

JONAH

760 B.C.

Intro: Jonah is about a prophet who disobeyed God's call to go and preach, to quite possibly one of the most wicked peoples' that have ever lived. I am referring to the Assyrians, the very people that God used a little over a hundred years later (in 722 B.C.) to judge the Ten Northern tribes of Israel.

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Everything and everyone in Jonah's story obeys God—*except for the prophet himself*. A ferocious storm, a colossal fish, a shade plant, and a tiny caterpillar, all respond to the LORD's sovereign command. The wicked people who hear God's message of impending judgment repent of their wicked ways. But Jonah tries to run away from God's command to carry His message of impending judgment to the people of Nineveh, the great city.

Theme: The Book of Jonah is in reality a book about God. While Jonah's name appears eighteen times in the text, God's name appears thirty-nine times (twice as much). Above the deafening roar of the storm, the desperate cry of the sailors, and the dutiful prayer of Jonah, stands God. **The theme of the Book of Jonah is the overwhelming greatness and inescapable grace of God (cf. Exodus 34:6-7).**

Outline:

I. Jonah Procrastinates, chap. 1

II. Jonah Prays, chap. 2

III. Jonah Preaches, chap. 3

IV. Jonah Pouts, chap. 4