

Lion and Lamb Apologetics'

JONAH

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To show the extent of the grace of God and that His message of salvation is boundless and is for all nations.

Author

Jonah, son of Amittai.

Date

Approximately 785-760 BC during the reign of Jeroboam II.

Audience

The northern kingdom of Israel and God's people everywhere.

Setting

Assyria was Israel's great enemy, having conquered them in 722 BC. Ninevah's repentance appears to have been short-lived for it was destroyed in 612 BC.

Special Features

This book is a literary masterpiece differing from the other books of prophecy because it tells the story of the prophet and does not center on his prophecies. Jonah employs structure, humor, hyperbole, irony, double entendre, and various literary features to communicate his message with great rhetorical power.



Key Verses

"And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights." (1:17 ESV)

"And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land." (2:10 ESV)

"God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them." (3:10b ESV)

"Just kill me now, LORD! I'd rather be dead than alive if what I predicted will not happen." (4:3 NLT)

"Should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left...?" (4:11 ESV)

Key People

Jonah, ship's captain, crew, Ninevites.

Key Places

Joppa, Nineveh.