



Rehoboth Reformed Church

Thoroughly Equipped Radio Program Outline

June 9, 2013

Title: What's In A Name? (Jonah 1:1-2)

Main Point. Knowing who you are (your identity) can assist you in understanding your purpose for being in this place at this time. It is part of the context of your life. It is interesting to note that the meaning of the name of Jonah (his identity) provides us with the historical context of the events recorded in the book as well as the overall message of the book.

I. Knowing the context is essential when interacting with others who are engaged in an ongoing conversation. It is extremely hard to understand a story teller's message when you enter in the middle of his or her story. How often do preachers fail to tie their sermon text to the chapter and book where it is found. The old adage holds true, "a text without a context is a pretext."

II. Understanding the historical and cultural context of a historic narrative like the book of Jonah will greatly aid us in our verse by verse study of the book. We will brief examine the historical setting as recorded in 2 Kings 14:23-27.

III. Who was this Jonah Ben-Amittai? His name and his calling as a prophet of the Lord sent both to the covenant people of God (Israel) and their most hated enemies (Assyria) form the background and provide the main message of the book.

Conclusion: God in His marvelous sovereignty, calls His beloved people to serve Him and provides His grace and Spirit to enable them to fulfill their calling. Do you know your calling and are you actively fulfilling it to the glory of God?

Preparations for next Sunday's program: We will continue to study one of the most fascinating books of the Bible that record God's dealing with a rebellious prophet and how He showed His mercy to many who didn't deserve it. Please continue to read through the four chapters in the book of Jonah to understand the overall message of the book.

For further study: On the next page (below), you will find a number of questions and answers that are designed to assist you in understanding the message and purpose of the book of Jonah. We have found that these questions are also very helpful when studying any verse or book of the Bible.

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Special Introduction of the Book of Jonah

Who? From the Lord God through Jonah (“*Dove*”), Ben Amittai (“*Son of my faithfulness*”), prophet from Galilee (1:1; cf. 2 Kings 14:25) to the covenant people of God who lived in Israel.

When & Where? During the reign of king Jeroboam II of Israel (approx. 780-755 B.C.).

What (theocentric): To show that the Lord God is the Creator and Sovereign over all the earth, including the great (storm, sea, fish, sun, & wind) and the small (plant, worm). He is also merciful and compassionate to those who do not deserve it (rebellious covenant people (represented by Jonah) and even Gentiles (represented by the sailors and the people of Nineveh)). “*For I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm* (Jonah 4:2).”

Why (anthrocentric): To exhort God’s people to fulfill their responsibility to love God with all their heart and their neighbor as themselves. This includes sharing the gospel with those who oppose themselves, God’s people, and ultimately God.

How? Through an autobiographical account (historical narrative & poetry).

Theme: Salvation is of the Lord

Key verse: “*Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice to you with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD*” (Jonah 2:8-9).

Outline:

- I. God is merciful to the nations in spite of rebellious servants (1:1-16)
- II. God is merciful to those rebellious servants (1:17-2:10)
- III. God is merciful to the nations through obedient servants (3:1-10)
- IV. God is merciful to correct His obedient servants (4:1-11)

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