

Lesson 10

2 Kings 14 & Jonah 1 - 4

In our last lesson, we talked about the miracles that Elisha worked. We talked about King Jehu, Queen Athaliah, and Joash who was made king at the age of seven. We talked about some other king. Most of the kings we talked about were bad kings.

Amaziah had been made king in Judah. He was a good king. The two nations of God were fighting against each other. King Amaziah went up against Jehoash, the king of Israel. King Jehoash defeated King Amaziah. Later, Jehoash tore down the walls of Jerusalem. They went into Jerusalem and took the gold, silver, and all things found in the house of the Lord. (2 Kings 14:14)

There was a prophet of the Lord named Jonah. Jonah was from the city of Gath Hopher. Jonah was a very important prophet in Israel.

The Lord told Jonah to go to the city of Nineveh. Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire. The Lord told Jonah to preach to the people there. (Jonah 1:2) God wanted Jonah to tell the people to stop the wicked things they were doing. Jonah did not want to do what the Lord commanded him to do. Instead, Jonah went to Joppa and got on a ship that was going to Tarshish. (Jonah 1:3)

The people in Nineveh were wicked. They were Gentiles and had been enemies of the Israelites. Jonah thought the people should be destroyed. Jonah did not want to preach to them. He chose to get on a ship going the opposite direction.

The Lord sent a great wind on the sea. The storm was making huge waves. The storm was so bad that the ship was about to break apart. (Jonah 1:4) The men on the ship were afraid. They started throwing the cargo off the ship trying to make the load lighter.

Jonah had gone down below to the lower part of the ship and was sleeping. (Jonah 1:5) The captain of the ship went to Jonah and woke him. He asked Jonah to call on his God for help to save them from the storm.

Jonah told the other men that God sent the storm because he had disobeyed God. The men asked Jonah what they needed to do. Jonah told them that if they threw him into the water, the sea would calm down. (Jonah 1:12)

The men rowed very hard trying to get the ship to land. The storm got worse. Finally, they threw Jonah into the sea. Then the sea was calm. (Jonah 1:15)

The Lord caused a big fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights. (Jonah 1:17) Jonah prayed to the Lord from the belly of the fish. Jonah knew he had not obeyed God.

God answered Jonah's prayers. The Lord spoke to the big fish. He made the big fish spit Jonah out on the dry land. (Jonah 2:10)

The Lord spoke to Jonah again. He said, “Arise, go to Nineveh, . . . preach the message I tell you.” (Jonah 3:2) Jonah obeyed God and went to Nineveh.

Jonah preached to the people of Nineveh the words God told him to preach. The people listened to Jonah and believed him. They repented of their sins. They changed from their evil ways. God saved the people of Nineveh.

Jonah should have been very happy that the people listened and obeyed. But, he wasn't. Jonah was very angry. He wanted God to destroy the people because they had been so wicked. Jonah went outside the city to pray to God. God asked Jonah why He should not forgive the people of Nineveh. (Jonah 4:11)

The people had repented and God forgave them. God was very pleased to see the change in the people. God is a very loving and forgiving God. God loves all people and is happy when people do right.