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First Missionary To The Gentiles

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FIRST MISSIONARY TO THE GENTILES

Jonah 1:1-3

I. Jonah's been called the 1st missionary to the Gentiles.

A. Might be inaccurate.

B. But it is a compelling story - I want us to see part of it today.

II. "Now the Word of the Lord Came"--

A. **Dramatic** beginning.

1. Now or And.

a.) Ezek. starts the same way.

b.) So does I Samuel.

c.) It's a standard affair.

Judges 1:1 "Now after the death of Joshua it came to

2. Jonah a prophet of Northern Israel.

a.) Time of Jereboam II (793-753 BC)

b.) Golden Age of Israel's prosperity.

2 Kings 14:25 "He restored the coast of Israel from the

c.) Amos & Hosea contemporaries.

d.) From **Gath-hepher** - 4 miles N. of Nazareth -

Jesus to come from same area.

e.) Amettai = Amen, Truthful.

f.) Only minor prophet who majors on foreign soil.

g.) Only OT character to sail on Med. Sea.

h.) Only minor prophet mentioned by Jesus.

Matt. 12:38-41 16:4 Lu. 11:29-32

B. Word of the Lord.

1. Not told how the revelation was made known.

2. Clear, crisp, authoritative.

3. Obedience expected.

4. No hesitation allowed for.

5. "Light" given for walking & working.

C. The Command - Arise - Go - Cry, Imperatives!
Urgent!

V. 2 "Arise, go to Nin. that great city, and cry again

1. 500 miles east.

2. From country to city.

3. Nin. - great & wicked.

a.) Walls 100' hi by 50' thick.

b.) Tigres river.

c.) 120,000 infants, thus 600,000 folk.

d.) Largest city in world at that time.

e.) 60 miles in circumference.

4. Cry against it.

a.) Means to preach, to call out.

b.) Wicked - same word for Cain (Gen. 4:10) &
Sodom (Gen. 18:20-21).

c.) Means violence, treachery.

d.) Came up before God -- does ours?

e.) Proclamation - word of a herald.

D. The Avoidance.

V. 3 "But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the

1. Go east - went West.

2. Tarshish, a Phoenician seaport in Spain, near
Gibraltar.

Gen. 10:4 "And the sons of Javan; Elishah, and Tarsh

Isa. 23:1 "The burden of Tyre. Howl, ye ships of Tars

3. Are we afraid we'll be successful - racial
prejudice? See Jonah 4:2

Assyrians very cruel.

- 4. Or are we afraid we'll fail. (Jonah means Dove)
- 5. Will changing environments solve our problems.
- 6. Are we running from "the presence of the Lord."

Prov. 29:25 "The fear of man brings a snare"

- 7. Walk c God or wallow in the sea?
- 8. Note the "downs".
 - a.) Down to Joppa.
 - b.) Down in the ship.
 - c.) Down into sides of ship (V. 5).
 - d.) To leave God is always down!
 - e.) Tie in c "from the presence of the Lord."
- 9. When you are ready to run, the Devil arranges the fare. We pay for our own mistakes dearly!
- 10. Do you suppose this favorable circumstance led Jonah to think all was well?

Matt. 16:26 "For what will a man be profited, if he s

- 11. Why the disobedience?
 - a.) Hard task.
 - b.) Long way to go.
 - c.) Outnumbered.
 - 12. We see what happens to the best of men when left to themselves.
 - 13. Jonah went as far as he could - no middle ground between saint & sinner.
 - 14. Substitutes his will for God's.
- Ps. 139:7 "Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whi
- 15. Details his actions to show it was all deliberate.
 - 16. Artist pictured a dead church - great bldg. - rich go in & out, but box labeled "Foreign Missions" had a spider web over it.

17. When God doesn't conform to our image, we flee His presence.

West End 7-17-77

Joe Serna - Ident.

Echo Meadows, Oregon, Ohio 8-21-77

Mrs. Essie Dombroski - Rest.

Preston Rd. Church, Dallas 5-26-78

Kingston, Tenn. Church 5-28-78

West 7th Columbia 6-9-78

Elders, ministers, Life Leaders, White Station ^{Memphis} 10-22-78