

## MESSAGES TO HEATHEN NATIONS

Two prophets of the Divided Kingdom Period addressed their messages chiefly to heathen nations. Both of these were from the northern kingdom Israel, and both spoke to their chief enemy, Assyria, addressing their remarks especially to Nieveh, the capital city. Study now about Jonah, the first of these prophets:

### THE BOOK OF JONAH: GOD'S LOVE FOR HEATHEN NATIONS

II Kings 14-25 tells us that Jonah was a native of Gath-hepher, a town near Nazareth in northern Israel, and that he prophesied concerning his own nation Israel. However, he is best known for his autobiographical account of his prophecy to a heathen nation. Study this account now:

**A. God's Command to Jonah:** Read Jonah 1:1-2

1. Where did God tell Jonah to go? Jonah 1:2a

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2. What did He tell Jonah to do there? Why? Jonah 1:2b

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3. Why would it be hard for Jonah to do this? What was Israel's relationship to Nineveh?

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**B. Jonah's Reaction and Its Results:** Read Jonah 1:3 - 2:10

1. Where did Jonah decide to go? Jonah 1:3a (Note: This is thought to be Tartessus, on the west coast of Spain.)

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2. Why was he planning to go there? Jonah 1:3a, 3c

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3. What arose after he had boarded the ship? Jonah 1:4

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4. When the sailors cast lots, who did they discover was the cause of their trouble? Jonah 1:5-7

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5. How did they feel when they learned why this trouble had come upon Jonah? Jonah 1:10

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6. What did Jonah tell them they must do to quiet the sea? Jonah 1:10-11

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7. What happened to Jonah after they finally did this? Jonah 1:13-17

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*Book 3 Kingdom of Israel: Divided and Restored*

8. What did Jonah do then? Why? Jonah 2:1, 2a

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9. What did he promise God that he would do? Jonah 2:9b

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10. What happened after this? Jonah 2:10

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**C. God's Second Command To Jonah:** Read Jonah 3:1-2

1. Where did God tell Jonah to go this time? Jonah 3:2a

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2. What was he to do there? Jonah 3:2b

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**D. Jonah's Reaction and Its Results:** Read Jonah 3:3-10

1. What did Jonah do this time? Jonah 3:3

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2. What did he preach there? Jonah 3:4b

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3. What did the people of Nineveh do when they heard his message? Jonah 3:5a, 5b

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4. What did God do when He saw their reaction to His message? Jonah 3:10

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**E. Basic Attitudes Revealed in This Story:** Read Jonah 4:1-11

1. How did Jonah feel when he saw what God had done? Jonah 4:1

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2. What do you think this shows about Jonah's heart attitude toward Nineveh?

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3. By contract, what was God's heart attitude toward this heathen city? Jonah 4:10-11

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**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Was God concerned only about His own special nation Israel? See Romans 3:29.

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2. What is my heart attitude now toward heathen nations? Toward enemy nations?

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