

**“JONAH...SO UNLIKE GOD”**  
**AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF JONAH**

**I. CONTEXT**

- A. **The HISTORICITY of Jonah:** This is a true story (2Kings14:25, Matt 12:39-41,16:4, Luke 11:29-32)
  
- B. **ISREAL at the time of Jonah:** Disobedient, on the way to exile
  
- C. **NINEVEH at the time of Jonah:** Wicked, violent, and on the road to judgment (Jonah 1:2, 3:8-10, Nahum)

**II. THE MAN JONAH: So unlike God**

- A. Knows about the Lord, prays, is orthodox in doctrine, (1:9,12, Ch. 2, 4:1-2)
  
- B. Disobedient (1:3)
  
- C. Selfish and unconcerned about others (1:4-6, 12)
  
- D. Reluctantly responds to discipline (3:1-4)
  
- E. Displeased, depressed and angry (Ch. 4)
  
- F. Stubborn (Ch 4)
  
- G. Suicidal (1:4-6, 12, 4:1-4, 4:6-9)
  
- H. Lacks true compassion (4:5, 4:9-11)
  
- I. In the end, he is called: “His servant,” “a prophet” (2Kings 14:25)

**THE MESSAGE OF JONAH: An overview**  
**GOD IS NOT LIKE JONAH (AND ISRAEL), HE IS COMPASSIONATE**

- I. **THE DISOBEDIENT UNCONCERNED PRODIGAL PROPHET IS DISCIPLINED BY GOD (CH 1)**
  - A. **God calls Jonah to preach to the Ninevites, Jonah disobeys and flees (1:1-3)**
  
  - B. **God's responds to Jonah's disobedience with calamity: A great Storm and a big fish (1:4-17)**
    - 1. **Jonahs disobedience and apathy brings collateral damage (1:4-12)**
  
    - 2. **God overrules and brings salvation Phoenician sailors in spite of Jonah(1:13-16)**
  
    - 3. **Man overboard, Jonah goes whale watching (1:17)**
  
- II. **THE LORD DISCIPLINES JONAH THE PRODIGAL PROPHET TO THE POINT OF DEATH, HE PRAYS FROM THE BELLY OF THE FISH AND THE LORD SAVES HIM (Ch 2)**
  
- III. **THE CORRECTED PROPHET TURNS FROM SIN, OBEYS THE LORD, PREACHES AND NINEVEH IS SAVED (CH 3)**
  - A. **God calls Jonah to preach to the Ninevites again, he obeys (3:1-4)**
  
  - B. **The Ninevites Response: Faith and humble repentance (3:5-9)**
  
  - C. **God relents of His wrath (3:10)**
  
- IV. **THE DEPRESSED ANGRY PRAYING PROPHET IS TAUGHT A LESSON: God reveals Jonah's compassion is all out of whack: he is nothing like God, Who is compassionate (Ch 4)**
  - A. **God reveals selfishness leads to anger, as revealed by Jonahs' sinfully selfish prayer (4:1-3)**
  
  - B. **Apart for God's intervention, anger driven by selfishness leads to death (4:3-9)**
  
  - C. **Compassion compared: Jonah's for self, God's for sinful people on the road to judgment (4:10-11)**