

Finding God's Heart

The Message of the Book of Jonah

INSTRUCTOR:

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RTS

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Atlanta

FINDING GOD'S HEART:

- Faithful
- Patient
- Compassionate

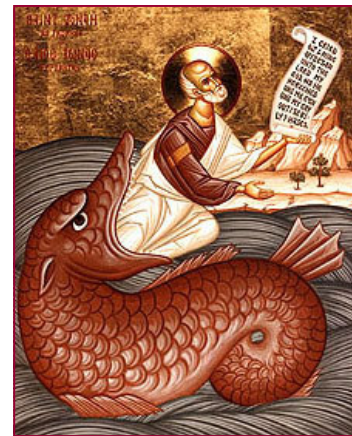
*"For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so I, the Son of Man, will be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights."
(Matthew 12:40)*

What's the Big Picture

The Book of Jonah has been described as "one of the masterpieces of biblical Literature." The story has fascinated children and adults alike for centuries. Why?

Part of the answer lies in how this story reveals the heart of God to its readers. Another part is how the book reveals what is in our own hearts and the degree to which our hearts are like God's.

The goal of the course is captured by the title: *Finding God's Heart*.



"Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it what I tell you."

What You Can Expect to Learn

UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE YOU WILL:

- **Understand** the overall message of the Book of Jonah.
- Know how to **use** the Book of Jonah in your own life and ministry.
- Be able to **state** clearly your view of the genre of the Book of Jonah.
- **Appreciate** more deeply God's heart for you and everyone he has made.

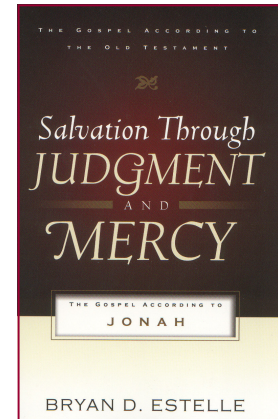
"For I know that You are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in kindness, renouncing punishment."

What You Need to Do

READING

- ✓ Estelle, Bryan D. *Salvation Through Judgment and Mercy: The Gospel According to Jonah* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2005)
- ✓ Limburg, James. *Jonah* (OTL; Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox, 1993)
- ✓ Page, Frank S. *Jonah*. (NAC; Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman 1995)

Note: It would be good to read each of these book before class begins.



TEXT PREPARATION

- ✓ Before class begins you need to read the book of Jonah four times, preferably in four different translations.
- ✓ As you read, reflect on what you think the main message and structure of the book are.

DISCUSSION FORUM

- ✓ You will post three 500 word essays on the genre of Jonah.
- ✓ In your first essay you will defend the idea that Jonah is not to be read as history but as some other genre, be it allegory, parable, etc.
- ✓ In your second essay, you will critique one of the essays in the first category, pointing out its strengths and weaknesses.
- ✓ In the third essay you will reflect on how this process has affected your thinking.

REFLECTION PAPER

- ✓ You will write a reflection paper on the theology of the Book of Jonah.
- ✓ The paper may be up to and not more than 3 pages in length, 12 point font, double spaced, with 1 inch margins all around.
- ✓ This is not an exegetical paper but is more like an extended journal entry that focuses on how the theology of Jonah affects your life and ministry.

“The Book of Jonah may be described as a fictional story developed around a historical figure for didactic purposes.”
(Limburg)
What do you think?



Note: All work is to be completed by May 20 at 4pm EST.

How You Will Be Graded

READING

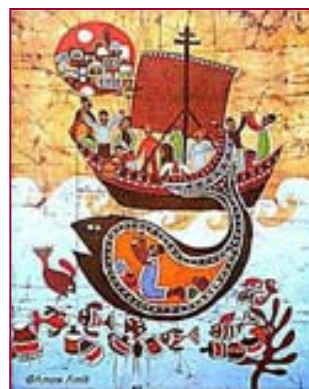
- You will earn up to 10 points by completing the reading assignments in the three textbooks .
- You will send an e-mail to me by May 20 at 4pm, stating the percentage of the reading you have completed.

DISCUSSION FORUM

- You will earn up to 20 points for each discussion post.
- The due dates are May 6, 13, and 20 at 4pm.

REFLECTION PAPER

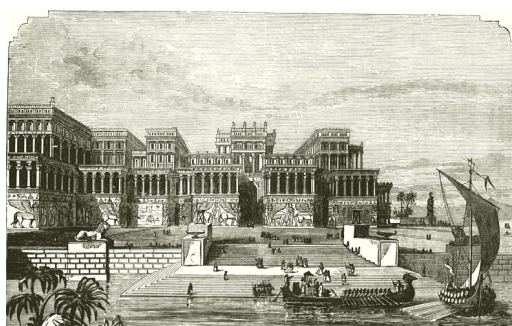
- You will earn up to 30 points by completing the reflection paper .
- You will be graded on clarity of thought and how you relate the theology of Jonah to your life and ministry.
- The due date is May 20 at 4pm.



“Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish.”

What You Can Study in the Future

- ✓ Alexander, T. Desmond. *Obadiah, Jonah, Micah* (TOTC; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1988).
- ✓ Allen, Leslie C. *The Books of Joel, Obadiah, Jonah and Micah* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1976).
- ✓ Baldwin, Joyce, G. "Jonah." In *The Minor Prophets* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1993).
- ✓ Bruckner, James. *Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah* (NIVAC; Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004).
- ✓ Robertson, O. Palmer. *Jonah: A Study in Compassion* (Carlisle, PA: Banner of Truth Trust, 1990).
- ✓ Tribble, Phyllis. *Rhetorical Criticism: Context, Method, and the Book of Jonah* (Guides to Biblical



“And should not I care about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not yet know their right hand from their left, and many beasts as well!”

How to Use Blackboard



TO ACCESS THE COURSE

- Go to <http://coursesites.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>
 - Set this page as a "Favorite" on your Browser, because you will need to login each time you want to access Blackboard
- Login in
 - User name = first initial and last name and j (Jonah), e.g., mfutatoj
 - Password = last four digits of your social security number
- Click on the RTS OT 02 link under "My Courses" at the bottom of the page

TO USE THE DISCUSSION BOARD

- Click on the Discussion Board navigation tab on the left side of the page
- Click on the "Meet Each Other" forum
- Submit a post
 - Click on "Add New Thread" at the top left of the page
 - For the "Subject" type in your topic, e.g., Biographical Sketch + your name
 - Enter your message
 - Type a one paragraph introduction of yourself
 - You may wish to do this in a word processor, then cut and paste to the "Message" window
 - Attach a photograph, if you wish
 - Click "Submit" at the bottom left of the page
- Post a reply to the Discussion Board
 - Click on "Reply" after reading the post of a web mate
 - Use the default subject
 - Enter your message: Point out something that you and a web mate have in common
 - Click "Submit" at the bottom left of the page

TO USE E-MAIL

- Click on the Communication tab on the left navigation bar
- Click on the underscored Send E-mail
- Click on the underscored All Users to e-mail the entire class
- Click on the underscored Selected Users to e-mail an individual or group of individuals