

JONAH

"A Whale of a Tale or a Tail of a Whale"

Lesson 1 - INTRODUCTION:

Jonah is not about a fish; in fact only ____ verses deal with the fish and the other ____ verses tell us the real message of Jonah's story.

3 ways this book in the Bible can be understood:

1. **Alegory** - a long story with a hidden meaning. Equate each major character to some event of historical significance.

Example:

Story = _____

Jonah = _____

Ninevah = _____

Sea = _____

Ship = _____

Storm = _____

Jonah inside fish = _____

Jonah's deliverance = _____

2. **Parable** - That is, it didn't happen historically rather, it is a cleverly written short story dating to the post exile period.

It is a parable with one main point:

Problem with it as a parable:

3. **Literal Historical** - That is, there really was a man name Jonah who was actually swallowed by a fish. We do know that Jonah was a figure of history.

a. **II Kings 14:25**

b. **With a parable, name not revealed**

c. **Matthew 12:39-41**

Anytime someone says that it doesn't matter whether this book is historical or not, don't believe it. It does matter.

JONAH is the story of Man's Pilgrimage and God's Providence

I. The story of Man's Pilgrimage

A. Chapter 1 - Write across this chapter

B. Chapter 2 - Write across this chapter

C. Chapter 3 - Write across this chapter

D. Chapter 4 - Write across this chapter

II. The story of God's Providence

A. Chapter 1 - Write across this chapter

B. Chapter 2 - Write across this chapter

C. Chapter 3 - Write across this chapter

D. Chapter 4 - Write across this chapter

**The way to Ninevah is the way of REVIVAL.
The way to Tarshish is the way to RUIN.**