

Men's Ministry Breakfast and Bible Study

09/24/2022

Jonah: Talk the talk AND walk the walk.

Introduction: This book was written in 760 BC by an actual man. The events actually occurred. The book is filled with irony. The name Jonah in Hebrew means DOVE (bringing to mind peace, sacrifice and forgiveness). Amittai is a genealogical name but also is a play on words and means TRUTH.

The book was written during the reign of Jeroboam II whose name means "God increases His people". Jeroboam II was a terrible king of Israel, and presided over a time of spiritual weakness in the nation. Jeroboam II's father instituted the "Golden Calf Cult" in an attempt to preserve his power by keeping the Jews divided spiritually.

Nineveh is modern-day Mosul, Iraq. It was a very large city in Assyria, an enemy of Israel, north east of Jerusalem. The Assyrians were known for their brutal treatment of enemies and prisoners of war. Nineveh was known for its sinfulness of polytheism, severe alcohol abuse, sexual depravity, corrupt business dealings and mistreatment of the poor.

Tarshish is south west of Jerusalem on the southern coast of Spain. It is in the exact opposite direction of Nineveh and represents the outer limit of the extent of the known world at the time.

Jonah is the only prophet who defied the LORD's prophetic mandate. He is the only prophet who doesn't have a written prophecy. He is one of the few prophets whose name's meaning does not speak about God.

Spiritual Growth Indicators:

Written by Mark Yarbrough, DTS professor

1. A life that is growing spiritually is moving toward God's commands, not away from them...regardless of the cost, danger or difficulty.
2. A life that is growing spiritually shows consistency between one's words and one's actions.
3. A life that is growing spiritually exhibits a testimony to the nonbelieving world, not the other way around.
4. A life that is growing spiritually acknowledges and responds to the grace of God.
5. A life that is growing spiritually knows and applies the Word of God in daily living.
6. A life that is growing spiritually confesses sin and repents, not simply speaking words of pious religiosity.
7. A life that is growing spiritually responds to God in total obedience.
8. A life that is growing spiritually responds to God in humility, not arrogance or pride.
9. A life that is growing spiritually loves the unlovely and pursues them.
10. A life that is growing spiritually strives to love as God loves.
11. A life that is growing spiritually evaluates one's heart and removes anything which hinders service.
12. A life that is growing spiritually is more concerned about people than "things".