

Hebrews 11

JONAH

Hebrews 11:32

Time of the Jonah:	a. <i>The time Jonah preaches to Nineveh is about 759BC</i>
Setting:	b. <i>Jonah precedes Amos and ministers under Israel's most powerful King - Jeroboam the Second</i>
Jonah's account is Found:	c. <i>Jonah 1-4 Matthew 12:39-41 Luke 11:29-32</i>
Other Places Jonah is Mentioned:	d. <i>2 Kings 14:25 The Time we see Jonah was a Prophet 793BC</i>
Strength:	e. <i>Jonah believes in the Powerful Word of God. Jonah fulfils the will of God.</i>
Weakness:	f. <i>Jonah disobeys the mission. Lack of Compassion.</i>
Lessons From Jonah's Life:	g. <i>Jonah learns that you cannot run from God, and obeys the Lord the second time.</i>
Memory Verse:	h. <i>Jonah 3:2-3a</i>

Introduction

Hebrews 11:32 “And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, **and of the prophets:**”

- a. The account of Jonah is well known to many people and is remembered because of the great fish that was prepared for a rebellious prophet.
- b. The story is based upon God demonstrating His mercy upon Israel’s enemies – The Assyrian’s that were in Nineveh. (Nineveh is the capital of Assyria.)
- c. The plan was that God would send His prophet Jonah to preach deliverance from His judgment by the message of repentance. It was a simple message, and, if they obeyed, the people of Nineveh would be spared.
- d. Jonah prophesied during the days when Assyria was threatening the Northern Kingdom, Israel.
 - Jonah was reluctant to warn the Assyrians, fearing that the city would repent and be spared.
 - History tells us that the Assyrians were a cruel and ruthless people.
 - o They would bury their enemies alive
 - o They would skin their enemies alive
 - o They would leave their enemies tied up to pole in sun to die
- e. When we look at the book of Jonah, we not only see God dealing with a wicked nation, but we see God dealing with a man.
 - A man in whom God was refining his faith and helping him to see people as God would see them.
 - Jonah would be used as a witness for God both to the Jews and to the Gentiles.

It has been said, "The book is unique in that it is more concerned with the prophet himself than with his prophecy. The condition of his soul, and God's loving discipline of him, instruct and humble the reader."

In this subject (By Faith Jonah) we will look at four things:

A. The Pronouncement of Faith – Chapter 1

B. The Prayer by Faith – Chapter 2

C. The Preaching by Faith – Chapter 3

D. The Preparation of Faith – Chapter 4

Memory verse: Jonah 3:2-3a “Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. (3) So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD...”

A. The Pronouncement of Faith – Chapter 1

Note: In Chapter one we see Jonah pronounce and make a statement that affirms that he is a man of Faith. A true believer.

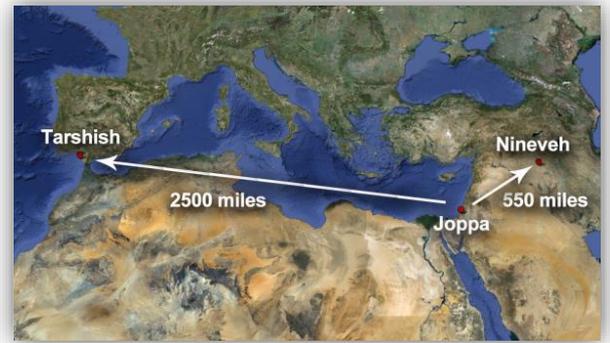
1. Jonah’s Rebellion

Jonah 1:1-3 “Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, (2) Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. (3) But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish...”

- a. Can a man/woman of faith ever disobey the Lord?
 - Are you a person of faith, and have you ever disobeyed the Lord?
 - Hebrews 11 is filled with men and women who had weaknesses, yet still followed the Lord.
 - Living by faith does not mean we will not fall or fail at times.
 - Living by faith means that we lay aside every weight and every sin, and keep our eyes on the Lord. Hebrews 12:1-2.
 - Mark it down. Disobedience will be dealt with... this is a part of living by faith. Romans 1:17.
 - Disobedience to the Lord should never be justified; it is always wrong.
 - Hebrews 12 explains what happens to God’s people when they have a disobedient disposition.

- b. Rebellion is going completely against the Lord.
- Disobeying a direct command.
 - Going in the wrong direction.
 - It is to be self-willed.

Proverbs 14:14 *“The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.”*



2. The Ramifications

Jonah 1:1-3 *“...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.”*

- a. Rebellion against Lord always has a price.
- Notice, Jonah went out from the presence of the Lord.
 - The greatest consequence for rebellion is to be out of the will of God.
 - Jonah paid his way out of the will of God.
 - When things work out for us, it does not necessary mean it is God’s will.

“Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.” – Unknown

- b. God sent a Storm.
- We can try to run from God but we can’t hide from God.

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 can stir-up a storm in our lives just as easy as He can calm a storm.
- Not every storm in our lives is a result of rebellion.

- c. Our Rebellion can cause trouble for others.

- The ship as well as the sailors were in a dangerous place. This was all due to Jonah’s presence on the ship.

Jonah 1:5a *“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...”*

- It is amazing to see the way people react to crises in their life, especially when they are faced with an impossible situation.

d. Our Rebellion can cause trouble in our hearts.

Jonah 1:5b “... But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.”

- Jonah had an “I don’t care attitude”
- To have an “I don’t care attitude” is to be in a very bad state.
- Jonah slept in a place where he hoped no one would see him or disturb him. “Rebellious Christians” like to “hide”.
- Jonah slept when he was in great danger. “Rebellious Christians” are in danger, but don’t know it.

“Jonah was asleep amid all that confusion and noise; and, O Christian man, for you to be indifferent to all that is going on in such a world as this, for you to be negligent of God’s work in such a time as this is just as strange. The devil alone is making noise enough to wake all the Jonahs if they only want to awake . . . All around us there is tumult and storm, yet some professing Christians are able, like Jonah, to go to sleep in the sides of the ship.” (Spurgeon)

e. God sent the Sailors

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.”

- When the sailors realized that their gods didn’t work (By the way they don’t work), they pleaded with Jonah to pray to His God.
- It must have seemed crazy to Jonah that the sailors demanded that he call on his God.
- The reason Jonah was on the ship was to escape from God. It is amazing what God uses to get our attention.

3. The Realization

a. The casting of lots.

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...”

- In the OT and up to the time of Pentecost, the casting of the lot was a way of knowing the will of God. The process of casting lots seems very much a matter of chance, but the LORD overrules to reveal His ways.

Proverbs 16:33 “*The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.*”

- The sailors were so desperate they resorted to casting lots. God is even able to overrule the lot that is cast from the heathen. Be sure the LORD will find you out.
- b. Be sure the LORD will find you out.

Jonah 1:7 “...and the lot fell upon Jonah”

- God will eventually bring to light the hidden things of darkness.
 - Achan was exposed – Joshua 7:1
 - Haman was exposed – Esther 9:14
 - David was exposed – 2 Samuel 12:7
 - Counsels of the hearts will be exposed – 1 Corinthians 4:5

4. Jonah’s Response

Jonah 1:8-9 “*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? Vs 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.*”

- a. The sailors wanted to know the cause of this storm that put them in danger.
- Their lives were in danger.
 - They wanted to know what do to deal with the situation they were in.
- b. Jonah didn’t say “I am a prophet of God”, but rather He said “I fear the LORD”.
- Jonah was not in any way ashamed of being known as a Hebrew, pointing the sailors to the God of the universe. (Sailors would have served dumb idols)
 - Jonah could have been rejecting his office as a prophet.
 - Jonah would have first identified himself to be a ‘God-Fearing’ believer before anything else. (Why not proud in his calling?)
 - How can one say “I fear the Lord” and yet at the same time, disobey the Lord’s command. Good question.
- c. Jonah knew that he was out of the will of God.
- A child of God knows when they are not right with God.

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.*”

Jonah 1:11-12 *“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. (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.”*

- d. God will use anyone or anything to help a believer back into the Lord’s presence.
 - This happened to King David when Nathan the Prophet was sent to him to expose him of his sin. David was not only aware of his backslidden condition, but then he saw his own wickedness.
- e. Jonah’s response could indicate that perhaps he was ready to allow God to deal with him and to come back into His presence.

5. Sailor’s Reaction

Jonah 1:13-14 *“Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them. (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.*

- **Note:** The last thing the sailors wanted to do is depose of a God-Fearing believer.
- The sailors attempted to row to land to spare Jonah’s life.
- The sailors asked for mercy from the LORD, and threw Jonah overboard.

Jonah 1:15-16 *“So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging. (16) Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows.”*

- The sailors were now God-fearing men, and committed themselves to the LORD!

6. Jonah’s Reward

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.”*

- a. As stated, there is always a price to pay when we go our own way.

Galatians 6:7 *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”*

“Down to Joppa, down into the ship, down into the sea, and down into the great fish. Disobedience always leads downward.” Warren Wiersbe

b. A Big Fish.

- This big fish could have been a kind of whale.
- Some say it was a large fish known as the “sea-dog.”
- This big fish was a lifeboat for Jonah.

c. Skeptics doubt the account of Jonah.

- They cannot believe that there is a fish big enough to swallow a human.

- *“There is a story of a whaler named James Bartley, who in 1891 reportedly fell into the sea while harpooning a large sperm whale; when the whale was killed and dissected, he was found in the whale’s stomach, unconscious but alive. While some have argued that the incident was carefully investigated and true, the widow of the ship’s captain denied that it ever happened.”*



d. Jesus confirms the story to be true.

- I have heard once said, “If the Bible said that Jonah swallowed the whale, I would believe it”.

B. The Prayer by Faith – Chapter 2

1. Jonah’s Repentance

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

a. Jonah’s Prayer was a prayer of repentance. Returning to the Lord.

- Some people doubt Jonah’s prayer to be genuine, because of his attitude in chapter 4.
- Did Jonah cry-out just to get out of trouble?
- Some people do use God like a spare-tyre

b. Jonah’s prayer was genuine.

- The Lord heard him.
- The Lord delivered 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.*”

Psalm 51:17 “*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*”

- c. Jonah’s prayer was a prayer of thanksgiving.
- Jonah cried out in the midst of his trial. (While he was still in the fish)

“There is not one word of petition in Jonah's prayer. It consists of thanksgiving (verses 2-6), contrition (verses 7, 8) and rededication (verse 9). It is really a psalm of praise, a "doxology." I know of a man who once sang the Doxology with his head in his empty flour barrel, as an expression of faith that God would send a further supply of flour! But the novelty of singing a doxology with your head—and all the rest of you—inside a great fish in mid-ocean, is absolutely without rival.”

- d. Did Jonah die in the fish’s belly and after three days be raised up?

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.*”

- The “Hell” could possibly be a poetic usage for "the depths," or "the pits."
- “Hell” could be a description of the suffering Jonah experienced.
- There is no indication from Scripture that Jonah died.
- Jesus Christ Himself used the prophet Jonah as a picture of His own death, burial for three days and nights, and His glorious resurrection.
- **Note:** Jonah is not a type of Christ, but rather he is a picture of the resurrection

Matthew 12:40 “*For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.*”

2. Jonah's Realization

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."*

- a. Jonah believed that God would lovingly chasten him.
 - A true child of God will experience the chastening of the Lord.

Hebrews 12:6-13 *"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. (7) If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? (8) But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. (9) Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? (10) For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. (11) Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby. (12) Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; (13) And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed."*

- b. God's loving hand of correction in the life of true believers is to help us return into the presence of God.

Psalm 119:71 *"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes."*

- c. When the heavy hand of God is upon us and afflictions come to us because of our sins, it is important that we acknowledge God's working (Psalm 119:67).

Psalm 119:67 *"Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word."*

"There are several ways Christians may respond to the chastening of God: we may despise it, as Jonah did for three days, and refuse to confess; we may faint and give up; or we may endure God's chastening, confess our sins, and trust Him to work everything out for our good and His glory. To rebel against the hand of God is to ask for trouble. Jonah submitted, prayed, and trusted, and God forgave him."
Warren Wiersbe

- d. A Christian cannot lose their Salvation because of their sonship.

Romans 8:15-17 *"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. (16) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (17) And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."*

- A Christian can lose their joy – Psalm 51:14
- A Christian can lose rewards – 1 Corinthians 3:15
- A Christian can lose their sweet fellowship with God. The Presence of God – Jonah 2:4

3. Jonah's Return

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

- Jonah returned to the Lord, and fixed his eyes on the Lord.

Hebrews 12:1-2 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, (2) Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

4. Jonah's Revival

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.”

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.”

5. Jonah's Remembrance

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 did not only remember his own sinfulness, but he remembered the Lord's goodness.

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

6. Jonah's Rededication

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.”

- Rededication and surrender to the Lord's requires a personal decision.

7. Jonah's Restoration

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

- a. The Creation of God teaches us good lessons on obedience.

Luke 8:25 “*And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.*”

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

- b. I would rather be vomited out of the FISH than out of the FATHER.

Revelation 3:15-17 “*I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. (16) So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. (17) Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*”

C. The Preaching by Faith – Chapter 3

1. Jonah's Opportunity

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

a. Jonah Recommissioned

- Thank God that we serve a God of second chances.
- Peter understood what it means to have another opportunity.
- John Mark understood what it meant to be able to have another chance to serve the Lord.
- Many of God's people in this room can identify with the goodness of God upon their lives.

b. Be Thankful

- Do not take advantage of God's goodness. Remember, what happened to King Saul.

2. Jonah's Orders

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

a. Go = Authority

Matthew 28:18-19 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (19) **Go** ye therefore...”

b. Preach = Avenue

Isaiah 58:1 “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.”

- **Preach** = like a trumpet not a flute (This is required at times)
- One day the when the trumpet will sound it will PREACH twofold (**Arise ye Saints & too late ye Sinner**)

2 Timothy 4:4 “And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

- **Preach** = to herald or proclaim (thus saith the Lord)
- To preach does not mean to be ranting, it means to be declaring.

1 Corinthians 1:21 “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

- **Preach** = God’s Wisdom

Matthew 12:41 “The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.”

- God uses the Preaching of His Word
- Without God’s Word all is vain.
- Plays, Personality, Presentation are not to take the place of the preaching of the Word of God.

c. I bid thee = Acceptably

- We are called to preach God’s message God’s way.
- We have not been called to change the message, or water down the message; we have been called to preach what God bids us to preach.

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

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.”

3. Jonah’s Obedience

- This is where we see the faith of the Prophet Jonah in action.

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.”

a. Swiftly – Arose and went

b. Simply – According to the word of the LORD

- Obeying the LORD is not complicated, but it is simple. We struggle with obedience because it goes against the flesh/our will.

Hebrews 11:4 “By faith Abel offered unto God...”

Hebrews 11:7 “By faith Noah... prepared an ark...”

Hebrews 11:8 “By faith Abraham...obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”

Hebrews 11:24 “By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused...’

c. Simple Message to obey.

- God does not only make it simple for Jonah, but the LORD makes it simple to the unbelievers.

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.”

4. Nineveh's Obedience

Jonah 3:5-10 “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. 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. 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: 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. 9 Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not? 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.”

D. The Preparation of Faith – Chapter 4

1. Jonah's Displeasure

Jonah 4:1-3 “But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.”

- a. Jonah was very angry.
 - Jonah was hoping that Nineveh would not respond and repent.
 - Jonah wanted God to bring judgment upon these people he despised.
 - Jonah was acting like the prodigal son's brother.
- b. Jonah knew the Character of God.
 - Jonah did not have a problem with God, as much as he had problem with God's enemies.
 - Ultimately, in Jonah's eyes, God was too kind and too good.

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 knew that God is so loving that He is willing to save anyone who repents. (2 Peter 3:9)
 - Perhaps Jonah was not a Calvinist after all, in other words, Jonah believed God's grace is not limited.
- c. Jonah's anger turned to bitterness.
 - He wanted to die.
 - It could be that Jonah was afraid of the Assyrians like Elijah was afraid of Jezebel.
 - Suicidal thoughts come when a person has given up and no longer wants to deal with life.

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.”

- d. God challenges Jonah's attitude.

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

- God asks a question to Jonah to help reveal Jonah's heart.
- Jonah had no reason to be angry.
- No one has a right to be angry with God.

2. God's Discipline

a. God Prepares to refine Jonah's faith.

- God prepares and uses various things to teach us important lessons.
- God prepares a gourd (large plant to give shade). Jonah was exceedingly glad.
- God prepares a worm (to destroy the plant). Jonah had no shade.
- God prepares a strong east wind (hot wind blowing from the Arabian desert). Jonah wishes to die.

Jonah 4:5-8 “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. (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. (7) But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered. (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.



b. God asks Jonah a question.

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. (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: (11) And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?*

- **Bottom line**, Jonah, was more concerned for God's plants than for God's people.

Conclusion

- a. God prepares the faith of people by showing them His Holiness and Goodness!
 - Nineveh would be taught about God's divine attributes. God is Holy and God is good.
 - Israel is taught that God's Heart beats for ALL.
 - Jonah is taught that people are more valuable than plants.

- b. Listen, God was working on the FAITH of two Nations - the JEW and the GENTILES.
 - BUT God was working on a MAN, refining His Faith by showing Him more than the Heart of God (Remember, Jonah knew God was all loving and good, and full of grace and mercy).
 - God was showing Jonah his OWN heart.
 - God was showing a man that his OWN heart can hinder his Faith.
 - God's response to Jonah showed him that he did not really know God as well as he thought he did.
 - Don't let your heart hinder your faith.

"...The real work of preparation happened in Jonah. What God really prepared was a person, a prophet. "I would suggest to some of you here who have to bear double trouble that God may be preparing you for double usefulness, or he may be working out of you some unusual form of evil which might not be driven out of you unless his Holy Spirit had used these mysterious methods with you to teach you more fully his mind." (Spurgeon)

Psalm 139:23-24 *"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: (24) And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."*