

God's Sovereign Grace to Resistant People

"But Jonah ran away from the LORD . . ." (Jonah 1:3a)

INTRO—The book of Jonah is a great story, but it is also a record of historical happenings around 770BC. Jesus referred to Jonah twice (Matthew 12:41 and Luke 11:29-32). The miracle of Jesus' resurrection and His preaching are similar to, but greater than, anything happening in the true story of the prophet named Jonah.

1. The unexpected **blessing** of a word from the LORD (Jeremiah 1:4-5; Hosea 1:1; Micah 1:1; Joel 1:1; etc.)
2. The unexpected assignment to people under judgment
3. The unexpected response of God's prophet (Psalm 139:7-9)
 - I can't think of a single reason to obey
 - So, God must not have a reason
 - Therefore, obedience is **unreasonable**
4. What kind of a God do you want? (see Psalm 135:5-6)
5. **Satan** always provides a 'ship' to avoid obeying God
6. Once you're on the run from God, you go full 180°
 - a. Sent to Ninevah to the NE, Jonah heads **west**
 - b. Sent to a great city, Jonah goes to the world's edge
 - c. Sent on a trip **overland** , Jonah gets on a boat
7. Two ways to avoid doing God's will
 - a. **Willful** ignorance (Romans 1:18-19)
 - b. Strict keeping of the letter of the **law** (Hosea 6:6)

An outline of Jonah showing the literary arrangement as found in *The Prodigal Prophet* by Tim Keller (Viking, 2018)

SCENE 1	SCENE 2
<i>Jonah, the pagans and the sea</i>	<i>Jonah, the pagans, and the city</i>
JONAH AND GOD'S WORD	
1:1 God's Word comes to Jonah	3:1 God's Word comes to Jonah
1:2 The message to be conveyed	3:2 The message to be conveyed
1:3 The response of Jonah	3:3 The response of Jonah
JONAH AND GOD'S WORLD	
1:4 The word of warning	3:4 The word of warning
1:5 The response of the pagans	3:5 The response of the pagans
1:6 The response of the pagan leader	3:6 The response of the pagan leader
1:7ff How the pagans' response was ultimately better than Jonah's	3:7ff How the pagans' response was ultimately better than Jonah's
JONAH AND GOD'S GRACE	
2:1-10 How God taught grace to Jonah through the fish	4:1-10 How God taught grace to Jonah through the plant

Jonah's on the run, but God is one step ahead of him, and you!