**Jonah**

Midweek Bible Class 2023-24

**Context**

Who wrote Jonah?

When and where was it written?

What’s the purpose of the book?

Some people (if not many) consider the story of Jonah to be a fictional lesson rather than history. Why is it right for us to consider Jonah as a true historical account?

**Chapter 1**

**Jonah Flees the Presence of the Lord (1:1-6)**

What’s the significance of the phrase “the word of the Lord came…”?

Jonah sought to flee from God’s presence. Can such a thing be done?

Why does the Lord cause a storm to arise after Jonah boards the ship?

**Jonah is Thrown into the Sea (1:7-16)**

What was the purpose of casting lots here in Jonah 1?

What was Jonah’s confession concerning the true God? What impact did his confession have on the sailors?

**A Great Fish Swallows Jonah (1:17)**

What’s the significance of the phrase “the Lord appointed…”? (cf. 4:6, 7, 8)

How does Jesus compare Himself to Jonah? (Matthew 12:38-42; 16:1-4; Luke 11:29-32)

**Chapter 2**

**Jonah’s Prayer (2:1-10)**

How has Jonah’s attitude changed now that he’s inside the belly of a fish?

Who is responsible for what happens to Jonah?

Why do you think that Jonah mentions praying to “vain idols?” (see chapter 1)

What parallels can be drawn between Jonah and Jesus in this chapter?

**Chapter 3**

**Jonah Goes to Nineveh (3:1-5)**

Did Jonah learn his lesson? How can we tell?

How did the people of Nineveh respond to Jonah’s message? What’s surprising about their response?

**The People of Nineveh Repent (3:6-10)**

What do the king’s actions suggest about his repentance? Why do you think that the animals also fasted and wore sackcloth?

Jonah 3:10 is sometimes translated “God *repented”* (KJV) instead of “God relented” (ESV). What’s the problem with the translation “God repented?”

**Chapter 4**

**Jonah’s Anger and the Lord’s Compassion (4:1-11)**

Why did Jonah *really* flee from the presence of the Lord in chapter 1?

What was God trying to teach Jonah through the plant? What is God teaching us through it?