

**GOSPEL** of *Grace*  
FELLOWSHIP

***Jonah***  
**Jesus Christ,  
Our Resurrection and Life**

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### Themes in the Prophets

- The prophets assert that God has spoken through them.
- The prophets affirm that God chose Israel for covenant relationship.
- The prophets most often report that the majority of Israel has sinned against their God.
- The prophets warn that judgment will eradicate sin.
- The prophets promise that renewal lies beyond the day of punishment.

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### Pronouns in the Prophets

- Unmarked interjections
- Unsignaled transitions in oracles or other passages
- Differences in ancient and modern conventions for pronouns
- Obscurity in a passage beyond simply its pronouns
- An author might be addressing the people as a whole (personified as a single "you")

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### Pronouns in the Prophets

- Who is the "he" in Zechariah 10:11?
- Who is the "us" in Isaiah 41:22?
- Who is the "her" in Micah 7:10?
- Who is the "they" in Ezekiel 30:17?
- Who is the "you" (*singular*) in Isaiah 41:8-10?

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### Meaning of the Name

The name "Jonah" (*Yonah* in Heb.) means "dove," which is ironic considering his hawk-like personality. Jonah was anything but peaceful, gentle, or a symbol of cooperation and peace. Maybe that's a reason God chose him-to give another example in his running menagerie of servants voted *Least Likely to Be Used by God*.

(like the Apostle Paul)

### F-L-I-G-H-T

**F** – The author of the book of Jonah is unknown, but it was probably either someone familiar with the story of Jonah or Jonah himself. The only other OT reference to Jonah is found in 2 Kings 14:25: "*Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet who was from Gath-Hepher,*" a small town near Nazareth.

The book of Jonah was written during the reign of Jeroboam II of Israel, sometime between 793 and 753 BC.

### F-L-I-G-H-T

**L** – Jonah's story is a classic example of what God can do not only through the words of a prophet but also in the life of a prophet. God told Jonah to go and preach to Nineveh, but Jonah was disobedient and fled to Tarshish instead. In spite of his defiance, God directed his path and brought him to repentance in a unique place: the stomach of a fish. In a complete 180-degree turn, Jonah went and preached to the people of Nineveh, who repented of their sins and glorified God.

### F-L-I-G-H-T

- I** – Running from God (1)
- Running to God (2)
- Running with God (3)
- Run-in with God (4)

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**G** – Jesus used Jonah’s adventure in the belly of the fish as a sign of his own burial and resurrection: *“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth”* (Matt. 12:40). Jesus physically died and physically rose again; thus to call the story of Jonah a myth would imply that Christ’s death and resurrection was a myth, too. Within the context of the Bible, a literal interpretation best fits the story of Jonah, given the historical record of Jonah’s existence provided by 2 Kings, the ancient Jewish historian Josephus, and Jesus’ view of the story.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**G** – The book of Jonah also shows the great lengths to which God will go to reach the lost and offer them forgiveness. Despite Jonah’s unwilling and reluctant heart, God still used him to get a message of mercy to an unrepentant people. Hundreds of years later, Jesus Christ would go to even greater lengths to offer salvation to the entire world.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**H** – Jonah lived during the rule of King Jeroboam II (793-753 BC). This was a time of wealth, territorial expansion, and peace for the northern kingdom of Israel. But the nation was rebelling against the Lord, treating its own people poorly and playing with the practices of foreign religions. Because of this, God allowed the Assyrians to conquer and take Israel captive in 722 BC. It was to these very same Assyrians – to their capital city of Nineveh – that God called Jonah to preach the repentance of sin.

**F-L-I-G-H-T**

**T** – **God loves mercy.** Consider any Ninevites that might be in your life – people you would prefer God “dealt with” in swift and forceful fashion. Remember God’s grace and forgiveness toward you when you were still a sinner. **There’s nothing harder to escape than your own comfort zone.** Jonah got upset when God withered the plant that had grown up and provided shelter for him. God used the opportunity to point out just how unjustified and ungodly Jonah’s griping was – God had just shown mercy to an entire city of lost, sinful people, but Jonah cared more about his own comfort.

**F – L – I – G – H – T**

**T** – Exposure to scriptural truth does not guarantee a godly life. Jonah shows us the picture of a man who did not allow Scripture to penetrate and change his heart. He lacked the personal grace to match his intellectual understanding of God’s grace. **God gives second chances (and 2<sup>nd</sup> second chances and 3<sup>rd</sup> second chances, etc.).** Everyone who comes to Christ must realize that they need a second chance and that God is ready and willing to grant it.

**Jonah was swallowed by a...**

[Matt. 12:40]

- For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the **whale's** belly...(KJV)
- For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the **sea monster**...(NASB)
- For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a **huge fish**...(NIV)
- For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the **great fish**...(ESV)

**Comparison of Jonah and Psalms**

Jonah	Psalms
2:3a	69:14
2:3b	42:7
2:4b	18:6
2:5	69:1-2
2:6	42:7-8
2:7	5:7

**Size of Nineveh**

*“great city, to God, a journey of **three days**”*

- The city’s diameter, how long it took to travel through the city?
- “Greater Nineveh,” the entire administrative district of which Nineveh was a part?
- The distance Jonah had to travel to get there?
- The length of Jonah’s preaching tour to make sure the entire population heard the message?