

# Finding God's Heart

## The Message of the Book of Jonah

**INSTRUCTOR:**

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Course: OT712  
Office hours: Tues—  
Thurs 11-12

**FINDING GOD'S HEART:**

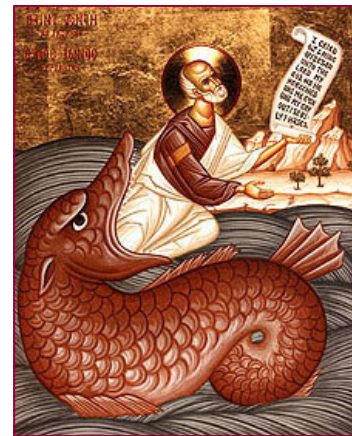
- Faithful
- Patient
- Compassionate

### 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*.



### What You Can Expect to Learn

UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE YOU WILL:

- **Understand** the overall message of the Book of Jonah.
- 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.
- Know how to **use** the Book of Jonah in your own life and ministry.

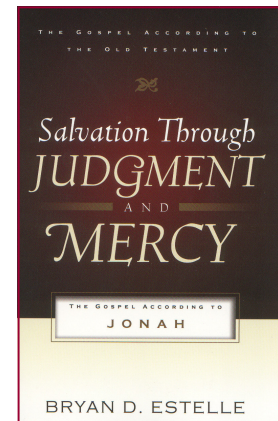
*“For I know that You are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in kindness, renouncing punishment.”*

*“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 You Need to Do

## READING

- ✓ Estelle, Bryan D. *Salvation Through Judgment and Mercy: The Gospel According to Jonah* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2005). 978-0875526560
- ✓ Futato, Mark D. "Introduction and Notes on the Book of Jonah" in *ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008) pp. 1683-1691. Note: If you do not have an ESV Study Bible, these notes are available at <http://www.esvstudybible.org/images/excerpt-jonah.pdf>.
- ✓ Limburg, James. *Jonah* (OTL; Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox, 1993). 978-0664228521
- ✓ Page, Frank S. *Jonah*. (NAC; Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman 1995). 978-0805401424



## TEXT PREPARATION

- ✓ Read the entire Book of Jonah before each class session. Reading in a variety of translations would be good.
- ✓ Read the appropriate sections of each of the assigned textbooks before each class session.

## 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 on the issue.

*"The Book of Jonah may be described as a fictional story developed around a historical figure for didactic purposes."*

*(Limburg)*

*What do you think?*

## 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.

## FINAL EXAM

- ✓ There will be a final exam during the finals period.
- ✓ The final will be based on the lectures.

*"Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm."*



## What We Will Cover

### WEEK ONE (9/1)

Jonah as History

### WEEK TWO (9/8)

Jonah as Literature

### WEEK THREE (9/15)

Jonah as Theology

### WEEK FOUR (9/22)

Post 01

### WEEK FIVE (9/29)

Jonah's commissioning and flight (1:1-3)

### WEEK SIX (10/6)

Jonah and the pagan sailors (1:4-16)

### READING WEEK (10/13)

No Class

### WEEK SEVEN (10/20)

Jonah's grateful prayer (1:17-2:11)

### WEEK EIGHT (10/27)

Post 02

### WEEK NINE (11/3)

Jonah's recommissioning and compliance (3:1-3a)

### WEEK TEN (11/10)

Jonah and the pagan Ninevites (3:3b-10)

### WEEK ELEVEN (11/17)

Jonah's angry prayer (4:1-4)

### WEEK TWELVE (11/24)

Post 03

### WEEK THIRTEEN (12/1)

Jonah's lesson on compassion (4:5-11)

## How You Will Be Graded

### READING

- You will earn up to 10 points by completing the four reading.
- You will send an e-mail to me by December 9 at 4pm, stating the percentage of the reading you have completed.

### DISCUSSION FORUM

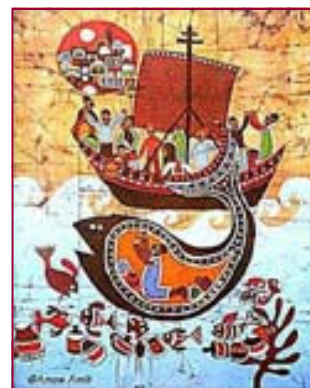
- You will earn up to 20 points for each discussion post.
- Due dates: September 21, October 24, and November 21 at 4pm.

### REFLECTION PAPER

- You will earn up to 30 points by completing the reflection paper .
- Due date: Dec ember 9 at 4pm.

### FINAL EXAM

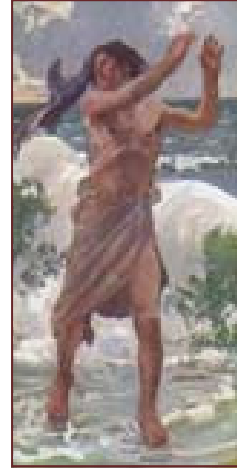
- You will earn up to 40 points on the final exam.
- The final exam will be based on the course lectures.



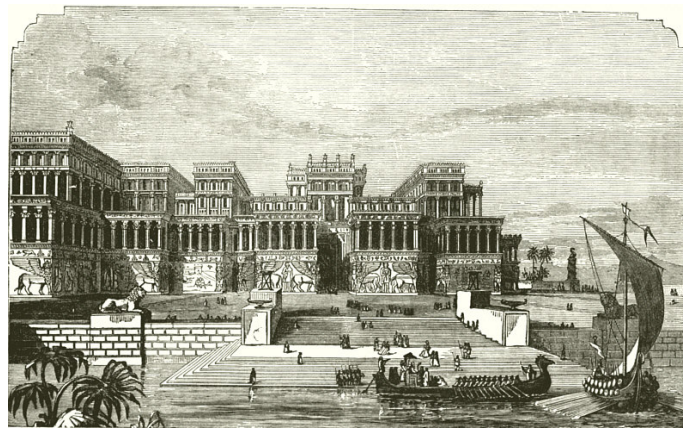
*“Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish.”*

## 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 Scholarship; Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994).



*“And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.”*



*“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!”*