



**CHURCH OF NIGERIA** (*Anglican Communion*)  
**DIOCESE OF LAGOS WEST**

Archbishop Vining Memorial Church Cathedral, GRA – Ikeja  
**GATHERING OF THE NOBLES**

**BIBLE EXPOSITION OUTLINE: Tuesday 3<sup>RD</sup> September, 2019**

DIOCESAN THEME: "GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH" - PSALM 46:1a

**INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF JONAH**

- A. According to scholars there are three old testaments books which Satan hates with passion. They are:
1. **Genesis:** For predicting the incarnation of Jesus Christ as the seed of the woman - Gen. 3:15
  2. **Daniel:** For predicting the glorious second coming of Jesus Christ to destroy His enemies - Dan. 7:9-12
  3. **Jonah:** For predicting in **TYPE FORM** the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - Jonah 2: Matt. 12:38-41.
- B. According to findings also there are three basic interpretations of the Book of Jonah
1. **The Mythological approach:** This is the liberal view which sees Jonah in line with Robinson Crusoe, Gulliver of Gulliver's Travels, or Hercules. (Myth is an idea or story that is believed by many people but that is not true. A story told in an ancient culture to explain a practice, belief or natural occurrence).
  2. **The Allegorical approach:** This is the view that the book of Jonah is merely an extended parable, thus describing:
    - A. Jonah as Israel
    - B. The Sea as Gentile nations in general
    - C. The fish as the Babylonian captivity
    - D. The regurgitation as the return during Ezra's time.(Allegory is a story in which the characters and events are symbols that stand for ideas about human life or for political or historical situation)
  3. **The Literal historical approach:** This evidently is the correct view
    - A. The account presents itself as actual history
    - B. The Jews believed it to be literal

- C. The early Church believed it to be literal
- D. The author of 2 Kings 14:25 refers to Jonah as a historical person with the Mention of his hometown and that of his father and the king he served under
- E. Above all Jesus testified to the literal account of Jonah - Matt. 12:38-41; Matt. 16:4; Luke 11:29-32.

(Literal in the context of this consideration means completely true and accurate, not exaggerated)

### C. THE MAN JONAH

1. The name means **DOVE**
2. He was the son of Amittai and the first Hebrew prophet or missionary sent to a heathen nation - 2 Kings 14:25; Jonah 1:1
3. He was a citizen of Gathhepher in Zebulum of Galilee and a subject of the Northern Kingdom.
4. He is an evident correction of the false statement of the Pharisees about no prophet coming out of Galilee - John 7:52
5. Jonah lived in the early part of the reign of Jeroboam II and in a period when the kingdom was in a divided and abject condition.
6. He was the earliest if not the first prophet to have his writing preserved
7. He is the first of a new order of prophets appearing to declare God's love to the whole world.
8. Jonah had a mission to **NINEVEH**
9. Jonah was an isolationist believing that salvation was for the Jews and the Jews only.
10. Jonah came to know of God's embracing love through affliction - Jh. 3:16
11. The following are noteworthy about Jonah by way of learning
 

A. Disobedient - 1:1-11	B. Afflicted - 1:12-17
C. Praying - 2:1-9	D. Delivered - 2:10
E. Recommissioned - 3:1-3	F. Powerful - 3:4-10
G. Perplexed fainting but not forsaken- 4:1-11	
12. Jonah was sent to a foreign field
13. Jonah sought to flee from his unwelcome task
14. Jonah was overtaken in his flight
15. Jonah found God in the depth of the sea - Ps. 139:10
16. Jonah became a revivalist
17. Jonah was disappointed with his own work
18. Jonah reveals **BIGOTRY** (A bigot is a person who strongly and unfairly dislikes other people ideas, etc. Hating or refusing to accept the members of a particular group such as racial or religious group).
19. Jonah was taught the breadth of divine mercy

### D. PURPOSE OF WRITING THE BOOK OF PROPHET JONAH

This has three fold purposes:

1. To demonstrate to Israel and the nations the magnitude and breadth of

God's

saving mercy and activity through the preaching of repentance.

2. To show through Jonah's experience how far Israel had fallen from her Original Missionary calling to be a light of redemption to those who dwell in darkness - Gen. 12:1-3; Isa. 42:6-7; 49:6.
3. To remind backslidden Israel that God in love and mercy had sent her not just one prophet but many faithful prophets, who delivered His message of repentance so as to avert inevitable judgment for sin. Yet unlike Nineveh Israel (just like many of us Christians or church goers do today) rejected / is still rejecting God's prophets and His offer to repent and received mercy.

#### E. STATISTICS

A.	32 <sup>nd</sup> Book of the Bible	B.	4 Chapters
C.	48 verses	D.	1,321 words
E.	8 Commands	F.	12 Questions
G.	No Promise	H.	1 Verse of fulfilled prophecy
I.	6 distinct messages from God. 1:2; 2:10; 3:2; 4:4, 9, 10		

#### F. NINEVEH, ASSYRIA AND ISRAEL PALESTINE CONNECTIONS:

1. The cruelty of the Assyrian armies was unparalleled in ancient history.
2. They capture their victims and held them down
3. A torturer is made to insert his hand into the victim's mouth, grip his tongue and wrench it out by the roots.
4. In another spot, pegs are driven into the ground with victims wrists fixed with cords.
5. His ankles are similarly made fast and the victim stretched out unable to move a muscle.
6. The executioners then applied himself to his task and beginning at the accustomed spot the sharp knife makes its incision, the skin is raised inch by inch till the man is flayed alive.
7. The flayed skin of human beings are then stretched out upon the city walls or otherwise disposed of so as to terrify the people and leave behind long enduring impression of Assyrian vengeance.
8. For some others men are laid down and a sharpened end of a long pole is driven in through the lower part of the chest, the pole is then raised bearing the writhing victim aloft, planted in the hole dug for the pole and the man left to die.
9. Pyramids of human heads marked the path of the conqueror; boys and girls were burnt alive or reserved for a worse fate.
10. Men were impaled, flayed alive, blinded or deprived of their hands and feet or their ears and noses while the women and children were carried into slavery the captured city is plundered and reduced to ashes and the trees in its neighborhood cut down.

In all of these *NINEVEH* was the ancient capital city of Assyria. It is today located on the *OUTSKIRTS* of Mosul in modern day Northern Iraq.

**G. FOOD FOR THOUGHT:**

1. Given the picture painted of Nineveh and the threat posed to the existence of Israel as a nation what would you have done otherwise if like Jonah you were sent to them.
2. Relating unparalleled cruelty of the Ninevites to the prevailing menaces of Boko Haram, Kidnappers, Herdsmen and armed robbers in Nigeria, what is your take as a Christian especially in the area of *MERCY, REPENTANCE, EVANGELISM, JUDGMENT*, etc

**H. SOME LESSONS**

1. We must become *MAD* in all our approaches to issues because the Endtime is here. To be *MAD* is to *MOVE AGAINST THE DEVIL*: Preaching Christ through our life, *THE 5TH GOSPEL*.
2. The Bible is not a *STORY BOOK*. It is God's Word which we must *BELIEVE* without any reservation.
3. We must know our God given assignment and pursue it with *PASSION, INTERNATIONAL, FOREIGN OR INTERCONTINENTAL*.
4. We must not *REJECT OR INFLUENCE* our *POSTINGS*.
5. Our God is the *ALL KNOWING GOD*, His Will must prevail. He must have The *FINAL* and *ONLY SAY*.
6. Do not write anybody off as far as *SALVATION* is concerned.
7. We need a large heart like our father to show *MERCY, LOVE* and forgiveness to the undeserving.