

Jonah 4

1. Review

1-3

1. We see similarities between chapter 2 and 4
 - a. Ch. 2 Jonah was in the depths of the sea in the belly of this fish. In chapter 4 he is in the depths of his anger.
 - b. Similar vocabulary used in both, "He prayed to Yahweh and said".
2. We see here Jonah is not just angry with God he is completely opposed to God being gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in God.
 - a. Parable of the lost sheep and coin
3. "displeased" is not a great translation. The Hebrew word is "evil". Therefore, God saving Ninevah was not just exceedingly displeasing to Jonah it was evil to him.
4. What is ironic about Jonah being angry at God for his mercy?
5. Justice vs mercy
 - a. When the two come into conflict God's mercy always wins out.
6. What we see then is the theme of Jonah: grace is not earned or deserved, but God lavished it on the undeserving, who receive it through repentance and faith.
 - a. Jonah is like the older brother of the prodigal son.
7. Why did Jonah not want to go to Ninevah?
8. What we see here is Jonah being a saint and sinner.
9. What's Jonah's solution to all of this?
10. Jonah vs Elijah
 - a. Jonah's plea in 4:3 echoes Elijah's plea in 1 Ki 19:4 (first 4 words are the same)
 - b. Yet Elijah willingly ministers outside Israel
 - c. Both rest under a tree
 - d. Who had a better reason to be depressed Jonah or Elijah?
 - e. If Elijah is the most daring, courageous, victorious prophet then Jonah is the antithesis.

4-11

1. How did Jonah respond to God's question?
2. Jonah continues to seek shelter everywhere besides where there is true shelter.
3. Notice the use of verbs especially between chapters three and four:
 - a. The king "sat upon the ash heap" (3:6) but Jonah "sat down east of the city" and "sat underneath".
 - b. The king said, "who knows" (3:9) but Jonah "knew" what God would do.
 - c. God "saw" the Ninevites repented and relented but Jonah waits to "see" what would happen to the city.
4. There are three incidents that God does to try to bring Jonah back from his anger:
 - a. God provided a plant.
 - i. How does Jonah respond to the plant?
 - b. God destroys the plant
 - i. Ironically Jonah hoped judgment would fall on Ninevah, but it is instead him who suffers.
 - c. God sends an east wind
 1. Hosea 13:15
 2. Ezekiel 17:10
 3. Jeremiah 4:11-12
 - d. Jonah's response to the plant fading and all of this is basically "over my dead body".
5. God shifts now not from faith and repentance but to pity.
 - a. "You pity the plant . . . should not I pity Nineveh"
 - b. The Gentile captain, sailors, and king are concerned that people not perish. Jonah, on the other hand, is only concerned about the plant perishing.
6. The end of the book is directed not just at Jonah but at all of us.
 - a. "a Jonah lurks within every Christian's heart, whimpering his insidious message of smug prejudice, empty creedalism, and exclusive solidarity"
 - b. Horace, "Why laugh? Change but the name, and the tale is told of you".
7. We see Jesus talking about his mercy and the reactions we might have
 - a. Parable of the Workers at the Vineyard
 - b. The unmerciful servant
 - c. Pharisee and tax collector