

Lesson 1

The Big Picture

Jonah was a prophet of Israel—not the United Kingdom Israel of Saul, David and Solomon fame, but of the subsequent divided kingdom, with its Israel on the north and Judah on the south. As we'll learn shortly in our study together, Jonah lived during a time that preceded the conquering of Israel by the Assyrians from the north. It was a time of relatively secure peace in the land and even a somewhat golden age for Israel's ten tribes of the north.

During the days of Jonah, Nineveh was the most important city in Assyria and would soon become the capital of the huge Assyrian Empire. But Nineveh was also a very wicked city. As with all of Assyria, her religious practices emphasized the worship of nature, with every object in it assumed to be possessed by its own spirit. The favorite pursuits of Assyrian kings were hunting and warring. Her armies were cruel and ruthless. Their cruelty, according to archaeological studies, included the burning of children, the impaling of victims on stakes, beheadings and the chopping off of hands.

Most people would agree that it's hard to love a people whose lifestyle is exemplified by such outrageous behavior. Jonah was no exception. When God calls him into service, he revolts. His story, then, is a profound illustration of God's mercy and grace AND his desire that no one should be lost but that all should come to repentance. Jonah, on the other hand, has more of an appetite for revenge.

You'll soon discover how relevant the Book of Jonah is to today's living. While we might laugh at much of Jonah's attempts to avoid his calling, we cannot help but eventually make the connection between his pathetic attitudes and our own.

In this first lesson, we look at the book as a whole. We're not after the details at this point; our objective is to get the general idea of what the book is about and what God is wanting us to see in this.

I. HISTORICAL SETTING

1. When we begin any new book-study, the first thing we do is pray. Take a few minutes now and ask God to illumine you in the truths He wants you to learn from this study. Thank Him that He has given us the Holy Spirit by which He leads us into all knowledge and wisdom. Turn the entire study over to Him to mold and shape as He sees fit.

2. After praying for the Holy Spirit's guidance, begin reading through the book in its entirety. In order to glean an accurate view of the big picture of the book, it is important to allow sufficient time to read through the book in one sitting. When you have finished, use the space below to record your first impression of the book. There is no right or wrong answer; at this point in our study, we are after what you *think* about the book.

3. Before we go any further with the book of Jonah, we need first to set the book in its historical times. Look up 2 Kings 14:23-27 and answer the following questions:
 - Who is king of Israel during the period of time the passage is talking about?

 - What does King Jeroboam II do for Israel?

 - How did the king know that he should do this and that he was going to be able to do this?

4. Jonah prophesied in Israel about 50 years before the northern kingdom of Israel was taken captive by the Assyrian King Shalmaneser V in 722 BC. During the days of Jonah's prophesying, Israel enjoyed a period of relative peace and economic prosperity. Read the following references and note what you learn about Israel's spiritual, moral and ethical position during that same period. [Amos prophesied just a few short years after Jonah, so the behavior of the Israelites during Amos' day would be similar to times of Jonah.]
 - 2 Kings 14:23-24—
[NOTE: King Jeroboam, son of Nebat, erected two golden calves, one at Bethel and the other at Dan, for the people of Israel to worship there instead of worshipping God at the temple in Jerusalem.]

 - Amos 2:6-9, 12; 4:1; 5:10-13—

- 2 Kings 17:7-17—
[NOTE: Do not attempt to list all the wrong-doings of Israel; just note your over-all observation as to what she was doing.]

5. As a result of Israel's moral bankruptcy, God will bring just punishment upon her. Read the following references and note what happens to the ten tribes of Israel, also known as the northern kingdom of Israel.

- 2 Kings 17:1-6—

- 2 Kings 17:24-33—

II. TYPE OF LITERATURE

1. The book of Jonah presents us with the interpretive challenge as to whether the book is to be read as an historical narrative or as an allegory/parable. Determining type of literature is an important step in the interpretation process as the literature type largely determines how we handle the context.

Read through Jonah in its entirety one more time and note below any clues you find in the text—either *for* it's being an historical narrative or *against*.

2. Now look up the following references and note what each says about Jonah's story.

- Matthew 12:38-41—
- Matthew 16:4—
- Luke 11:29-32—

3. Looking at your observations in Nos. 1 and 2 above, what is your conclusion as to the type of literature we're dealing with in Jonah? (Circle one)

historical narrative or allegory/parable?

III. AUTHORSHIP

1. Although God is the Author of each of the sixty-six books that make up the Bible, many of the individual books make a direct claim as to who the human penman is. The book of Jonah makes no such claim as to authorship and scholars are not in agreement. Hence, we cannot be dogmatic about our position but we do want to have a reason for any position we choose to take.

One thing we can know for sure: the author is either Jonah or it is not.

- List below all the evidence supporting the theory that Jonah is NOT the author.

- Now list all the reasons you might use for believing Jonah IS the author.

2. The book of Jonah is written in the third person, causing some to believe that the author could not have been Jonah himself. This is not at all

conclusive. There are other books of the Bible in which the author refers to himself in the third person rather than in the first.

- For example, tradition holds that the Apostle John wrote the book of John. Read John 21:7, 20-25 and record how the author refers to himself.
- Tradition also holds that Moses wrote the book of Exodus; Jesus Himself confirms this in Mark 12:26. Read Exodus 3:6 and note whether Moses refers to himself in the 1st or 3rd person. (You might also scan through other sections of Exodus to see how Moses refers to himself there.)

3. Examine the opening line of the book of Jonah and copy it into the space below.

- Compare this with the opening statement in the books of other prophets. Let's use Isaiah as an example. Write the opening line of Isaiah below.
- Read Matthew 3:3. Whom does the author of Matthew say that he is quoting?
- Read Isaiah 40:3. Hence, we see that the New Testament writer is affirming that the author of the quote is the prophet Isaiah and we find that quote in the book of Isaiah. Conclusion?

Thus we see that the wording in the opening line of the book of Jonah is no reason for one to conclude that the author has to be someone other than Jonah himself.

4. In your opinion, who might be in the best position to write about the personal thoughts and feelings that receive so much attention in the book of Jonah?
5. Although we cannot be conclusive about authorship of the book, should we decide to accept Jonah as the author, we are able to date the writing of this book to the time of its historical setting discussed in Roman numeral (I) above.

6. If you have come to any conclusions regarding Author and Date Written, record these in the appropriate area on the chart, “The Big Picture”, found in the Appendix.

IV. THEME OF THE BOOK

1. In determining the theme of the book, we will begin by marking key words in the text. Read through the four chapters of the book and mark the following, each in it’s own distinctive manner. Be sure to include pronouns and synonyms in the same way as the root word. It is best to do this in multiple reads of the book.
 - God, Lord
 - compassion, compassionate
 - relent(s)
 - turn(ed)
 - called out to the Lord (called on the Lord)
2. Look back through the text and examine each time you marked God and the pronouns referring to Him. Using the chart “What I Learn About God,” list everything the book of Jonah tells us about the character of God, His attributes, actions and feelings.
3. Read the entire book again and this time record the theme of the chapter at the top of the first page of each chapter. Be sure to use pencil so that you can revise your titles as necessary. Examine your titles for continuity and logical progression through the book. Transfer these titles to the chart, “The Big Picture.”
4. Considering the content of the book, the key words you marked in question #1 above, and the chapter theme/titles you came up with in question #3, determine what you think the main theme of the book to be. Record this under “Theme” on the chart, “The Big Picture.”

V. PURPOSE FOR WRITING THE BOOK

1. What the author is writing about (i.e., his theme) is related to his purpose in writing the book. In other words, if the author is writing about the habits of the Oklahoma scissor-tail swallow, one would assume he is writing to *tell* you about the scissor-tail swallow because he wants you to know about the scissor-tail.

Sometimes the author’s purpose will be stated in the book for us, but when it is not we can deduce it from the theme. Based on the theme of Jonah you wrote down on the chart, “The Big Picture”, what would you say is the author’s purpose in writing the book?

2. Now record this same purpose on the chart, “The Big Picture.”

VI. BOOK TITLE

1. The title of a book is directly related to the theme of the book. The title should always be based on what the book is about. Take a few minutes to think about the theme as recorded on “The Big Picture” and then translate this into a title (usually no more than 6-8 words in length). Record on the top line of the chart, “The Big Picture.”
2. Record beneath the book title the verse(s) that best supports your choice of title.

VII. ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

1. Before we finish our overview of the book of Jonah, we will create additional lists that will prove helpful in our future weeks of study. Read through the book one more time and take note of every question that is asked in the book. An easy way to make a list of these is simply to label them consecutively with a nice bold number, all in the same color. It is also helpful to draw a circle around each number so that it is more easily identifiable.
2. Read through your list of questions and record any insights you might have.
3. With a different colored pen, now mark all the miracles mentioned in Jonah in the same way you marked the questions—numbering them consecutively, one after the other.
4. **STUDY PRINCIPLE:** You have now compiled three lists from the book of Jonah; and we have gone about recording these in two different ways. As you did in this week’s assignment, you can either number the items of the lists directly in the text or you can create a listing on a separate page.

Lists will play a role in our interpretive process down the road. It’s not necessary to record every single list in a text; that’s where experience in

Bible study comes in. With experience, you will be able to discern which are the important lists and which are not. Until then, it's better to make too many lists than too few. But be careful you don't burn yourself out on lists!

VIII. WRAPPING IT UP

The Overview of a book of the Bible is the first step in the inductive process. When we use inductive reasoning (moving from the particular to the general) to interpret the Bible, we must first establish the over-all framework of the book. This insures that we do not carry the conclusions we draw from the details further than God intended. We're able to establish such boundaries by stepping back and looking at the book as a whole. Our objective is to determine the over-all theme of the book and why it was written in the first place.

This is an extremely important step on the road to accurate interpretation. While we may be tempted to rush through the process or ignore it altogether, taking the time to do this right will reap great benefits in the long haul—AND help insure more accurate interpretation.

LESSON 2

Jonah Chapter 1—Observation

God speaks in many different ways. The delivery may be so subtle at times so as to escape our notice. But if God’s voice were to accost our ears with thunderous sounds, there’s no doubt we’d bolt upright and jump into action to accomplish whatever He commanded us to do. Where we fall short is in our difficulty in hearing Him as He *whispers* our name. Our ears are deafened with worldly things and so His voice doesn’t get through. We’re never aware even that we have heard from Him.

The book of Jonah opens with the voice of God speaking clearly and distinctly to His prophet Jonah and instructing him to go to Nineveh. As expected of one who hears the audible voice of God, Jonah’s response is immediate—just as ours undoubtedly would be. But instead of choosing to obey His Lord, Jonah chooses a different way. In this first chapter of the book of Jonah, we see how Jonah responds to God’s order and how God reacts to Jonah’s response.

As you pray for guidance before beginning your study today, ask God to give you ears to hear and the courage to obey.

I. OBSERVING THE TEXT

1. Once we complete the overview of a book, we are ready to examine the chapters line by line, verse by verse and word by word. Using the Observation WordSheets in the Appendix, read through the text of Jonah Chapter 1 several times and mark the following key words, each with its own distinctive icon or color. Be sure to include all related pronouns and synonyms.

NOTE: Look for one key word with each read of the chapter. In other words, if you have four key words, you will read the chapter four times. This repetitive reading will simplify the task of marking and help you observe details you might otherwise overlook.

- Jonah
 - Nineveh, the city
 - Sailors
 - Fear, become frightened/afraid
2. In the right margin of the Observation WordSheet for Chapter 1, write the first key word *Jonah* as a caption and list below it everything you learn

about Jonah from Chapter 1. Do the same for each of the key words you marked from No. 1 above.

3. Now that you have read Chapter 1 a number of times, re-examine the chapter title you created during the Overview in Lesson 1. Revise this title as needed in light of your new insight into the chapter.
4. Consider each individual paragraph within Chapter 1. Determine what each is about and record this as a theme in the left margin opposite the first word in each paragraph. You may determine the paragraph breaks yourself or use those I have suggested to you below.
 - para. 1—vv.1-3
 - para. 2—vv.4-16
 - para. 3—v.17

When you are satisfied with your paragraph themes, transfer them to the chart “The Big Picture.”

Our objective in titling is to have paragraph themes that flow smoothly into chapter titles and chapter titles that flow smoothly into the book title. The end result is an outline that aids our understanding of the book *before* we begin to interpret.

5. Next, we will look for contrasts and comparisons within the text. Often times, a contrast will be denoted by the use of the words *but*, *however*, or *nevertheless*. A comparison may be signified by the use of the words *as* and *like*. Underline each side of the contrast/comparison and circle the word of contrast/comparison. Then connect the two sides of the contrast/comparison with an arrow drawn between the two.

II. DIGGING DEEPER

1. So far you have completed an overview of the entire book (Lesson 1) and now, an overview of Chapter 1. From here, we’ll explore deeper into the meaning of this first chapter.
2. Re-read 2 Kings 14:25 and compare it with God’s order to Jonah in Jonah 1:2. How are the two similar; how are they different?
3. [Optional] If you have Hebrew/Aramaic word study tools, look up the following words from Jonah Chapter 1 and record their meaning and your insight.

5. How does Jonah describe himself to the sailors? Record the terms below and indicate what each means to you.

a)

b)

6. What is Jonah's solution to the ship crew's problem? Why do you suppose the sailors do not take immediate action on this suggestion?

7. What do you suppose the sailors meant by the following phrases in v.14:

- "Do not put innocent blood on us"— [HINT: Read Jeremiah 26:15.]
- "Thou, O Lord, has done as Thou hast pleased"—

8. Do you believe the pagan sailors became true believers?

a) List reasons for believing they did and/or for believing they did not.

b) Who would you say behaved in the more godly manner—the pagan sailors or God's prophet Jonah?

9. Re-read v.17. Indicate below what God does and then what Jonah does.

a) God—

b) Jonah—

10. Does Jonah's activity here remind you of any other character you read about in the Bible? Who and how?

III. WRAPPING IT UP

The saga of Jonah's captivity in the belly of the great fish continues through the end of Chapter 2. With two chapters, then, of a four-chapter book dedicated to this little story about a man and his fish, it would appear that the main theme of the book must surely come out of this story. The fact is, although Jonah is remembered for little else than the fish story, it is *not* the theme of the book.

As we dig deeper into Jonah in the up-coming weeks, we hope to train our eyes to look beyond this well-known story and let God open the ears of our hearts to the truths He has written on the pages of this book.

In your assignment for next week, you will dig into Jonah Chapter 1 to learn as much as you can before moving on to Chapter 2. In that lesson, we will practice the principle of "letting scripture interpret scripture."

LESSON 3

Jonah Chapter 1—Part 2

Getting to the heart of accurate interpretation is much like peeling back the layers of an onion. As we work through the process step by step, acquiring additional information as we go, God uses what we glean to illumine our hearts to the truth. It requires work on our part, but the rewards are great. Letting God direct us through our study is like sitting at the feet of the Master Himself and learning directly from Him.

In this week's lesson, we are going to let scripture give its commentary on scripture. In other words, we're going to let God tell us what He's saying in the book of Jonah rather than turning to the commentaries of man for amplification. After all, if God is the One who wrote the book, it just stands to reason that He's the One best equipped to interpret it. I cannot think of a single reason why I would want to listen to someone else's opinion rather than His.

I. CASTING LOTS

1. In the first chapter of Jonah we see that while God's prophet Jonah is sleeping in the hold of the ship, the pagan sailors pray to their gods. Then the sailors cast lots to allow the gods to determine who is responsible for the storm that's about to destroy them. Now, if this were the only information you had about casting lots, what would you think about the use of this practice?
2. We find God's evaluation of lot-casting written out for us in the Bible. Read Proverbs 16:33 and record what you learn about God's view towards the casting of lots.
3. The Bible tells us nothing about the actual process of casting lots (how it's done, what objects are used, etc.), but it makes frequent reference to its use. Read the references below and determine what is accomplished by casting lots in each case.
 - Leviticus 16:8-10—

- Numbers 26:55; 33:54; 34:13; 36:2—

 - Judges 20:9—

 - 1 Samuel 10:18-19—

 - 1 Chronicles 24:5; 24:31; 25:8-9; 26:13-4—

 - Acts 1:26—
4. As we look at the references to “casting lots,” the question arises as to the nature of the Urim and Thummin described in the early books of the Bible. Let’s take a look and see what you think. Look up the following references and record the main idea of what the Urim and Thummin are used for. Be sure to include *who* uses the Urim and Thummin.
- Exodus 28:15-30—

 - Numbers 27:18-23—

 - Deuteronomy 33:8—

- 1 Samuel 14:41-45
5. From what you learned reading these references, what connection do you see between “casting lots” and the use of “Urim and Thummin”? Record.
6. The practice of casting lots hits very close to home for Jesus. Read the following accounts and record your insights.
- Psalm 22:18—

 - John 19:23-24 (Matthew 27:25; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34)—
7. The last time casting lots is mentioned in scripture occurs in Acts 1:26. Check the context of this verse and record below the event that immediately follows this final act of lot casting.
8. Why do you suppose the casting of lots fell out of favor following the extraordinary events of Pentecost?

II. FEAR OF GOD

1. In v.5 of Jonah Chapter 1, we are told that the sailors became afraid. Check the context of this verse and answer the following questions:

- a) What does scripture tell us is the reason for the sailors' fear?
 - b) What do the sailors do as a result of their fear?
 - c) Based solely on its use in this passage, what do we see the word "fear" to mean?
2. In v.9 of Chapter 1, Jonah describes himself as one who fears something. Check the context of this verse and answer the following questions:
- a) What is the subject of Jonah's fear?
 - b) What does the word "fear" appear to mean in this passage?
3. In v.10, we are told the men become extremely frightened (this is the same root word used in the first two references that are translated "became afraid" and "fear"). Again, check the context and answer the following questions:
- a) What is the cause for the men's increased fear at this point?
 - b) What does the word appear to mean as it is used here?
4. This same root word for fear is used a final time in v.16. After checking the context for this last use of the word, answer the following:
- a) Who is afraid of whom?
 - b) What is the cause of their fear in this circumstance?
 - c) What other activity is associated with their fear?
 - d) What conclusion do you draw as to the meaning of the word as used in this context?

5. Let's go now to Jesus' teaching about fear in Matthew 10. Begin by checking vv.1-4 to see whom Jesus is addressing. Then read His instructions to them in Matthew 10:16-28.
 - a) According to Jesus in this passage, whom were the disciples NOT to fear? [HINT: Need to look back and determine who the "them" in v.26 refers to and what these people would do to the disciples.]
 - b) According to Jesus, whom are they to fear instead?
 - c) What would be the meaning of "fear" in v.26 and the first half of v.28?
 - d) So what most likely would be the meaning of the same word in the last half of the same verse (v.28)?

III. OLD TESTAMENT SALVATION

1. During the Overview (Lesson 1) of Jonah, we established a possible title for the book as "God's Compassion for the Lost." This theme, we saw, began in the first paragraph of Chapter 1 when God calls Jonah to preach to the people of Nineveh about their wickedness; and it continues through to the last paragraph of Chapter 4 when God questions Jonah, "Shall I not have compassion on Nineveh?" Obviously, God has in mind the idea of saving the people of Nineveh from their sin, and this tells us that God was reaching out to the lost long before Jesus' death on the cross.
2. **Yet**—and this is a very big "yet"—scripture tells us over and over that there is only one way to obtain salvation. What is that one way according to the following references?
 - Acts 4:8-12—
 - John 14:6—

3. Now read Galatians 3:8 and record the message God gives to Abraham there.

4. From what you learned in Galatians 3:8, is there a way for Old Testament saints to go to heaven and still meet the absolute teaching in the New Testament that the only way to the Father is through Jesus Christ? Explain the reason for your answer.

5. Read Hebrews 11:3-31. What is the key word that's repeated over and over in this passage?

6. Now read Hebrews 11:1-2 and write down the definition it gives for the key word noted in vv.3-31.

7. Read also Hebrews 12:1. Record below who the Bible says surrounds us and then indicate who that someone/something refers back to.

8. Read Luke 16:19-31. [Keep in mind that if Jesus is telling this story it is *before* the New Testament plan for salvation was put into effect (which doesn't happen until after Jesus' death and resurrection).] Record any insights you might have from reading the passage.

IV. WRAPPING IT UP

The scriptures tell us that “the Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward [us], not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” [2 Peter 3:9, NASB]

If God does not want anyone to be lost, we can rest assured that He had a plan for the saints of the Old Testament to be saved even though they lived before Jesus’ birth, death, resurrection and ascension. We can also rest assured that such a plan involved having faith in Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God and as the Savior of all mankind.

In whatever way God chooses to do it, we know that God has—and always will—make the way available for everyone to hear about Jesus.

LESSON 4

Jonah Chapter 2—Observation

The second chapter of the book of Jonah is perhaps the most fascinating in all scripture. Leaving behind the narrative action of Chapter 1, we are suddenly thrust into the mind of a rebellious prophet as he pleads with God to help him escape from the bowels of the fish. In these ten verses of Chapter 2, we are privy to the innermost thoughts of a man coming face-to-face with his own death who then lives to tell about it.

It would be easy for anyone to look at these verses and say “Impossible! No one could survive for three days in the belly of a fish.” And that’s exactly what many would have us believe. However, we’ve already examined Jesus’ evaluation of the events of Jonah (Lesson 1), and we know that what happens in the book of Jonah is historical fact and not just symbolic representation or mythological story telling. That means we must look at the musings of Jonah in Chapter 2 and the descriptions he gives in the same literal light as we have the other chapters of the book.

Our objective this week is to learn all we can about Jonah and the manner in which he faces death.

I. OBSERVING THE TEXT

1. Read through Chapter 2 at least twice before beginning this study. Then in the space below, record the subject and verb of the entire chapter. [HINT: These are found in v.1]
2. What descriptive phrase is also used in v.1 that tells you where Jonah is as he prays?
3. So! Chapter 2 is the prayer of Jonah while he’s trapped in the belly of a fish. Re-read the chapter and mark the following key words, each in its own distinctive way:
 - Jonah and related pronouns
 - Pray/prayer
 - All phrases and words that indicate *where* Jonah is as the action takes place [We know Jonah is in the fish *as he prays*; but where is he as the action he talks about takes place?]
 - God (if not already marked from Lesson 1)

4. On a separate sheet of paper, make a list of all the phrases that tell us where Jonah is as the events he prays about take place. [You marked these in #3 above. Now list them.]

Compare the items in this list with what v.1 tells us about where Jonah is when he prays. Note your observations below.

5. Mark every contrast and comparison you find in the chapter using an underline for each component and connecting the two with an arrow. [For more information on marking contrasts and comparisons, see page 10, question #5, in Lesson 2.]
6. There is only one paragraph in Chapter 2. Even though the paragraph coincides with the chapter itself, record a *paragraph* theme in the left margin opposite the first word of the chapter. [The chapter title gives the most general idea of what is going on; the paragraph title is a little more specific.] By using both a chapter title and a paragraph title, we are able to relay more information about what the chapter is about.

II. DIGGING DEEPER

1. The events of Chapter 2 provide a contrast to the events of Chapter 1. Go back and read Jonah Chapter 1 again. When you have finished, answer the following:
 - a) When God commands Jonah to go to Nineveh, what does Jonah do?

 - b) When the storm comes up, the sailors cry out to their gods. What does Jonah do?

 - c) How would you describe Jonah's behavior in Chapter 1?

2. Indicate below the action Jonah takes in Chapter 2 that contrasts with the following actions of Chapter 1:

- a) running from God—

 - b) sleeping while the sailors pray—

 - c) rebelling against God's authority—
3. [Optional] If you have Hebrew/Aramaic word study tools, look up the following words from Chapter 2 and record their meaning and your insight.
- Stomach, belly (v.1)

 - Sheol, hell (v.2)

 - Expel/expelled, cast out (v.4)

 - Pit, corruption (v.6)

 - Salvation (v.9)

- The great deep (v.5b)
4. What evidence do we have of Jonah's faith as revealed in v.9? What does Jonah promise God that he will do once saved?

 5. Read the chapter again carefully and see if you can determine a "pivotal" statement that Jonah makes within the text. Record.

III. WRAPPING IT UP

Jonah knew the Lord. Although he turned his back and ran when God asked him to do something he didn't want to do, when calamity rose up against him, Jonah remembered God. When he could no longer save himself, he knew God could. And he turned back to the One from Whom he had fled in the first place.

In his first letter to the church at Thessalonica, the apostle Paul writes this: "...in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." [1 Thess 5:18, NASB] "In *everything*," God says to us through His servant Paul. That includes the bad things—not just the good. No matter the circumstances, God is telling us, we are to give thanks unto Him—even *while* it is taking place.

We observe this in Jonah. Even before God delivered him from the depths of his suffering, Jonah was giving thanks to his Lord. Such was the act of a repentant man who chose to stand on his faith rather than give in to his fear of the unknown.

LESSON 5

Jonah Chapter 2—Part 2

In our study last week, we observed the overall context of Jonah Chapter 2 and dug a little deeper into the text in order to draw a few conclusions about what God is wanting us to know here. Now we're ready to peel back additional layers and let scripture interpret the scriptures for us. We may be surprised on this one—if we're able to divorce ourselves from our vain preconceptions and open our hearts to hear directly from the mouth of God.

Near the end of His ministry on earth, Jesus explained that it was to our advantage He went away; because if he went, the Father would send the Counselor who would teach us all things. Because of the nature of our study this week, it's imperative we lean on the teaching of that Counselor, the Holy Spirit, rather than our own understanding. Jonah's story has been told over and over; few of us have missed hearing at least the children's version of the story. That means we've picked up a lot of commentary along the way. Since we do not want to rely on man's interpretation but on God's, we must now lay that commentary aside and listen directly to God.

As you pray before beginning your study today, ask God to help you see this chapter with fresh and unbiased eyes, to clear your mind of anything you think you believe regarding the chapter. God promises to lead you in the truth; let's give Him the opportunity to do so.

I. WHAT IS "SHEOL"?

1. You looked up the definition of the word "Sheol" in the last lesson. Copy the essence of that definition in the space below so that you have it before you in this week's study:
2. From just this definition alone, do you see the people in Sheol as being alive or dead?
3. We learn a lot about a word by how it is used elsewhere in scripture. Look up the following references and note what you learn about the meaning of the word "Sheol" from each.

- Genesis 44:29, 31 (To establish context, read vv.16-34)—

 - Numbers 16:30-33 (To establish context, read vv.25-34)—

 - Job 7:7-10—

 - Job 33:18—

 - Psalm 16:8-11; Acts 2:22-28—

 - Isaiah 14:11—
4. Record any conclusions you can draw about Sheol after reading the scriptures in #3 above.
5. Some commentators tell us that a reference to going into Sheol does not necessarily mean a person is actually dead (as it appears to do in the passages above). These commentators contend that the word “Sheol” sometimes has a hyperbolic meaning and actually refers to a near-death experience. We see that meaning of “Sheol” in the scriptures listed below.

Look up the following references and note how the word “Sheol” is used in each:

- Psalm 30:3—

- Psalm 86:13—

6. Clearly we’re going to have to look at more than just definition and cross-references if we are to have an accurate understanding of the use of this word in Jonah. We’ll tackle that a little later on after we’ve explored another point.

II. WHAT IS “THE PIT”?

1. Jonah reminds God in his prayer that God brought his (Jonah’s) life up from the pit. To understand what this statement is telling us, we must first know what the reference to “pit” means. Look up the word in an English dictionary and record your insights.

2. Read through Job 33:18-30 (on the WordSheet located in the Appendix) and mark each reference to “the pit” with its own distinctive icon, highlight or underline.

When you have finished marking “the pit,” go back and note in each occurrence what “the pit” is being compared to or contrasted with. Use one color for contrast and another one for comparison.

3. Now read Revelation 9:1-11. The WordSheet for this is located in the Appendix. As you read, mark all references to the pit/bottomless pit (use the same distinctive icon, highlight, or underline you used for “the pit” in Job 33. After marking these, answer the following questions:

- a) What comes out of the smoke rising up out of the pit?
 - b) What instructions are given to the locusts?
 - c) How severe will the torment be that the locusts inflict upon the people?
 - d) How are the locusts described?
 - e) Based on what you learn about “the pit” in this passage, what kind of place would you consider it to be?
4. Is there anything at all in the Revelation 9 passage that would lead you to believe that “the pit” was in any way good?

III. WAS JONAH ALIVE OR DEAD WHILE IN THE FISH?

1. When presented with more than one way a word or phrase can be interpreted, context is king. In other words, we look at the environment in which the particular word/phrase resides and consider the impact that the environment has on the meaning. Read through Jonah Chapter 2; highlight or underline every phrase that seems to indicate whether Jonah is alive, dying, or dead.
2. For your convenience the phrases to mark have been listed below. Beside each phrase, indicate whether you see it as showing Jonah as alive, as dying, or as dead during the events he is describing in his prayer.
 - “from the depth of Sheol”—
 - “expelled from Thy sight”—

- “to the point of death”—
 - “weeds wrapped around my head”—
 - “descended to the roots of the mountains”—
 - the bars of earth were “around me forever”—
 - “Thou has brought up my life from the pit”—
 - “While I was fainting away”—
3. Now that you’ve come this far in your study, let’s look back at a verse you read in Lesson 1. Look up Matthew 12:38-41 and take note of the relationship between Jonah’s experience and Jesus’. Record your findings below.
4. What conclusions can you draw at this point, if any?

IV. OLD TESTAMENT, PRE-CHRIST RESURRECTIONS

1. One of the obstacles students of the Bible encounter when looking at Jonah’s story as a “death and resurrection” experience is found in Colossians 1:18. Look up this verse and record below what it tells us about Jesus’ resurrection.
2. People who see the Colossians 1:18 verse as saying that Jesus is the first of all people to be resurrected cannot allow Jonah Chapter 2 to refer to the drowning and subsequent resurrection of Jonah. For them, if Jonah were resurrected then Jesus would not be the “first,” so they will interpret Jonah Chapter 2 as Jonah’s being alive in the belly of the fish for three days. Read the following scriptures and note below what happens in each.

- 1 Kings 17:22—

- 2 Kings 4:34-35—

- 2 Kings 13:20-21—

- Luke 7:14-15—

- Luke 8:52-56—

- John 11—

3. What conclusion do you draw from the above references?

4. [Optional] If you have Greek word-study tools, look up the word translated “first-born” in Colossians 1:18. Record your findings below.

V. WRAPPING IT UP

You have covered a lot of difficult material this week. And at this point, you may not be able to see where all this is taking us. Don't be discouraged. As you worked through your assignment this week, you were laying the groundwork for the fruitful

discussion to follow in our group time together. The pieces will start to come together as The Counselor guides us in all truth and teaches us all things. Be sure you make it to class this week in order to benefit from the teaching He has for you personally.

The relationship between Jonah and Christ is an important one. We know this is true because Jesus Himself draws our attention to that relationship. We don't want to minimize it, or overlook any of what Jesus wants us to know here. We must keep our minds open to His teaching. And with Him as our teacher, we're in good shape.

LESSON 6

Jonah Chapter 3—Observation

God spoke to Jonah; Jonah didn't like what he heard; he ran. God pursued him. Now be honest with yourself: isn't that exactly what all of us want? As children, we would rebel against our parents, but all the while what we really wanted was for our parents to show us a little attention.

Well, Jonah got his attention from the Father and with that attention came a complete change of attitude. He remembered God, scripture tells us, and knew that it was from God that salvation came. He cried out to God. Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.

We hope by this point that Jonah has learned his lesson. As we go through this lesson, we will look at how Jonah reacts to the "second chance" he is given by God.

I. OBSERVING THE TEXT

1. Read through Jonah Chapter 3 at least twice before beginning the study. Then go back and read Chapter 1 again. How are Chapter 3 and Chapter 1 similar? What is the main difference between the two?
2. Re-read Chapter 3 and this time mark each key word with its own distinctive icon, highlight or underline. Be sure to include all synonyms and related pronouns.
 - Jonah
 - Nineveh
 - the people of Nineveh
 - proclaim/cry/cried out [Mark in the same way you marked "called out" and "called on" in Lesson 1 (the overview).]
 - sackcloth
3. After marking these key words, determine the theme for each of the chapter's paragraphs. You may either segment the text into paragraphs yourself or use the paragraph breaks suggested below.
 - para. 1—vv.1-3a

- para. 2—vv.3b-10

When you are satisfied with the wording of your paragraph themes, transfer them to the chart “The Big Picture.” Check for a smooth flow of thought from paragraph theme to chapter title to book title.

4. Mark any contrasts or comparisons according to the directions given on page 10, question #5 in Lesson 2.

II. DIGGING DEEPER

1. Both in Chapter 1 and again in Chapter 2, God calls upon Jonah to go to Nineveh. In Chapter 1, He tells Jonah to “cry out” against the city and her wickedness. In Chapter 2, God tells him to “proclaim” to the city the proclamation He (God) will give him. The Hebrew word in both instances is the same—*qara* (kaw-rah’).

[Optional] If you have Hebrew word-study tools, look up the definition for the word *qara* (3:2) and note your findings in the space below.

2. The word *qara* is translated several different ways in the book of Jonah. Check the following references in which the word *qara* is used and record what the word seems to mean in each instance.

- Jonah 1:2—
- Jonah 1:6—
- Jonah 1:14—
- Jonah 2:1b—
- Jonah 3:2—
- Jonah 3:4—

- Jonah 3:8—
3. Now re-read Jonah 3:2 in light of your amplified understanding of what the word *qara* means. What do you see?

 4. Look back in Jonah Chapter 1 and note how God describes Nineveh in that chapter. Adding that to what you learn about the city in Chapter 3, list everything you know about Nineveh.

 5. Without consulting a commentary or looking at the footnotes at the bottom of the page in your Bible, what does it mean to you that Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, “a three days’ walk”? [HINT: Let the scripture say what the scripture says and describe “a three days’ walk.”]

 6. [Optional] If you have Hebrew word-study tools, look up the following words and record your findings.
 - relent(ed), repent (vv.9-10)

 - proclaim/call on/cried out, preach (vv.2, 4, 8)

 - proclamation, preaching (v.2)

- proclamation, proclaimed (in v.7)

- turn(ed) (vv.8, 9, 10)

7. Using the words exactly as they are written in scripture, record the proclamation God gave Jonah to tell the people of Nineveh.
8. The original language literally reads: “Yet forty days Nineveh overthrown.” Do you think these five words are all Jonah said when he proclaimed God’s proclamation to the Ninevites and that resulted in their repentance? Explain your answer.

Read Luke 11:30 and think about what Jonah must have done in order to be considered a “sign” to the Ninevites. How does your supposition here impact what you said in the first part of this question above?

We are not through with this question just yet. The jury is still out until we’ve gathered all the facts from the entire counsel of God’s word. We’ll take another stab at this question in the weeks to come.

9. What are the four steps outlined in the proclamation by the King of Nineveh?
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)

10. What is the King of Nineveh hoping will happen as a result of these four steps taken by the people of Nineveh?

III. WRAPPING IT UP

We are not always guaranteed a second chance in life. When we do get one, we need to make the most of it. God gave Jonah a second chance to obey as Jonah should have done in the first place. This time, Jonah listened and did what God asked him to do.

We cannot be sure at this point in our study whether Jonah's heart was in what he was doing or not—was he just going through the motion of saying the words or did he give his personal testimony about how God had saved him from the dead. That's something we'll want to watch for in the weeks to come.

In other words, as God teaches we must listen.

3. Hopefully you incorporated the word “believe” somewhere in your answer to #2 above. In Jonah 3:5 God says “...the people of Nineveh *believed*” (emphasis added). What do you think the word “believe” means in this context?

[Optional] If you have Hebrew word-study tools, look up the word translated “believe” in v.5 and write down its definition.

4. What does the king of Nineveh do upon hearing the word about what’s going on in his kingdom?
5. In Lesson 1, you looked up the word translated cry against, call(ed) on. Refresh your memory as to your findings there and then plug that understanding into Jonah 3:8. What is the king of Nineveh asking his people to do?
6. What is your opinion as to what has happened to the people of Nineveh and their king?

7. What does God do in response to Nineveh's actions?

8. What encouragement does this give you?

III. WHOSE IDEA IS IT, ANY WAY?

1. According to the creation story in Genesis Chapter 1, God fashioned man and woman in His image. That would mean that these human creatures were holy just as God is holy; they were without blemish in any way. However, along came Genesis Chapter 3. In Genesis 3:1-13 man and woman chose to do as they pleased rather than as God commanded. This act of rebellion was mankind's introduction to sin; and with the advent of sin came alienation from God.

Because God created mankind to fellowship with Him, He did not choose to let this alienation continue forever. In the second half of Genesis Chapter 3 God shares with us His plan for redemption of mankind. Read Genesis 3:8-19 and answer the following:

- After the man and woman became aware of their nakedness, what does God do?

 - After the man and woman hid from God, what does He do?

 - In vv.14-19 God presents His solution to the sin problem. Who does He address first and what does God say will happen to him? [If you do not understand this section, don't be concerned about it; we will cover this in class.]
2. From what you've read in Genesis, who would you say initiated the redemptive process?

3. Look up the following references and note what you learn about reaching the lost according to each. Keep in mind that calamity is often used in order to reach people. [HINT: What we want to see is Who initiates the reaching out?]:
- Genesis 12:1-3—

 - Genesis 22:16-18—

 - Exodus 3:1-16—

 - 1 Samuel 13:11-14; 1 Samuel 16:1-7; Acts 13:22—

 - Isaiah 6:1-8—

 - Jeremiah 1:2-10, 17—

 - Luke 4:16-20—
4. In the book of Jonah (as spelled out in Chapters 1 and 3) we have the picture of a wicked nation being offered the opportunity to be reconciled with God. Re-read Jonah 1:1-2 and Jonah 3:1-2. Who initiated the redemptive process as far as Nineveh is concerned?

5. Read Matthew 28:16-20 and Acts 1:8. What would you say Jesus is calling you to do? Will you respond as Moses did or as Isaiah?

IV. WRAPPING IT UP

God is not slow as some think of slowness. He is patient with us. He does not want anyone to be lost, but He wants everyone to be saved.

—2 Peter 3:9

LESSON 8

Jonah Chapter 4—Observation

God was determined to get Jonah to Nineveh in order that Jonah might tell the Ninevites about the one true God. When Jonah refused to comply, God rode Jonah's case and convinced him through supernatural happenings that obeying God was the very best approach for him to take.

So Jonah went to Nineveh—perhaps still a bit reluctant, but he went nonetheless. He proclaims the message God gives him to proclaim—maybe not with a whole lot of zeal, but he proclaims and the people listen. They turn from their wicked ways and God changes His mind about the calamity He had promised to bring on them.

Anyone with the gift of evangelism will tell you at this point that this is the response you are working for; this is what it's all about! When people come to know the Lord, it's a time of great rejoicing—on earth as well as in heaven!

I. OBSERVING THE TEXT

1. Using your Observation WordSheets for the book of Jonah that are located in the Appendix, read through Jonah Chapter 4 several times. As you read, mark the following key words:
 - Jonah and related pronouns
 - Nineveh, the city
 - pray, prayer
 - plant
 - angry
 - appointed (mark also in 1:17)
 - anything to do with Jonah's attitude towards death
2. After marking these key words, determine the theme for each of the chapter's paragraphs. You may either segment the text into paragraphs yourself or use the paragraph breaks suggested below.
 - para. 1—vv.1-3
 - para. 2—vv.4-11

When you are satisfied with the wording of your paragraph themes, transfer them to the chart "The Big Picture." Check for a smooth flow of thought from paragraph

4. What does Jonah do with his anger according to v.1?
5. What appears to be the reason for Jonah's anger?
 - a) in the first part of the chapter?
 - b) in the second part of the chapter?

What possible reason might a person have for becoming angry about someone's coming to know God?

6. Twice God asks Jonah the same question in regards to his anger. What is that question and what is it in regards to each time God asks?
 - a) v.4—
 - b) v.9—
7. [Optional] If you have access to Hebrew word-study tools, look up the following words and record your findings.
 - compassionate, merciful/pity/spare (vv.2, 10, 11)

- plant, gourd (vv.6, 7, 9, 10)

 - appointed, prepared (vv.6, 7-8 and 1:17)

 - angry (vv.1, 9)
8. At this point in our study, we are now in a position to look a little further into the attitude of Jonah's heart as he goes to Nineveh to proclaim the message God gave him to proclaim. The question we need to answer is "Was Jonah's heart in what he was doing or was he just being obedient to God?" Based on what you've read here in Jonah Chapter 4, how would you answer this question?

Compare your answer here with what you wrote in Lesson 6, question #8 and record any insights you might have.

9. What does Jonah do in his anger according to v.5?

10. God “prepares” three things for Jonah in this chapter, just as he prepared one thing for him in Chapter 1. List below all four things that God prepares for Jonah.

a)

b)

c)

d)

11. Take a stab at explaining God’s reasoning in vv.9-11 in your own words and record it below.

III. WRAPPING IT UP

God’s world is so much bigger than ours and His love so much greater than our hate. Yet He chooses to work through us—in spite of our frailties—to reach the lost in the farthest corners of His world.

Too many of us unfortunately are like Jonah. We try to run from that responsibility by coming up with all sorts of excuses for not telling others about Jesus. We don’t want to offend anyone; we don’t want to look like a “fanatic.” we aren’t exactly sure how to go about it; the list is endless.

Isn’t it strange that somehow we get the impression that God will treat us differently than He did Jonah?

LESSON 9

Jonah Chapter 4—Part 2

Jonah became angry and he prayed to the Lord. Twice God asked him, “Jonah, do you have good reason to be angry?” As Christians today, we become angry and it’s a good thing for us if we also take our anger to God in prayer. But we shouldn’t be surprised when God asks us just as he did Jonah, “My dear, dear child, do you really have a good reason to be angry?”

There are times when anger is the appropriate response. But way too often, we have no “good reason” for being angry and our response becomes one of illegitimate anger.

The teaching in Jonah Chapter 4 concerning “good reason” is a difficult one to sort out. God, however, has given us the Holy Spirit to teach us in all things. So as we conclude this study on the book of Jonah, we invite the Holy Spirit to be our teacher; and we freely release any preconceptions we might bring into the study in order to avail ourselves of the teaching of the Master. We will be patient with our lack of knowledge until He enriches us with His.

I. ILLEGITIMATE ANGER

1. Read the following scriptures and note what each one tells us about anger.

- 2 Corinthians 12:20—

- Ephesians 4:31—

- 1 Timothy 2:8—

- James 1:20
2. Based on what you learn from the verses in #1 above, what is your evaluation of whether anger is good or bad?
 3. Throughout the Old Testament we have numerous references to God's anger. In the New Testament we see anger in both the Father and the Son. Look up the following scripture references and note your findings.
 - Mark 3:1-5—
 - John 2:13-17—
 - Mark 10:13-16—
 - Acts 5:1-11—
 4. Based on what you learn from the verses in #3 above, what is your evaluation of whether anger is good or bad? Compare your answer here with your answer in #2.
 5. Study the following examples in the Bible of anger. Record after each who is angry, at what/whom the anger is directed, and why that person is angry.

- Genesis 4:4-5; Hebrews 11:4; Genesis 4:6-7—

 - 2 Kings 5:1-14—

 - Jonah 3:1 – 4:4—
6. Compare the *reasons* for the anger in the stories of Cain, Naaman and Jonah with the *reasons* for anger in the examples of God/Jesus' anger in the Mark, John and Acts references in #3.

II. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

1. Using an ordinary English dictionary, look up the definition for the word “sovereignty” and record what you learn.

2. Read through the “What I Learn About God” list you made in Lesson 1 The Overview. Mark in a distinctive way every statement that indicates the sovereignty of God. [HINT: Look for those statements that talk about God's having dominion over something.]

3. Look up the following scriptures and note over whom or what God claims sovereignty.

- Job 42:2—

 - Psalm 47:2—

 - Psalm 57:2—

 - Psalm 59:12-13—

 - Psalm 83:18—

 - Isaiah 14:24, 27—

 - Isaiah 46:9-10—

 - Daniel 4:32—
4. Study the following examples of God's sovereignty in action. After each example, record any insights you glean.
- a) Joseph (Genesis 50:15-17; Genesis 45:4-8; Genesis 50:18-21)—

b) Job (Job 1:8, 9-22)—

c) Jesus (Acts 2:22-28; John 19:10-11a)—

III. THE CALLING OF THE ISRAELITES

This last assignment could just as easily have been included at the beginning of this study. As a foundation to this book study of Jonah, what you're going to learn next would have helped to explain why God called Jonah to take his message to foreign lands. However, we have included it here at the end of the study because we feel your now-amplified knowledge of the book of Jonah will help you understand and remember this very important teaching.

In Genesis Chapter 3, God outlined His plan for reconciling man to Himself—a Savior, from the seed of the woman who would fatally wound the seed of the serpent (Satan). But first, God needed to set aside a people for Himself from whom that Savior would descend.

1. Read Genesis 12:1-3. What is the instruction that God gives to Abram?
2. List the three *most important* parts of God's promise to Abram (Abraham) if Abram does what God asks of him.
 - a) v.2b—

- b) v.2d—
- c) v.3c—
3. How do you suppose “all the families of the earth shall be blessed” by the descendents of Abraham (God’s chosen people)?
4. From the Genesis 12:1-3 reference above as well as the scriptures listed below, what are all the promises God makes? [Be sure to note to whom the promise is being made in each.]
- Genesis 13:14-16—
 - Genesis 15:18-21—
 - Genesis 17:1-8—
 - Genesis 21:1-12—
 - Genesis 22:15-18—
 - Genesis 26:1-6—
 - Genesis 28:10-15—
 - Genesis 35:9-12—
5. Now— list everything God promises to Abraham and his descendents. Keep it simple.

6. In your own words, write out the lineage through which all these promises will descend.

IV. WRAPPING IT UP

Just fifty years before Assyria rises up to destroy Israel and cart off her inhabitants into exile, God sends the prophet Jonah into their land to preach the word of God. Why would He do such a thing? Because He cares about people, and He wants none to be lost but all to come to repentance. Everyone must have the opportunity to hear the word of God and to know that He is sovereign Lord. He doesn't intend to miss a single person with His message of salvation.

Just as Jonah was called to Nineveh, believers today are called into the camp of the enemy. Just as God directed the footsteps of Jonah along the entire way, He directs our paths as well. And just as God protected Jonah all the time he was carrying out God's plan, He will be with us even unto the ends of the earth.

Only one question remains: will you heed the call on your life and take the gospel to those who are waiting to be touched by God?

That decision is up to you.

Chapter 1

Chapter Theme: _____

Key Verse: _____

[1] The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying, [2] "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city, and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me." [3] But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare, and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

[4] And the Lord hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up. [5] Then the sailors became afraid, and every man cried to his god, and they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down, and fallen sound asleep. [6] So the captain approached him and

said, "How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps your god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish." [7] And each man said to his mate, "Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity has struck us." So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. [8] Then they said to him, "Tell us, now! On whose account has this calamity struck us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?" [9] And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land."

[10] Then the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, "How could you do this?" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. [11] So they said to him, "What should we do to you that the sea may become calm for us?"-- for the sea was becoming increasingly stormy. [12] And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, for I know that on account of me this great storm has come upon you." [13] However, the men rowed desperately to

return to land but they could not, for the sea was becoming even stormier against them. [14] Then they called on the Lord and said, "We earnestly pray, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man's life and do not put innocent blood on us; for Thou, O Lord, hast done as Thou hast pleased."

[15] So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging. [16] Then the men feared the Lord greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

[17] And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

Chapter 2

Chapter Theme: _____

Key Verse: _____

[1] Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the stomach of the fish, [2] and he said,

"I called out of my distress to the Lord,

And He answered me.

I cried for help from the depth of Sheol;

Thou didst hear my voice.

[3] "For Thou hadst cast me into the deep,

Into the heart of the seas,

And the current engulfed me.

All Thy breakers and billows passed over me.

[4] "So I said, 'I have been expelled from Thy sight.

Nevertheless I will look again toward Thy holy temple.'

[5] "Water encompassed me to the point of death.

The great deep engulfed me,

Weeds were wrapped around my head.

[6] "I descended to the roots of the mountains.

The earth with its bars was around me forever,

But Thou hast brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God.

[7] "While I was fainting away,

I remembered the Lord;

And my prayer came to Thee,

Into Thy holy temple.

[8] "Those who regard vain idols

Forsake their faithfulness,

[9] But I will sacrifice to Thee

With the voice of thanksgiving.

That which I have vowed I will pay.

Salvation is from the Lord."

[10] Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry

land.

Chapter 3

Chapter Theme: _____

Key Verse: _____

[1] Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, [2] "Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you." [3] So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three days' walk. [4] Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown."

[5] Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them. [6] When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat on the ashes. [7] And he issued a proclamation and it said, "In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man,

beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. Do not let them eat or drink water. [8] "But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let men call on God earnestly that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in his hands. [9] "Who knows, God may turn and relent, and withdraw His burning anger so that we shall not perish?"

[10] When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.

Chapter 4

Chapter Theme: _____

Key Verse: _____

[1] But it greatly displeased Jonah, and he became angry. [2] And he prayed to the

Lord and said, "Please Lord, was not this what I said while I was still in my own

country? Therefore, in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that

Thou art a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in

lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity. [3] "Therefore now, O

Lord, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life." [4] And the

Lord said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?"

[5] Then Jonah went out from the city and sat east of it. There he made a shelter

for himself and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in

the city. [6] So the Lord God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a

shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely

happy about the plant. [7] But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day, and it attacked the plant and it withered. [8] And it came about when the sun came up that God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint and begged with all his soul to die, saying, "Death is better to me than life."

[9] Then God said to Jonah, "Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "I have good reason to be angry, even to death." [10] Then the Lord said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work, and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight. [11] "And should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"

Job 33:18-30

¹⁸He keeps back his soul from the pit, and his life from passing over into Sheol.

¹⁹"Man is also chastened with pain on his bed, and with unceasing complaint in his bones; ²⁰So that his life loathes bread, and his soul favorite food. ²¹"His flesh wastes away from sight, and his bones which were not seen stick out. ²²"Then his soul draws near to the pit, and his life to those who bring death.

²³"If there is an angel as mediator for him, one out of a thousand, to remind a man what is right for him, ²⁴then let him be gracious to him, and say, 'Deliver him from going down to the pit, I have found a ransom'; ²⁵let his flesh become fresher than in youth, let him return to the days of his youthful vigor; ²⁶then he will pray to God, and He will accept him, that he may see His face with joy, and He may restore His righteousness to man. ²⁷"He will sing to men and say, 'I have sinned and perverted what is right, and it is not proper for me. ²⁸He has redeemed my soul from going to the pit, and my life shall see the light.'

²⁹"Behold, God does all these oftentimes with men, ³⁰to bring back his soul from the pit, that he may be enlightened with the light of life. [NASB]

Revelation 9:1-11

¹And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. ²And he opened the bottomless pit; and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit. ³And out of the smoke came forth locusts upon the earth; and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ⁴And they were told that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. ⁵And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. ⁶And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; and they will long to die and death flees from them. ⁷And the appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads, as it were, crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. ⁸And they had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of lions. ⁹And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle. ¹⁰And they have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months. ¹¹They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon. [NASB]

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