

Should I Not Be Concerned?

Jonah 1-4

Key Verse: 4:10-11

Read 2 Kings 14:24-27. Jonah prophesied during the reign of Jeroboam II, king of Israel (782-753 B.C.,) who was 'evil in the eyes of the Lord.' Still, the merciful Lord restored some of Israel's boundaries. Assyria was a rising power, but Israel was on a spiritual decline (2Ki 17:7,20). Assyria conquered northern Israel in 722 B.C. Nineveh was a great city in Assyria and in 700 B.C. became the capital. In 612 B.C., Nineveh was destroyed for its wickedness, which Nahum prophesied (Nah 1:1).

#### I. Storm Training for Jonah (Ch.1)

1. What was God's word to Jonah and Jonah's response? Why might he have responded like this? Have you ever responded like this to God's will?
2. What did God do? What did the sailors do? What was Jonah doing? How is the captain's rebuke a wake up call for believers?
3. How was Jonah exposed as the problem? (7-8) How did Jonah's words not match his actions? (9)
4. What did Jonah tell them to do? What did they do instead? What did they finally do and realize? How did the Lord provide?

#### II. The Lord Saves Jonah (Ch.2)

1. Imagine Jonah's situation in the fish. What did he do and what did God do?
2. How did Jonah experience personally, "Salvation comes from the Lord"? Why is this important in the book of Jonah and the Bible? Have you ever experienced God's salvation personally? If so, how?

#### III. Jonah Delivers God's Message to Nineveh (Ch.3)

1. What was God's second message to Jonah (1,2)? Compare it with the first one (1:1-2). What was Jonah's response this time?
2. What did Jonah proclaim in Nineveh and how did they respond (4,5)? Read the king's response and decree (6-9). How did God respond to this (10)?

#### IV. God Teaches Jonah (Ch.4)

1. Why was Jonah angry? What did God ask? Where did Jonah go and why?
2. What three things did God provide? What was the Lord teaching Jonah? What has the Lord taught you through this book?