HaDavar Messianic Ministries
An Outreach of Irvine Community Church
In the Beginning was “The Word”…John 1:1a

Ariel Ministries Exegetical Outline Notes
Jonah
THE BOOK OF JONAH

I. INTRODUCTION - II KINGS 14:25

A. Name: גֹּנָה
   1. Dove
   2. But acts more like a hawk

B. Family
   1. Son of Amittai - "Truth"
   2. Gath Hepher - Tribe of Zebulun
   3. Nothing Else Known

C. Date
   1. During the Reign of Jeroboam II
   2. 783-753 B.C.

D. Locale
   1. From Gath Hepher in Israel - Three miles from Nazareth
   2. Was sent to Nineveh
E. Historical Setting

1. A time of outward prosperity
2. A time of inward spiritual corruption
3. Amos had already declared the coming destruction of Israel by Assyria

F. Major Points

1. Universality of God
2. God's willingness to save Gentiles
3. God will not cast aside because of faithlessness

G. Theme - The Turning of Jonah

H. New Testament Quotations

1. Never Quoted in the New Testament
2. Cited in the New Testament
   a. Matthew 12:39-41
   b. Matthew 16:4
   c. Luke 11:29-30, 32
II. JONAH AND THE STORM - 1:1-16

A. The Commission to Jonah - 1:1-2

1. The Word of Jehovah - 1:1
   a. The source: Now the Word of Jehovah
   b. The recipient: Came unto Jonah the son of Amittai – Saying

2. The Commission - 1:2
   a. The command – Arise
   b. The place - Go to Nineveh
   c. The description: That great city –
      (1) As seen in 3:3
      (2) Called great four times – 1:2, 3:2, 3, 4:11
   d. The message: Cry against it - 3:4
   e. The reason - For their wickedness is come up before Me

B. Jonah's Flight - 1:3

1. The Response: But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish
   a. Tartessus of Spain – the western end of the Mediterranean Sea
   b. The opposite direction

2. The Goal: From the Presence of Jehovah
   a. Jonah knew he could not flee from the omnipresence of God - Psalm 139:7-9
   b. Out of the Land, the Place of the Shechinah
3. The Procedure - Shows Meditation and Satanic Providence
   a. *He went down to Joppa*
   b. *Found a ship going to Tarshish* (Spain)
   c. *So he paid the fare thereof* – Had the necessary funds
   d. *Went down into it* - Went into the ship
   e. Reason
      (1) *To go with them unto Tarshish*
      (2) *To flee from the Presence of Jehovah*
   f. Structure: To emphasize by repetition
      (1) But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the Presence of Jehovah
         (a) He went down to Joppa
         (b) He found a ship going to Tarshish
         (c) So he paid the fare thereof
         (d) He went down into it
      (2) To go with them unto Tarshish from the Presence of the Lord

4. Donald Grey Barnhouse: When you run away from the Lord, you never get to where you are going, and you always pay your own fare. But when you go the Lord’s way you always get to where you are going, and He pays the fare.
C. The Storm - 1:4-16

1. The Calamity - 1:4-6

a. The sending of the storm: *But Jehovah sent out a great wind upon the sea* - 1:4

   (1) הַשְׁרֵד - God hurled the storm at the ship

   (2) Results

      (a) First: *There was a mighty tempest on the sea* - The sea was in tempest

      (b) Second: *So that the ship was like to be broken* - The ship was close to breaking

b. The reactions - 1:5-6

   (1) The mariners - 1:5a

      (a) *Then the mariners were afraid* - Experienced sailors recognize something unique and feared

      (b) *And cried every man to his god* - Began praying to their own gods

      (c) *They cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea*

         i) Hurled (חָלָ֑ד) the cargo into the sea

         ii) The purpose: *To lighten it unto them* - To lighten the ship
(2) Jonah - 1:5b

(a) But Jonah was gone down into the innermost part of the ship - He went into the hold of the ship

(b) And he lay - And was fast asleep

i) The sleep to avoid the problem of conscience

ii) Many lives are in jeopardy because of one man's disobedience

(c) Principle: One man’s disobedience endangers the lives of many others

i) Achan - Israel defeated at Ai

ii) David - caused the death of 70,000 by pestilence

iii) Kings of Israel and Judah - Brought judgment upon their nation

(3) The captain - 1:6

(a) So the ship master came to him

(b) And said unto him

i) What mean you O sleeper?

ii) Arise: Call upon your God - Calls Jonah to awake and pray to his God

iii) The reason - So that we may not perish

a) If so be God will think upon us

b) That we perish not
2. The Cause - 1:7
   a. *And they said everyone to his fellow* - Lots were cast to discover who is responsible
      
      (1) The act: *Come - Let us cast lots*
      
      (2) The purpose: *That we may know for whose cause this evils is upon us*
   
   b. Jonah picked
      
      (1) *So they cast lots*
      
      (2) *And the lot fell upon Jonah*
   
   c. Example of Proverbs 16:33 - The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of Jehovah

3. The Confession - 1:8-10
   a. The interrogation of Jonah: *They said unto him* - 1:8
      
      (1) *Tell us, we pray you, for whose cause this evil is upon us* - What is the reason for this calamity?
      
      (2) *What is your occupation?*
      
      (3) *Where are you from?*
      
      (4) *What is your country* - Citizenship?
      
      (5) *Of what people are you?* - What is your nationality?
b. The answer of Jonah: *He said unto them* - 1:9

(1) *I am a Hebrew*

(a) His nationality

(b) *Hebrew* - Word used when Jews identify themselves to Gentiles

i) Genesis 14:13; 39:14, 17; 40:15

ii) Exodus 1:15, 19; 2:7, 13; 3:18; 5:3; 7:16; 9:1

iii) I Samuel 29:3

iv) Acts 6:1

v) II Corinthians 11:22

vi) Philippians 3:5

(2) *I fear Jehovah* - His religion

(a) *The God of the heavens*

i) Significant statement since they are probably Phoenician sailors

ii) Phoenicians worshipped *Baal Shamen* - The lord of heaven

(b) *The Maker of the sea*

(c) *The Maker of the dry land*

(d) The Creator of the heavens, the sea, and the dry land is responsible for the storm
c. The reaction - 1:10

(1) Fear - Then were the men exceedingly afraid

(2) Astonishment: And said to him - What is this that you have done?

(3) The reason - They now knew he was fleeing from the Presence of the Lord

(a) For the men knew that he was fleeing from the Presence of Jehovah

(b) Because he had told him

4. The Cure - 1:11-16

a. The second interrogation of Jonah - 1:11

(1) Then said they unto him - What do we need to do to you to calm the sea?

(a) What shall we do unto you

(b) That the sea may be calm unto us?

(2) Reason - For the sea grew more and more tempestuous - As if to witness the truth of Jonah's confession

b. The answer of Jonah: And he said unto them - 1:12

(1) Take me up

(2) Cast me forth into the sea - Hurl (נער) me into the sea

(3) The result: So shall the sea be calm unto you

(4) The reason: For I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you - Because of me the tempest is there

(5) Substitution: Jonah's life for theirs
c. The response of the mariners - 1:13

(1) The response: *Nevertheless the men rowed hard to get them back to the land*

(a) Tried to avoid killing the Lord's prophet

(b) Did all in their power to get back to land

(2) The result: *But they could not*

(3) The reason - *For the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them*

d. The prayer for forgiveness - 1:14

(1) *Therefore* - Result of the growing tempest

(2) *They cried unto Jehovah and said*

(a) *We beseech You, O Jehovah*

   i) They turn to the God responsible for the storm

   ii) They no longer pray to the pagan gods of verse five

(b) *Let us not perish for this man's life* - Request to be spared

(c) *Lay not upon us innocent blood* - Request for forgiveness

(d) *You, O Jehovah, has done as it pleased You* - Recognition of God's sovereignty
e. The hurling of Jonah - 1:15

(1) *So they took up Jonah and cast him forth*

(2) Jonah hurled (בֹּל) into the sea

(3) The result: *The sea ceased from its raging* - Again authenticates Jonah's words

f. The conversion of the mariners - 1:16

(1) *The men feared Jehovah exceedingly*

(2) *They offered a sacrifice to Jehovah*

(3) *They made vows to Jehovah*

(a) Religious vows

(b) In spite of Jonah, Gentiles are coming to believe in the God of Israel
5. Chiasm of verse 4-16

A. God hurls wind and storm begins – 4

B. Sailors pray to their gods - 5a

C. We shall not perish: Divine sovereignty - 5b-6

D. On whose account came the storm – 7

E. Sailors question Jonah – 8

F. I fear – 9

F. Sailors fear – 10

E. Sailors question Jonah – 11

D. I know that it is on my account the storm came – 12

C. Let us not perish: Divine sovereignty – 13

B. Sailors pray to God – 14

A. Jonah hurled into the sea and the storm ceases - 15-16
III. JONAH AND THE FISH - 1:17-2:10

A. The Swallowing Up of Jonah - 1:17

1. The Prepared Fish - *And Jehovah prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah*

   a. כָּלָה - To assign, count, appoint, commission

   b. A fish prepared to swallow Jonah

   c. Jonah the rational failed his commission, while the fish the irrational is able to fulfill its

2. Duration: *And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights* - An expression that does not require three 24-hour periods

B. The Prayer of Jonah - 2:1-9


   a. The time - 2:1

      (1) Then - After three days

      (2) The act - *Jonah prayed unto Jehovah his God*

      (3) The place: *Out of the fish's belly*

         (a) בֵּן - *Me-an* – Abdomen

         (b) Verses 2-9 - Prayed in the fish's belly after three days

         (c) This is the third and final prayer in this chapter

         (d) In this prayer, he mentions the two previous prayers

         (e) Resurrection of Jonah took place while body was still in the fish's belly
b. The second prayer: *And he said* - 2:2

(1) *I called by reason of mine affliction unto Jehovah and He answered me*

(2) *Out of the belly of Sheol cried I - And You heard my voice*

   (a) While he is in Sheol - Hence, dead

   (b) Prayed out of the belly of Sheol

      i) בקע - Belly

      ii) Prayed to be delivered out of his state of disobedience

      iii) Asked for another chance to fulfill his commission

   (3) *You heard my voice* - Prayer was answered by resurrection

2. Jonah's Experience in the Sea - 2:3-7

a. Jonah cast into the sea - 2:3a

   (1) *For* - Explains verse two

   (2) *You cast me into the depth - In the heart of the seas*

      (a) Sailors did it

      (b) God planned it
b. Jonah in the water - 2:3b

(1) *The flood was round about me* - Jonah bobbed in the water for a while

(2) *All your waves and your billows passed over me* - Waves of the sea passed over his head

c. The first prayer: *Then I said* - 2:4

(1) *I am cast out from before your eyes*

   (a) Prayed while he was still floating in the water

   (b) Recognized that it was God who cast him into the sea

(2) *Yet I will look again toward Your Holy Temple* - Looks toward the Holy Temple

   (a) Tried to flee from the Presence of the Lord

   (b) Now he looks towards it

d. The drowning of Jonah - 2:5

(1) *The waters compassed me about* - Sinks below the surface

(2) *Even to the soul* (נדיון - נדָיִון) - Implies death

   (a) Psalm 69:1

   (b) Jeremiah 4:10

(3) *The deep was round about me* - Sinking deeper

(4) *The weeds were wrapped around my head*

   (a) Sinks to the level where weeds wrap around his head

   (b) Drowned
e. The death of Jonah - 2:6a

   (1) *I went down to the bottoms of the mountains* - Body now in the bottom of the sea

   (2) *The earth with its bars closed upon me forever*

      (a) Expression of physical death

         i) Job 38:17

         ii) Psalm 9:13

         iii) Psalm 117:18

         iv) Isaiah 38:10

      (b) *Forever* - Thus he entered into Sheol

   (3) Body was then swallowed by the fish and so preserved

f. The resurrection of Jonah - 2:6b

   (1) *Yet you have brought up my life from the pit* - *O Jehovah my God*

      (a) Figure for resurrection

      (b) Used of the Messiah in Psalm 16:10

   (2) Fish picked up his body

   (3) Resurrection took place while body was still in the fish
g. Explanation for the resurrection - 2:7

(1) *When my soul fainted within me* - After death

(2) *I remembered Jehovah* - Prayed after reaching Sheol
  
  (a) The Second Prayer

  (b) Same one mentioned in verse two

(3) *My prayer came unto You in Your Holy Temple*

  (a) Prayer was answered

  (b) So Jonah was resurrected

3. Jonah's Commitment - 2:8-9

a. Status of the idol worshipper - 2:8

  (1) *They that regard lying vanities* - False gods or idols

  (2) Result - *Forsake their own mercy*

  (3) This is very much the status of Nineveh

b. The vow - 2:9

  (1) *But I will sacrifice unto you with the voice of thanksgiving* - For resurrection

  (2) *I will pay that which I have vowed* - Go to Nineveh

C. The Vomiting of Jonah - 2:10

1. God's Command - *Jehovah spoke unto the fish*

2. The Fish's Obedience - *Vomited out Jonah upon the dry land*
IV. JONAH AND THE CITY - 3:1-10

A. The Recommission of Jonah - 3:1-2

1. The Word of Jehovah: *And the Word of Jehovah came unto Jonah the second time* - 3:1
   a. Following his restoration
   b. A second direct revelation

2. The Commission - 3:2
   a. The command: *Arise*
   b. The place: *Go to Nineveh*
   c. The description: *That great city*

   (1) The message: *Preach unto it*
      (a) In 1:2 Jonah was to *cry against it*
      (b) Subtle change to indicate what will be an unexpected result

   (2) *The preaching that I bid you* - The divine origin of Jonah’s message

   (3) *Hapax* - Appears only here in the Hebrew text
      (a) The crying
      (b) The calling
B. The Obedience - 3:3-4

1. The Arrival at Nineveh - 3:3a
   a. So Jonah arose
   b. And went to Nineveh
   c. The Basis: According to the Word of Jehovah

2. The Greatness of Nineveh - 3:3b
   a. Size:
      (1) Now Ninevah was an exceeding great city
      (2) Of three days journey
   b. The great city: Includes the entire triangle with Nineveh - Genesis 10:11-12
      (1) Rehoboth-Ir
      (2) Calah – Eighteen miles to the south
      (3) Resen – Located between Nineveh and Calah
      (4) Rebit-Ninua – Northeast of Nineveh
3. The Preaching of Jonah - 3:4
   a. And Jonah began to enter into the city a day’s journey - Jonah began preaching immediately upon entering the city
   b. The message: And he cried and said - Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown
   c. Hebrew: "Short and Sweet" - אֲרַכְּפְּסָא לֹא נִנְתָּה נְפַסְּקָה - פָּרָשַׁת לֹא נִנְתָּה

      (1) נְפַסְּקָה

      (2) Technical term for the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah

      (a) Genesis 19:25

      (b) Lamentations 4:6

      (c) Amos 4:11

C. The Conversion of Nineveh - 3:5-10

1. The Repentance of the People - 3:5
   a. Internal: And the people of Ninevah believed God
   b. External

      (1) They proclaimed a fast

      (2) Put on sackcloth

   c. Entire strata of society - From the greatest of them to the least of them
2. The Proclamation of the King - 3:6-9

a. The repentance - 3:6

(1) *And the tidings reached the King of Ninevah* - The King of Ninevah

(a) *Hapax* - Elsewhere always the King of Assyria

(b) But at the time Ninevah’s central control was weak

i) Regional lords experienced a great amount of autonomy

ii) The King of Assyria at that time only had absolute authority over the city of Ninevah

(c) The king - Three possibilities

i) Adad-Nirari III - 810-782

ii) Shalmanezer IV - 782-772

iii) Ashur-Dan III - 772-755

iv) Most probable - Adad-Nirari III since

a) He was known for his monotheism

b) Best corresponds with Jeroboam II (783-753)
(2) His actions

(a) *He arose from his throne* - Left the throne

(b) *Laid his robe from him* - Laid aside the royal robes

(c) *Covered him with sackcloth* - Dressed in sackcloth

(d) *Sat in ashes*

b. His proclamation - 3:7-8

(1) *And he made a proclamation*

(2) *And published through Nineveh by the decree*

(a) *Of the king*

(b) *And his nobles* - Fits the political system of the time

(3) Saying

(a) To fast

i) *Let neither man nor beast* - Herd nor flock

a) *Taste anything*

b) *Let them not feed*

c) *Nor drink water*

ii) Animals are an obvious concern in this book
(b) To wear sackcloth
   i) *Let them be covered with sackcloth*
   ii) *Both man and beast*

(c) To cry unto God - *Let them cry mightily unto God*

(d) To cease from evil
   i) *Let them turn everyone from his evil way*
   ii) *And from the violence that is in his hands*

(c. His intent - 3:9

(1) To cause God not to destroy the city
   (a) *Who knows whether God will not turn and repent*
   (b) *And turn away from His fierce anger*
   (c) *That we perish not?*

(2) Correctly read into Jonah's prophecy a conditional element
3. The Judgment Averted - 3:10

a. The Conversion of Nineveh Accepted - 3:10a

(1) *And God saw their works*

(2) *And they turned from their evil way*

b. Judgment Did Not Fall - 3:10b

(1) *And God repented of the evil which He said He would do unto them*

(2) *And He did it not*

c. The principle of Jeremiah 18:7-8 - Repentance averts judgment
V.  JONAH AND THE GOURD - 4:1-11

A.  Introduction

1.  Verse 2-4 – Jehovah

2.  Verse 6 - Jehovah God

3.  Verses 7-9 – God

4.  Verse 10 - Jehovah

B.  The Anger of Jonah - 4:1-5

1.  Jonah's Exceeding Anger - 4:1

   a.  But it displeased Jonah exceedingly

   b.  And he was angry - Angry at God’s ability to preserve

2.  Jonah's Complaint - 4:2

   a.  And he prayed unto Jehovah

   b.  And said - I pray you O Jehovah

       (1)  Was not this my saying when I was yet in my country?

           (a)  Gives the reason for Jonah's flight to Tarshish

           (b)  Knows God was merciful and would respond to repentance - Jonah himself experienced this earlier

           (c)  Jonah did not wish to see Nineveh repent and be spared
(d) **Reason**

i) Not: Anti-Gentile or a bigot

ii) But: Pro-Israel – Nationalist

   a) "My Country"

   b) Knew from the preaching of Amos that Nineveh would destroy Israel

   c) The sparing of Nineveh would signal the coming destruction of Israel

   d) Did not desire to be the instrument by which Nineveh would repent and so be spared

(2) **Therefore I hastened to flee to Tarshish**

(a) *For I knew that You were a God*

   i) *Gracious*

   ii) *Merciful*

   iii) *Slow to anger*

   iv) *Abundant in lovingkindness*

(b) *And repent You of the evil*

3. **Jonah's Desire to Die:** *Therefore now O Jehovah - I beseech You -*
   4:3

   a. *Take my life from me*

   b. *For it is better for me to die than to live*
4. Jehovah's Question - 4:4
   a. *And Jehovah said - Do you well to be angry?*
   b. In light of the grace extended to Jonah

5. Jonah's Response - 4:5
   a. Jonah builds a booth on the east side of the city where he could observe the city
      (1) *Then Jonah went out of the city*
      (2) *Set on the east side of the city*
      (3) *There made him - a booth*
      (4) *And set under its shade*
   b. The reason - Till he might see what would become of the city
      (1) Forty days are over - Perhaps Nineveh would return to her sin
      (2) If so - Perhaps God would yet destroy Nineveh

C. The Lesson for Jonah - 4:6-11
   1. The Picture Lesson - 4:6-8
      a. The gourd - 4:6
         (1) *And Jehovah God prepared a gourd*
            (a) Prepared by God: בזונ - Appointed
            (b) סֶלֶם - Castor oil plant
            (c) Obeyed God
(2) For Jonah

(a) And made it to come up over Jonah

(b) Provided shade - That it might be a shade over his head

(c) To deliver him from his evil case - To deliver him from his depression

(3) Jonah's response - Jonah was exceedingly glad because of the gourd

b. The worm - 4:7

(1) But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day

(a) Prepared by God: גָּשִׁים - Appointed

(b) Obeyed God

(2) It smote the gourd - That it withered

c. The east wind - 4:8

(1) The Timing - And it came to pass when the sun arose

(2) That God prepared a sultry east wind

(a) Prepared by God: גָּשִׁים - Appointed

(b) Obeyed God

(c) The chamsin or sharav wind

(3) The sun beat upon the head of Jonah
(4) Results

(a) And he fainted – Sunstroke

(b) Second request to die

   i) Requested for himself that he might die

   ii) And said - It is better for me to die than to live

2. The Verbal Lesson - 4:9-11

a. Jehovah's question - 4:9a

   (1) And he said to Jonah - Do you well to be angry for the gourd? - Now angry at God’s ability to destroy

   (2) In light of the grace shown to you?

b. Jonah's answer: And he said - 4:9b

   (1) I do well to be angry

   (2) Even unto death - Even to the point of death

c. Jehovah's response: And Jehovah said - 4:10-11

   (1) Jonah's concern - 4:10

      (a) You have regard for the gourd - For what is inanimate and irrational

      (b) For that which he did not labor

         i) For which you did not labor

         ii) Neither made it grow

         iii) Which came up in a night

         iv) And perished in a night
(2) Jehovah's concern - 4:11

(a) Should not I have regard for Nineveh - For the animate and the rational

(b) That great city

i) Wherein there are six score thousand persons - 120,000

ii) That cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand

   a) If this is in reference to the lack of spiritual discernment, then this is the entire population of the city

   b) If this is in reference to children, the entire population would be around 600,000

   c) Either figure is possible for Greater Nineveh

(c) And also much cattle?

   i) Jonah showed concern for the plant

   ii) Since he shows no concern for human life, perhaps he will be touched by the mention of animal life

(d) For whom God and Jonah did labor
VI. APPLICATIONS

1. Universality of God

2. God's willingness to save Gentiles

3. Principle of delay of judgment

4. God will not cast aside because of faithlessness

5. Nature of the ministry
   a. Results may not be what you expect - Good or bad
   b. God is responsible for the results
   c. Our responsibility – Faithfulness

6. Before you react to grace given to another believer - Remember the grace given to you