

A Tour Through the Divine Library
(Jonah)

I. General Introduction to Jonah

- Title/Author/Date: Jonah, the prophet whose words it records (1:1); 793-758 BC (2 Kings 14:25)
- Canonicity: Never questioned by the Jews; Jonah's faults aren't covered up or explained away; Jesus' view of the prophecy (Matt. 12:40)
- Theme/Purpose: demonstrate God's mercy to the Gentiles
- Structure:
 - I. Jonah's First Commission and Disobedience (chs. 1, 2)
 - II. Jonah's Second Commission and Obedience (chs. 3, 4)

II. General Overview of Jonah

- God pursues His disobedient prophet (ch. 1)
- God rescues His disobedient prophet (ch. 2)
- God uses His obedient prophet (ch. 3)
- God rebukes His sulking prophet (ch. 4)

III. Prominent Themes in Jonah

- The Character of God: Sovereignty Over Creation (1:4, 7, 17; 2:10; 4:6-8); Compassion and Patience (4:2)
- The Mercy of God Toward the Undeserving (the Ninevites; Jonah)
- The Folly of Disobedience

IV. Christ in Jonah

- Jonah is a type of Christ (Matt. 12:40, 41; Luke 11:32); Jonah is a testimonial sign of Christ (Matt. 12:39, 40; 16:4; Luke 11:29, 30)

V. Practical Lessons in Jonah

- 1) Patriotism that yields disobedience to God is patriotism we can do without.
- 2) Spare no pains in the reading and study of the Bible (Prov. 2:3-6).
- 3) God uses even human sin and disobedience to fulfill His saving purposes (Gen. 50:20; Acts 4:27, 28).
- 4) The prophecy of Jonah issues a serious call to repentance and faith in Christ (Matt. 12:41; Luke 11:32; Heb. 1:1, 2).
- 5) The prophecy of Jonah issues a serious call to evangelism.