

An Introduction to the Old Testament
Class 16
Prophets 3: Jonah
2025-2026
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I. **Final Quiz: What are 3 things you learned about the Old Testament this year?**

II. **Jonah**

A. Read—Literary Style

1. Author and Date

a. He prophesies during the reign of Jeroboam II (793–753 BC):

He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, which he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher. (2 Kgs 14:25)

b. A confirmation of this is that Nineveh is destroyed in 612 BC. The history fits together well.

2. Repetition. E.g., “Great” and “presence of the LORD” and...?

a. “Great city” (1:2; 3:1, 3; 4:11)

b. “Great wind” (1:4) and “great tempest” (1:12)

c. “Great fear” (1:10, 16)

d. “Great fish” (1:17)

e. “Great” to the least (3:5, 7)

f. “Great evil” (4:1)

g. “Great joy” over his plant (4:6)

3. Structuring Helps Bring Out the Point

a. (1:1–16) LORD’s Command and Jonah’s Response

b. (1:17–2:10) LORD’s Salvation and Jonah’s Response

c. (3) LORD’s Command and Jonah’s Response

d. (4) LORD’s Salvation and Jonah’s Response

4. Fitting theme text:

“But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you;
what I have vowed I will pay.
Salvation belongs to the LORD!” (Jonah 2:9)

B. The Riddle of Jonah

1. There is a riddle in the Old Testament that gets expressed in Jonah: There is the promise of BLESSINGS on the nations that dates back to Abraham (Gen 12:1–3), but there is also a consistent warning in Israel not to be like its neighbors/enemies, not to intermarry with them, and at times to kill them (even including women and children and animals).

2. These two ideas:

BLESSING – Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**” (Gen 12:1–3)

AVOID THEM – “Do not make yourselves unclean by any of these things, for by all these the nations I am driving out before you have become unclean.” (Lev 18:24)

NO MERCY TO THEM – “When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than you, 2 and when the LORD your God gives them over to you, and you defeat them, then **you must devote them to complete destruction. You shall make no covenant with them and show no mercy to them. 3 You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, 4 for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods.** Then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.” (Deut 7:1–4)

LOVE THEM – **Love the sojourner**, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. (Deut 10:19)

3. In Jonah, he is judged for not showing MERCY to Nineveh and instead being emotionally obsessed with his own comfort. He was “exceedingly glad about the plant” (Jonah 4:6).
4. In some ways Jonah is *anticipating* a future day when God’s people will be told to “make disciples of all nations” (Matt 28:19).

C. Reflect—The Gospel in Jonah—Christ Revealed in Jonah

1. Jonah’s use of Exodus 34:6

But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was angry. ² And he prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. ³ Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” (Jonah 4:1–3)

2. Jesus’s use of Jonah

But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For just 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. ⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. (Matt 12:39–41)

An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.” So he left them and departed. (Matt 16:4)

D. Apply

1. Learn Mercy from Jonah
2. Learn Evangelism from Jonah
3. Learn Humility from Jonah

III. Thank you for a great year!