

1 

2  Review

- God's plan to draw the nations to Himself was to show Himself faithful to His word.
- To do this He chose a man called Abram who was willing to believe God and obey Him, so that He could be an object (witness) of God's goodness and grace.
- So because of Abram's faith, God made him into a blessed great nation called Israel.
- However, due to their constant unbelief this nation brought dishonor to God's name not glory.

3  Review

- God nevertheless had a backup plan.
- He would call out from Israel (as well as those who have Abraham's faith) a faithful remnant who would through faith in Jesus Christ be for God a "light of revelation" to the nations.
- This witness of God's glory would be accomplished when those who God calls become Jesus' disciples.

4  Review

- However, this means we as God's people must not put the cart in front of the horse.
- We ought not to chase after signs, wonders, and miracles.
- Instead we ought to chase after the God of the signs, wonders, and miracles.
- We need to fight the good fight of faith and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. (1 Timothy 6:11-12)
- If Jesus' words (commands) abide in us, we will abide in Him and produce much fruit, have complete joy, and see answered prayer. (John 15)

5  Jonah & the Whale

- Called by God to go to Nineveh.
- "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."
- But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish.

6  Jonah & the Whale

- On a ship to Tarshish, a storm arises and everyone fears for their lives.
- The sailors find out that Jonah is the source of their troubles and throw him overboard.
- A big fish swallows Jonah and the storm goes away.

7  Jonah & the Whale

- Inside the fish, Jonah prayed this prayer . . .

- “When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, LORD, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. “Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs. But I, with a song of thanksgiving, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. Salvation comes from the LORD.” (Jonah 2:7–9 NIV)
- And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land. (Jonah 2:10 NIV)

8 Jonah & the Whale

- Jonah goes to Nineveh and preaches to the people.
- He proclaimed: “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned.” (Jonah 3:4 NIV)
- The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. (Jonah 3:5 NIV)
- When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened. (Jonah 3:10 NIV)

9 Jonah’s Objection

- But Jonah was greatly displeased and became angry. He prayed to the LORD, “O LORD, is this not what I said when I was still at home? That is why I was so quick to flee to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, O LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.” (Jonah 4:1–3 NIV)
- But the LORD replied, “Have you any right to be angry?” (Jonah 4:4 NIV)

10 The Withered Vine

- Jonah goes out of the city and makes a shelter. God makes a vine grow that gives shade to Jonah that makes him very happy.
- But the next day, a worm eats the vine and the shade is gone and Jonah suffers greatly from the heat.
- “It would be better for me to die than to live.” (Jonah 4:8 NIV)

11 Angry with God

- But God said to Jonah, “Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?” “I do,” he said. “I am angry enough to die.” (Jonah 4:9 NIV)
- But the LORD said, “You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?” (Jonah 4:10–11 NIV)

12 What was Eating Jonah?

- He was upset that Yahweh was a

- Gracious and compassionate God
- Slow to anger
- Abounding in love
- A God who relents from sending calamity

13 What was Eating Jonah?

- Jonah was more interested in . . .
 - Having his own agenda accomplished
 - Seeing his enemies punished
 - His own physical comforts
- Indifferent to the needs of the multitude.

14 The Lesson of Jonah

- Where else in the Old Testament is Jonah mentioned?
- He (Jeroboam son of Jehoash) did evil in the eyes of the LORD and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit. He was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah, in accordance with the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hopher. (2 Kings 14:23–25 NIV)

15 The Lesson of Jonah

- Nineveh responded to God’s rebuke, but Israel didn’t.
- The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here. (Matthew 12:41 NIV)

16 The Lesson of Jonah

- Should I not be concerned about that great city? (Jonah 4:11 NIV)
- Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live? (Ezekiel 18:23 NIV)

17 Questions

- Do we care about our enemies?
- Do we rejoice when good comes to them.
- Do we hold grudges?
- Do we withhold love and prayers to those who offend us?
- Do we complain and grumble against those who resist our agendas?

18 Answers

- But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. . . . Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.(Matthew 5:44–45, 48 NIV)

- But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. (Luke 6:35 NIV)
- Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (Luke 6:36 NIV)
- Mercy triumphs over judgment! (James 2:13 NIV)

19  Final Point