninevites to all be killed.
- Jonah sat on the east side of the city of Nineveh.
- Jonah made a booth and sat in its shade while he watched the city of Nineveh.

Jonah 4:6: "And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd."

- God caused a gourd to grow and give shade to Jonah.
- God greatly accelerated the growth of a plant.
- God has control over plants.
- God can cause plants to grow.

- God sometimes uses plants to accomplish His purposes.
- The sun was causing Jonah grief. The shadow from the booth that he had created was insufficient shade.
- The shade that God provided was better than the shade Jonah made for himself.
- Even though Jonah was miserable in the sun, he still didn't go home. His desire to watch the Ninevites die was too great.
- God used the gourd to give shade to Jonah.
- Jonah wasn't happy that Nineveh repented, but he was very happy about the gourd that gave him shade.
- God didn't kill Jonah on the spot for his hateful attitude, nor did God kill him when he ignored His rebuke. Instead God raised up a gourd and used it as an object lesson.
- God was gracious to Jonah.

Jonah 4:7: "But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered."

- The gourd that gave Jonah shade only lasted for a single day.
- The next day God raised up a worm to eat the gourd.
- The worm ate the gourd and it withered.
- When the gourd withered, it stopped providing Jonah with shade.
- Jonah didn't stop the worm from killing the gourd.
- The worm appeared the next morning.
- God sometimes uses worms to accomplish His purposes.

- God sometimes uses object lessons to teach things to people.
- God has the ability to raise up worms.
- God sometimes sends worms to eat plants and destroy them.
- God destroyed the shade that he had provided for Jonah.
- God gave Jonah shade, and then He took it away.

Jonah 4:8: "And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat upon the head of Jonah, that he fainted, and wished in himself to die, and said, It is better for me to die than to live."

- When the sun arose, God sent an east wind that afflicted Jonah.
- God has the ability to use the wind for His purposes.
- God has control over the wind.
- The sun was hot, and the lack of shade made Jonah miserable.
- The heat of the sun made Jonah weak and miserable.
- When Jonah was made miserable by the sun, he didn't try to seek shade or go home. Instead he said that he wanted to die.
- Jonah wanted to die because a worm ate his gourd and took away his shade.

Jonah 4:9: "And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, even unto death."

- God asked Jonah if it was right for him to be angry that the gourd had withered.
- Jonah said that it was right for him to seek death because he had lost his shade from the sun.
- God used questions to confront Jonah with his sin and make him think about what he had done.
- Jonah thought that shade was worth dying over.
- Jonah didn't show respect to God.

Jonah 4:10: "Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night:"

- God pointed out that Jonah didn't cause the gourd to grow.
- God pointed out that the gourd grew up in a single day.
- God pointed out that the gourd died in a single day.
- God pointed out that Jonah was angry over the loss of the gourd, even though he had done nothing to nurture it and it grew up in a day and perished in a day.
- The only thing that Jonah had pity on in this entire book was a gourd.

Jonah 4:11: "And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more then sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?"

- God pointed out that Jonah had pity on a plant that was there one day and gone the next, and yet he had no pity

at all on the city of Nineveh.

- God pointed out that Jonah was angry at the loss of a plant, but had no pity for the 120,000 people who lived in Nineveh.
- God pointed out that Jonah had pity on a plant but not on people.
- In the days of Jonah there were 120,000 people in Nineveh.
- The people of Nineveh couldn't discern between the right and the left. In other words, they were spiritually blind.
- God had mercy on the city of Nineveh.
- God was concerned about the 120,000 people who lived in Nineveh who were spiritually blind and lost.
- God was concerned about the cattle that lived in Nineveh.
- God wanted to save the people of Nineveh.
- God wanted to save the cattle of Nineveh.
- God pointed out that Jonah was mourning over the loss of a plant, when the loss of an entire city would have been much greater.
- God saved an entire Gentile city.