

GIVE THANKS TO
THE LORD, FOR
HE IS GOOD.
HIS LOVE ENDURES
FOREVER.
PSALM 136:1

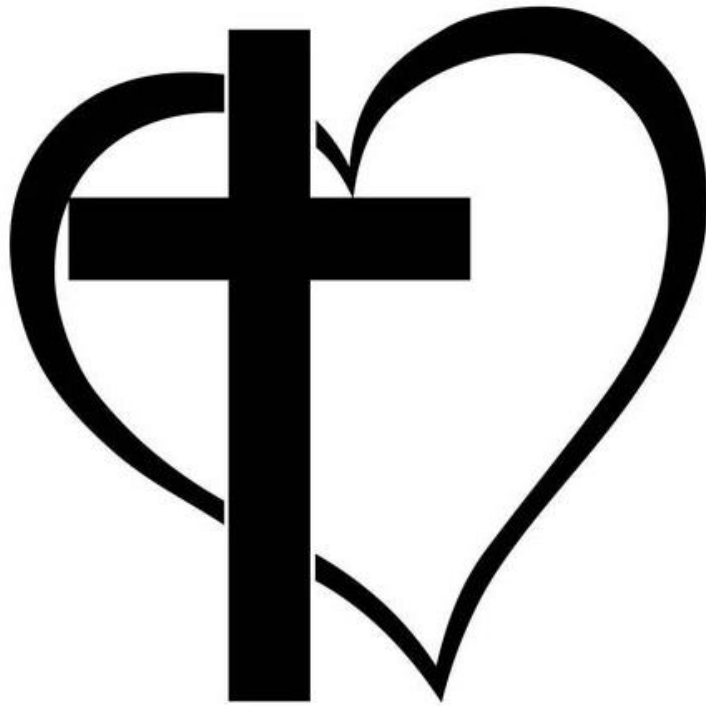
Wake Union Baptist Church

*"Where the good news of Jesus Christ
is proclaimed in truth and love"*

THE LORD'S DAY

May 17, 2020

Call to Worship	<i>When We All Get to Heaven</i>	514
Invocation		
<u>Welcome & Announcements</u>		
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Hymn	<i>Wonderful Grace of Jesus</i>	328
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<u>Morning Prayer</u>		
Hymn	<i>Somebody's Prayin'</i>	
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The Significance of Jonah

Jonah, is a small but significant book in the Old Testament. In very interesting ways, Jonah works as a kind of commentary on the nation of Israel and their inner perspective. They saw themselves as a race above races because they saw themselves as **the** people which God loved. Therefore, they believed that they had a special place in God’s heart that God did not feel toward the other nations of the earth.

This is the prejudice that we see in Jonah throughout this short book, and it reveals the corrupt heart of that nation. What makes this particularly poignant in this brief book is that when we realize that Israel’s father was an Amorite and mother was a Hittite, this is the very region that Jonah was called to share the redeeming love of God with, Israel’s ancestors. (ref. Ezek. 16:3)

This, however, is set against the incredible, powerful, and world-changing love of God that will not be held back by disobedience! This was the very reason why God created the nation of Israel, in Exodus 19:6, they were all to be a nation of priests. This meant not only that they could

commune with God, but the purpose is what gives meaning to this incredible blessing: a mediator brings others closer to God. They were meant to bring the world to God.

In fact, this is why God settled them in the land of Canaan. It was the crossroads of the ancient world, by land and sea. They had every reason to be “a light to the nations!” (Isaiah 42:6. Sadly, the nation rejected this calling.

God has opened up that place of service to all who will come to Him! All believers are that nation of holy priests! (2 Peter 2:5) For in the promises and the Eternal Covenant there is no distinction between the Jew and the Gentile. (Eph. 2:11-13, 19-22; Rom. 2:28; Col. 3:11; etc.)

When we realize the close association that we have with our forefathers in the covenants, this makes the lesson of Jonah all the more essential:

“The sins committed by ancient Israel were recorded “for our admonition” ([1 Cor. 10:6, 11](#)) that we might not make the same mistakes. Many great men have failed God because they were found in the wrong places. In the form of a question, we introduce several of the ‘wrong places’ where some great servants of God failed.

“Are you sailing on the ship of disobedience as did Jonah when he fled to Tarshish ([Jon. 1:1-17](#))? Jonah's prejudice prompted him to disobey God when he was told to preach in Nineveh. Is it possible that you are ‘on the way to Tarshish’ when you should be ‘on the way to Nineveh?’ Did you obey the Lord in becoming a Christian, but you have now boarded the ship of disobedience and are fleeing away from your Redeemer?”
-Ted Kyle and John Todd

What is especially wonderful about the book of Jonah is that we see God’s care doesn’t just look beyond us. His love and redeeming care is even for us when we go astray. Jonah is incredibly significant in the Old—and the New Testaments! There is no greater, better, or more relevant message than to know:

Jesus loves you!

Prayer Request Updates	
Our Nation – Protection, healing, and especially turning to the Lord Jesus.	Coronavirus victims and those grieving over the loss of loved ones.

God Sees Sin

1. Is there ANY way to keep something we've done wrong from God?

2. Does God see every little thing I think and do?

3. Is it crazy to hide something from God?

Answer the Questions above, by looking at the Scriptures below:

- Job 10:14
- Job 14:16
- Jeremiah 2:22
- Jeremiah 16:17
- Ezekiel 11:5
- Hosea 7:2
- Amos 5:12

After you're finished, read the text at the bottom of the page.

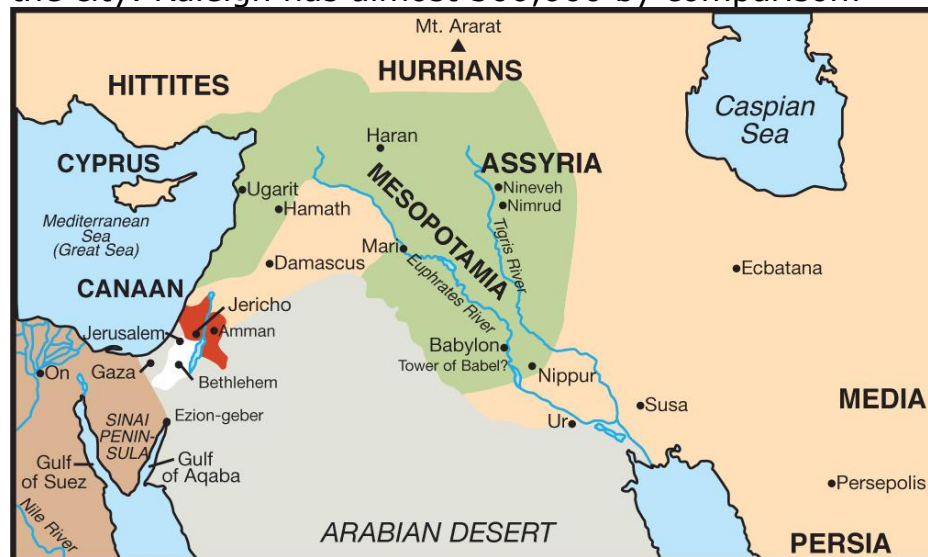
God sees everything we do. He knows everything we think. It is useless to try to hide anything from him. Go to God and admit anything wrong you've done. He already knows anyway, and he wants you to face it too.

Sermon Points on Jonah 1

1. When God Calls (1-3)
2. When God Pursues (4-13)
3. When God Saves (14-16)

Maps and Information

In our passage, God declares that Nineveh is a "great" city, meaning that it is large or strong. Certainly, Nineveh was both of those things! It was an incredible city. As the Capital city of the Assyrian Empire, moderate estimates of the city, say that 600,000 people lived in the city. Raleigh has almost 500,000 by comparison!



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|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| ● City or Town | ▲ Mountain | ■ Expansion |
| ⋯ Ancient Ruins/Sites | ⊕ Modern Capital Cities | ■ Israel |
| | | □ Judah |

As we learn from 2 Kings 14:25, Jonah lived in Gath-Hepher that would later be called Cana, where Jesus would provide for wedding in His first miracle (John 2).

Where did Jonah flee to? Tarshish has traditionally been located on the western side of Gibraltar, in southern Spain. When Jonah went—he really went!