

A LOOK AT THE BOOK JONAH

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AUTHOR AND DATE

Jonah was from Gath-hepher in Israel.

He served during the reign of Jeroboam II (782-53 B.C.).

He was a contemporary of Hosea and Amos in Israel (N).

He helped regain some of Israel's lost territory by predicting the conquests of Jeroboam II (2 Ki. 14:25)

BACKGROUND

Assyria was causing problems for Israel; to preserve them was to preserve a potential enemy.

God's judgment was coming against Nineveh because of their exaggerated perversion.

God sends His prophet to warn them of the danger, unless they changed their lifestyle.

The result of Jonah's message was the preservation of Nineveh.

Assyria, of which Nineveh was the capital, was the nation later used by God to destroy Israel.

Jonah, as a faithful Israelite, living in a period of increasing nationalism, would not have favored the salvation of Nineveh.

PURPOSE AND THEME

The purpose and theme of Jonah's messages were directed toward Nineveh:

Historical situation: Extreme perversion

Purpose: Call Nineveh to repentance from this extreme perversion.

Message: Nineveh was about to be destroyed by divine judgment.

The book presents God's forgiveness of a pagan people as a result of repentance.

It teaches a practical lesson on the greatness of God's mercy.

He forgives repentant sinners who seek to obey Him.

God's mercy extends to rebellious preachers who repent, as well as to the pagan nations of the world.

God is no respecter of persons. - He seeks *sinners* who turn from their sin to Him.

What lessons does the book teach us?

JONAH

THE GREATNESS OF GOD'S MERCY

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