

# The Heartbeat of God

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["The Reluctant Missionary" or "The Prophet Who Didn't Want Revival"]

## ➡Jonah 4

Most every child brought up in S.S. knows the story of Jonah, the rebellious prophet. But, Jonah was not always rebellious. In 2 Kings 14:25 we find Jonah was a seasoned and faithful prophet in the northern kingdom during the wicked reign of Jeroboam. What made him so rebellious? In this message we will find the answer.

I want to preach on *THE HEARTBEAT OF GOD—What is God's Heartbeat?*

WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO GOD? How can you know what is most important to God?

- By the actions of many churches today, you might get the idea that the most important thing to God would be governmental issues. I suspect God is not as interested in America as we like to think He is.
- To hear how some preachers preach, you might think the most important thing to God are social sins... dress standards... hair lengths... styles of music.

**How can you tell what is important to someone?** Three ways...

1. **By what they talk about.** Listen to your kids talk— Sports... Cars... Friends... clothes... music... TV shows.

➡What does God talk about? He talks about what is important to Him. Let's see what God talks about in His Word...

- Genesis 12:3—*...in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*
- Exodus 9:16—*...that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.*
- 1 Kings 8:43—*...that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel...*
- 1 Chronicles 16:24—*Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvelous works among all nations.*
- Psalms 67:2—*That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations.*
- Isaiah 49:6—*I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.*

- Isaiah 52:10—*The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.*
- Habakkuk 2:14—*For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*
- Malachi 1:11—*...from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles... saith the LORD of hosts.*
- Matthew 24:14—*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations...*
- Mark 16:15—*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*
- Acts 1:8—*Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*
- Revelation 14:6—*I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.*

➡ Summarize these verses into one word—MISSIONS. From Genesis to Revelation you hear God's heart beating that people around the world might know Who He is and His message of salvation.

## 2. **By how they spend their energy.** By what they do. What is God doing in the Bible?

- Genesis 37, God sent His first missionary, Joseph, into a heathen culture (Egypt—type of the world). Joseph's presence in Egypt transformed that entire land.
- In Jonah, God sends a Jewish missionary to a heathen nation to preach His Word.
- In the N.T. you read, "*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John*" (John 1:6).
- In the Gospels you have Jesus, God's missionary sent from heaven to make a way of salvation for all the world.
- In Acts 13, God is sending out missionaries from the church at Antioch.
- In the tribulation period there are 144,000 Jewish missionaries preaching God's Word to the world.

- What is the Bible about? It is about God sending people into heathen cultures to proclaim His Word!
3. **By how they spend their money**—*"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* What a man does with his treasure will tell you where his heart really is. If you want to know what is important to me, listen to me talk... watch what I do... and see how I spend my money.
- What does God do with His "treasure?" Where God's treasure is, there will His heart be also.
  - John 3:16, *"For God so loved [indicates His heart] the world, that he gave his only begotten Son [His greatest treasure], that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*
  - God's treasure is His Son... God gave His Son to the world, because He loved the world. Since God put His treasure in the world to save the world, that is where His heart is! **God's heartbeat is for the world to be saved by believing on His Son!**

**WHAT IS THE BOOK OF JONAH ALL ABOUT? It is all about the heartbeat of God!**

➡ **What is God's heartbeat?** See 1:2; 3:2; 4:11 — God's heartbeat is for the heathen to hear the Word of God.

- The book of Jonah is not about what Jonah is doing, but about what God is doing. It is about God's intense love and concern for lost heathen who do not know Him.
- In the book of Jonah you see the missionary heart of God contrasted against the anti-missionary heart of man.

Jonah 1 — The PURSUING heart of God

Jonah 2 — The DELIVERING heart of God

Jonah 3 — The MERCIFUL heart of God.

Jonah 4 — The COMPASSIONATE heart of God.

### **I. Jonah 1 — The PURSUING heart of God.**

- A. Jonah's **CALL** (1:1-2). God wanted to spare Nineveh (2 Pet. 3:9). For Nineveh to be saved someone would have to deliver God's message. God called Jonah to deliver His message (1:1-2).

## B. Jonah's CONUNDRUM —

1. Nineveh was the capital of Assyria (present day Iraq). Assyria was the strongest nation on the earth. Assyria eventually defeated Israel and took the northern kingdom into captivity.
  - ➡ Jonah hated these Gentiles. He was filled with bitterness towards them. They were the enemies of the Jews (yet God says to LOVE YOUR ENEMIES).
2. Jonah knew Israel was backsliden. He is afraid if Nineveh repents and get's right with God, that God will use the Assyrians as an instrument of judgment against Israel.

## C. Jonah's CHOICE. God says, "*Arise, go to Nineveh...*" Jonah says, "Nothing doin,' I'm going to Tarshish." He would just a soon let those heathen Gentiles go to hell rather than preach to them.

1. Jonah bought a ticket on a ship to get as far from form God's will as he could.
  - ➡ Jonah could not evade his responsibility to preach by running from God. It is impossible to RUN FROM GOD. Psalms 139:7, "*Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?*"

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I believe it is a mistake to think if we don't obey God to do His will, that He will get someone else to do it. If that is so, why didn't God just get another prophet to go to Nineveh when Jonah fled to Tarshish?

It isn't that God NEEDS us. God doesn't NEED anything. But, the lost world needs us to take them the Gospel.

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2. God sent a great storm. Disobeying God often leads to stormy consequences in your life.
3. 1:5—Jonah is sleeping in the ship (like many Christians).
4. When the mariners find out Jonah is the source of the problem they cast Jonah overboard.
5. 1:17— Jonah finds himself in "Whale University."

## II. Jonah 2— The DELIVERING heart of God.

- A. 2:1— When does Jonah finally repent?
- When he was in the storm? (Many Christians find themselves in a storm of sinful consequences, yet do not repent in their storm).
  - When it was discovered he was the culprit?
  - When he was cast overboard?
  - When he was swallowed by the whale?
  - No, he did not repent until after spending **THREE DAYS** and **THREE NIGHTS** in the whale's belly! [Obviously Jonah was not the sharpest knife in the drawer.] He was extremely stubborn! Perhaps you and I are more like Jonah than we would want to admit.
- B. 2:10— After Jonah repents the whale vomits Jonah on the sea shore.

### III. **Jonah 3— The MERCIFUL heart of God.** (3:1)

- A. God gave Jonah a “second chance!” Jonah reluctantly obeys and preaches God's Word in Nineveh. What happens? The people in Nineveh repent and great revival breaks out!
- B. How did Jonah feel about this revival? (4:1-2)

### IV. **Jonah 4— The COMPASSIONATE heart of God.** (4:3-11).

➡ The reason why Jonah could not enjoy what the Lord was doing was because **JONAH'S HEART WAS NOT GOD'S HEART.**

- A. Jonah's heart was angry (4:1). God's heart is "*slow to anger*" (4:2).
- ➡ Jonah even had the notion he had a right to be angry (4:9).
  - ➡ Jonah was angry because He never saw what God saw (4:5).
    1. Jonah saw the people of Nineveh as his enemies whom he hated. God saw men with eternal souls whom He loved.
    2. Jonah saw his own discomfort. God saw a city of a half million people who needed His message.
    3. Jonah saw the worm that ate his gourd and was angry (4:8-9). God saw men, women, boys and girls repenting in sackcloth and ashes.

B. Jonah's problem was SELF. All Jonah saw was HIMSELF.

1. Jonah's **exceeding angry** (4:1). At what? At the missionary heart of God.
2. Jonah's **exceeding glad** (4:6). About what? At the gourd! The source of his comfort (primitive form of air-conditioner).
3. Show me what makes you mad and what makes you glad, and I'll show you if you have a heart like God's heart.
  - ➡ What upsets you? Is it your own lack of comfort or is it the fact the world is lost and hell bound!

#### SUMMATION: 4:11

- 120,000 innocent children (4:11). **Jonah never saw the children.** God is saying to Jonah, "Jonah, shouldn't I spare this city just for the sake of these kids." No, Jonah is too upset about the worm eating his air-conditioner.
- "*...and also much cattle.*" **What a conclusion to the book!** God cared more about the cows than Jonah cared about the souls of men!

#### DO YOU SEE WHAT GOD SEES?

##### Looking Through His Eyes (by Mike Otto)

Let me see this world, dear Lord, as though, I were looking through your eyes,  
 A world of men who don't want you, Lord, but a world for which you died,  
 Let me kneel with you in the Garden, blur my eyes with tears of agony.  
 For if once, I could see this world the way you see, I just know, I'd serve you  
 more faithfully.

Let me see this world, dear Lord, even though most men mock Thy Holy Name.  
 As they beat You and curse you, and spit upon You, Lord,  
 Help me love them as you love them just the same.  
 Let me stand high above my own petty problems, and see men, hell-bound  
 eternally.

For if once I could see this world the way You see, I just know I'd serve you  
 more faithfully.