

"THE MAN WHO TRIED TO CORRECT GOD"

(JONAH)

Often God's people feel they alone deserve God's favor and look with distaste upon anyone else God might tend to show favor to. Such was the case of Jonah.

I. THE TIMES:

1. Jonah lived during the days of Jereboam II.
2. It was in days of unparalleled success and luxury that Jonah preached in Israel.
3. The bulk of the people were of the lower class.
4. Israel felt they were exceptional since they were God's chosen people and hated all the rest of the world.

II. THE MAN:

1. Jonah was the son of Amittai and was born near Nazareth.
2. Being a loyal patriot of Israel, Jonah found it very difficult to understand why God would want to save Nineveh.
3. Jonah was not afraid to go preach to Nineveh but felt God was making a mistake.
4. He feared God and yet deliberately refused to obey Him.

III. THE BOOK:

1. The book is about Jonah, rather than by him.
2. Outline:
 - 1: 1 - 3 - Disobedience, running from God.
 - 4 - 16 - Punished.
 - 1:17 - 2:10 - Preserved, running to God.
 - 3:1 - 4 - Preaching, running with God.
 - 3:5 - 10 - Conversion of Nineveh.
 - 4:1 - 11 - Complaints, running ahead of God.

IV. LESSONS OF VALUE:

1. Self-will always leads away from God's will.
2. One will always turn to God in an hour of distress.
3. It is useless to resist the will of God.
4. Every human has a capacity to know God.
5. God knows, loves, and seeks the salvation of every person.
6. Often storms occur when one gets out of God's will.
7. Disobedience on man's part limits what God can do.
8. Anything God asks one to do, must never be taken lightly.
9. It is impossible to escape from God.
10. God would have man love as God Himself loves.