

Lesson 33 - Jonah Questions

These questions should be completed before the Wednesday class on **January 1, 2020**. Write your answers either on the back of this page or on a separate sheet of paper. Where possible and appropriate, **CITE THE VERSE** that supports your answer.

Running from God:

1. What was the mission Jehovah assigned to Jonah?
2. Instead of fulfilling his commission, what did Jonah do?
3. Can you think of other cases where people have tried to run from God?
4. Do people try and run from God today? How?
5. What can you say about the wisdom of such a course?
6. Who were the "mariners" mentioned in 1:5? What all can you say about them?
7. How is the character of these mariners revealed? Keep these points in mind and consider whether the contrast between Jonah and the mariners might be a key point in relation to the overall theme of the book of Jonah.

Running to God:

1. Enumerate the ways in which Jehovah uses his creation to accomplish his purposes (1:4, 17; 4:6-8)
2. What are the implications of this divine use of the creation?
3. Analyze the prayer and enumerate the main elements of it.
4. Explain v. 8, including:
 - a. What is meant by "lying vanities" (KJV), "vain idols" (NASB/ESV)
 - b. What about "forsake their own mercy" (KJV), "forsake their hope of steadfast love" (ESV) (cf. the last part of v. 9)

Running with God:

1. What was Jonah told to preach? What will any faithful preacher preach? Will anything else accomplish what God wants accomplished through preaching?
2. How is this chapter (especially v. 4 compared with v. 10) an illustration of what is taught in Jeremiah 18:7-10?
3. Can you think of points to support the credibility of this story about the repentance of such a great city? Consider:
 - a. Conditions in the Assyrian empire at the time
 - b. Luke 11:30 ([J.W. McGarvey has a chapter on the credibility of the book of Jonah in Jesus and Jonah](#))
 - c. What does v. 5a (compared with v. 2) suggest as to what it means to believe God?
 - d. How do people act when they believe God?
 - e. What does v. 10 suggest as to the character of God, and even his attitude toward heathen people?
 - f. What points does Jesus draw from the book of Jonah? See Matt. 12:38-40 with Luke 11:29-30. (What does the latter passage add?) Then see Matt. 12:41 (Meaning?)

Other questions:

1. What is the message of the book of Jonah?
2. What Israelite attitudes are condemned?
3. Do we have any of the pettiness that is seen in Jonah? Which grieves us more, a scratch on a new car or the millions of lost people around us?
4. How does this book have a powerful application today on the subject of evangelism? What is its message to us?