

=SMALL BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 7

Jonah

I. THE REBELLION. (Jonah 1:1-3)

1. Jonah rebelled against the Word of the Lord. What a tragic sin this is!
2. The word “Jonah” means “dove.” A dove is the symbol of peace in the Bible. You recall the dove brought the message of peace after the flood. God wanted Jonah to be a dove to bring peace between God and men.
3. The word “Amittai” means “true.” It is not enough to preach; we must preach the truth.
4. “Arise, go,” Jonah 1:2a. These are always the first two words in God’s commands to Christians.
5. Nineveh was a huge city. It was probably about the size of the entire Calumet region. Notice Jonah 4:11. There were 120,000 people not old enough to know their right hand from their left hand, so probably the town had between 600,000 and 1,000,000 people.
6. Jonah was to preach against sin. See Jonah 1:2. It is always the job of God’s preachers to cry against wickedness.
7. Jonah fled. Read Jonah 1:3. Notice that when he did, immediately the Scripture says he “went down.” This is always the case. Again, it says in this verse, “...he paid the fare.” Sin always costs something! After he paid the fare, he went down again! Sin keeps bringing us down. Rebellion from God’s will leads toward a downward trail.
8. A stormy life always follows those out of the will of God. See Jonah 1:4.
9. Jonah was fast asleep. Read Jonah 1:5. He was out of the will of God and complacent in his position.
10. The men on the boat were about to perish. Notice Jonah 1:6. That is always the case when a Christian gets out of God’s will; lost people are caused to perish.
11. God had to punish Jonah. Read Jonah 1:15-17. God will do this to His own children. Also notice the “three days and three nights” that Jonah was in the belly of the whale. Compare this with Matthew 12:39, 40. (It might be of some interest to class members that Jesus could not have been crucified on Friday with this kind of arrangement.)

II. THE REPENTANCE.

1. “Then Jonah prayed...” Jonah 2:1a. What a sad thing it is that God has to punish us to lead us to do His will! Once we are punished, it is always good for us to recognize our mistake and pray.
2. Thank God that He is a God of a second chance. Study Jonah 2:10; 3:1. All of us can praise Him for this.
3. The words are still the same—“Arise, go,” Jonah 3:2a. God does not change His mind about His commands.
4. Notice where Jonah was to go—to Nineveh. Read Jonah 3:2b. He had to go right back to where he left the will of God to get back in God’s will.
5. He was to preach. A man called of God to preach will never be happy doing anything else.
6. Notice the haste in which Jonah made the journey. Jonah 3:3 says Nineveh was a “three days’ journey.” Verse 4 says he made it in a day. Brother, he learned his lesson!

III. THE REVIVAL.

1. It was a message of coming judgment. Notice Jonah 3:4b.
2. The people believed God. See Jonah 3:5. Salvation always comes by believing God. Read John 3:15, 16, 36; Acts 16:31.
3. There was revival in the entire city. Read Jonah 3:6-10. This would be compared to the mayor, city councilmen, judges, and all the leaders getting right with God. Would God, America could have a great revival!
4. God is always willing to forgive. Study Jonah 3:10; Isaiah 1:18; I John 1:9.

CONCLUSION: Let us emphasize the importance of staying in the will of God all the time. There is only one safe place in the world for the Christian. There is only one place of success for the Christian. There is only one happy place for the Christian. That is in the center of God’s will!