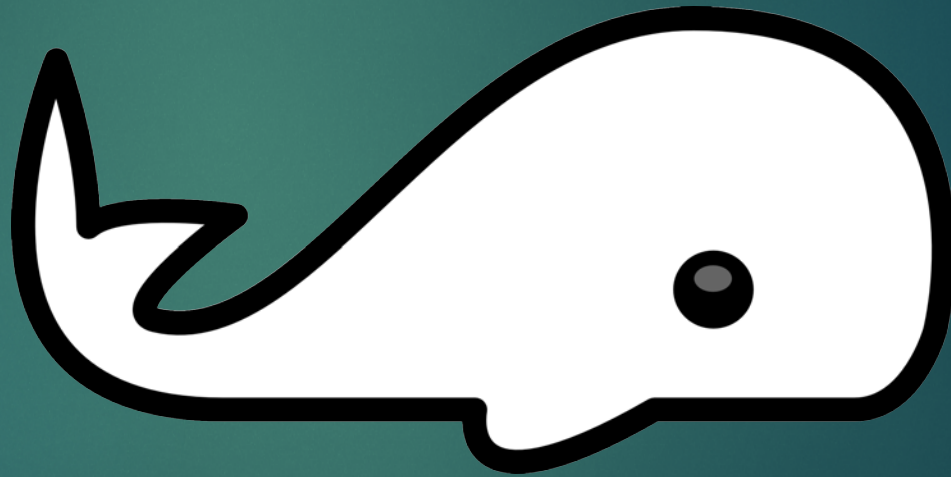


Jonah



History or Parable?

- ▶ Parable
 - ▶ Jonah is different than the other prophets
 - ▶ Extraordinary and unbelievable events
 - ▶ Fanciful exaggerations
- ▶ What does the parable mean?
 - ▶ Jonah is disobedient Israel
 - ▶ His preaching is Israel's prophetic responsibility to the nations
 - ▶ His flight represents Israel's failure in its mission
 - ▶ His time in the fish is exile
 - ▶ His prayer for deliverance is the return from exile
 - ▶ His unhappiness at the outcome is Israel's anger at God's patience with the gentiles

Not a parable.

- ▶ Genre is important but can be pushed too far
- ▶ Parables are short, simple, and accompanied by explanation
- ▶ The fish is an agent of deliverance, not judgment
- ▶ The view is fundamentally grounded in a rejection of the supernatural

Real history, then?

- ▶ The text indicates it should be taken as historical
 - ▶ Jonah 1:1
 - ▶ Matthew 12:38-40
- ▶ The objections don't identify real problems
 - ▶ The repentance of the animals
 - ▶ A three-days journey through Nineveh
 - ▶ The city-wide repentance

The Message

- ▶ God tells Jonah to “go to Nineveh” but he flees
 - ▶ A contrast of character
 - ▶ The character of Jonah and Israel
 - ▶ The character of Nineveh and Assyria
 - ▶ The character of God
- ▶ What was the effect of Jonah’s running away?
 - ▶ Behavior that is worse than the pagans!
 - ▶ Jonah – asleep during the storm (1:4-6)
 - ▶ Pagans – exhort Jonah to pray, are appalled at his rejection of divine instruction, are concerned about divine retribution, worshipped God by offering sacrifices and vows

Repentance?

- ▶ A model prayer of repentance
 - ▶ Recognizes a position of distress and God's willingness to hear (2)
 - ▶ Recognizes the calamity over which God himself is sovereign (3)
 - ▶ Expresses hope because of the mercy of God (4-6)
 - ▶ Admission of the inadequacy of self and false idols and the power of the one true God (7-8)
 - ▶ A vow of obedience (9)
- ▶ A remarkable expression of mercy
 - ▶ 2:10 – The LORD spoke to the fish
 - ▶ 3:1 – The work of the LORD came to Jonah the second time

Repentance?

- ▶ Jonah's preaching in Nineveh
 - ▶ "Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown!"
- ▶ Nineveh's response
 - ▶ "And the people of Nineveh believed God"
 - ▶ Called for a fast
 - ▶ Put on sackcloth (from the greatest to the least)
 - ▶ The king removed his robe and sat in ashes
 - ▶ The king's proclamation: true repentance gives hope
- ▶ God relents
 - ▶ Mercy comes again



Which one was real?

- ▶ Jonah responds in anger
 - ▶ The greatest temper-tantrum ever (4:1-3)
- ▶ God is patient with Jonah again, and gracious
 - ▶ God uses a plant for an object lesson to reveal something about Jonah's perspective
- ▶ What was wrong with Jonah's prayer?