

M O R I A H

INSTITUTE OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES



OT430 The Book of Jonah

Don Normand, D.D.

MORIAH . . .

. . . the mount of testing, the victory of faith,
where Jehovah-jireh supplies every need.

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INTRODUCTION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The study of the book of Jonah reveals more than the mercy of God to a godless gentile nation, it reveals the will of God for the *prophet* and a godless nation. The book shows God's plan for the saints to evangelize the world and the chastening of those who fall short of this command of God.

All scriptures have been quoted from the King James Version unless otherwise noted.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The Jews given the oracles of God were responsible and accountable to the living God to evangelize the heathen nations, Jonah wrestles with the commission because of the exceeding sinfulness of Nineveh. He fails to believe that God can do the impossible, the book is to teach that God plans the salvation of the greatest of sinners despite the beliefs and objectives of the religious world.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance at all Class Sessions (live or video)
- The Student is encouraged to take detailed notes of all the material presented
- Read the textbook provided by the instructor. Test questions will be taken from the textbook, lecture and course outline
- Complete and return the final exam by the deadline established

COURSE MATERIALS

- Textbook for the course
- This Study Guide
- The Bible (version of student's choice)

CONTENTS

One:	Introduction	5
Two:	The Great Commission for Jonah	9
Three:	The Prayer of Jonah	14
Four:	Jonah Executes the Commission	17
Five:	Jonah Rebels After Revival	20

- Chapter One -

Introduction

I. HISTORICAL CRITIQUE OF THE BOOK

- A. JAMES D. SMART - "It is fiction with complete absence of historical data."
- B. Dr. PUSEY - commentary on Jonah - page 261 - refutes the whale story. He also agrees with Darwin's "The Origin of the Species"
- C. BOWER - International Commentary - "it is not history, but poetry to teach a moral parable."
- D. JOHN HOWARD RAVEN - Old Testament Introduction (New York) "For those who claim the book of Jonah to be a parable, remember that parables mention people and places and certain facts. The style is simple history."
- E. C. ALDERS - (Professor of the Old Testament - Free University of Amsterdam) - "If Jonah is a legend of fiction, what about the Red Sea, the Walls of Jericho, the conquest of Canaan, Samson, Elijah - It is factual history!"
- F. JESUS CHRIST

II. PROOF OF THE INFORMATION OF THE BOOK

- A. SCRIPTURAL CLAIM
 - 1. Jonah, a native of Gath-hepher
 - 2. Raised in a godly family in Israel
 - 3. His heritage gave him biblical knowledge and an intimate walk with God that prepared him for divine service.
 - 4. He lived in the reign of Jeroboam between the years 790 and 749 BC.
 - 5. His life span was short, only 41 years.
 - 6. He helped in the restoration of some of Israel's lost territory
 - 7. He was a famous Statesman as well as Prophet

B. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFIRMATION (Jonah mound)

1. Known as tomb of Jonah
2. Second largest mound of the ruins of Nineveh
3. Called YUNAS by the native Assyrian
4. Covers 40 acres and is being 100 feet high
5. Layard uncovered mound in the area of the palace of king Esar-haddon

C. RABBINICAL SOURCES

1. The entire book of Jonah is read in the afternoon session of YOM-KIPPUR
2. Israel as a nation has much confidence in the book of Jonah as they do in the five books of Moses

D. JESUS' QUOTATION

“For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” “The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.” -Matt. 12:40, 41

E. THE WHALE STORY

1. Ambrose John Wilson - 1927
2. G. MACLOSKE - Princeton University
3. Whale or Big Fish?

III. OBJECT OF THE BOOK

- A. Teach the power of true repentance
- B. Reveal the sovereignty of God
- C. Show God's concern for the nations
- D. To ratify the resurrection of Jesus Christ

IV. THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK OF JONAH

- A. Jonah
 - 1. From a Godly seed
 - a. The son of Amittai
 - b. Amittai - the son of the widow of Zaraphath
 - c. Zaraphath had ministered to Elijah
 - 2. He was chosen for a divine calling
 - 3. Archdeacon Perowne of Cambridge University in 1879
 - 4. Vast Assyrian libraries
- B. Holy man of God
 - 1. Judaical Belief
 - 2. New Testament

V. GEOGRAPHICAL AND SOCIAL NINEVEH

- A. The capital of the Assyrian Empire
- B. Founded by Nimrod
- C. Rose to supreme power over the world about 900 BC
- D. Reigned for approximately three hundred years
- E. Greater Nineveh -
 - 1. 30 miles long, 10 miles wide
 - 2. Built at the junction of Tigris and Khoser Rivers
 - 3. 100 foot high walls, 4 chariots wide
- F. Had limitless wealth
- G. Was ruthless plunderer
- H. After 2 year siege, flood washed away part of the walls