

Missionaries – Part 4

The Jonah Saga

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on Missionaries. Our topic today: The Jonah Saga.

Scripture Theme Song: “You are a Chosen Generation” (1 Peter 2:9)

- 1) The setting for the story of the prophet Jonah
 - a) 750 BC, during the reign of Jeroboam II.
 - b) Does anyone know what was unique about Jonah?
 - i) Only prophet to have a book written about his own story.
 - ii) Only prophet of Israel called to be a missionary to another country.
 - iii) Only prophet to experience both 100% failure and 100% success.
 - 2) The flawed prophet
 - a) Jonah 1:1-3 – his rebellion
 - b) Jonah 1:9 – his confession
 - c) Jonah 2:2-9 – his prayer
 - d) Jonah 3: 1-10 – his ministry in Nineveh
 - e) How would you react to such an amazing response from your hearers? Jonah 4:1
 - f) Why would the LORD God call such a flawed individual to become a missionary to Nineveh?
 - i) There was no one else available
 - ii) The LORD wanted to teach Jonah a lesson
 - iii) The LORD wanted to teach all of us a lesson.
 - g) What other Bible characters did God use as missionaries in spite of major character flaws?
 - i) Simon Peter
 - ii) The apostle John – Luke 9:49-50, 51-56
 - iii) Others?
 - h) Share a personal experience in mission where God used you in spite of your imperfections.
- 3) Lessons for imperfect missionaries
 - a) Jonah 1:17 – God will not abandon us even when we are resistant.
 - b) Jonah 2:10 – the LORD can rescue repentant runaway missionaries.
 - c) Jonah 3:5-6 – the LORD can work in miraculous ways through flawed and feeble missionaries
 - d) Jonah 4: 1-11 – The LORD will show mercy even when flawed missionaries lack mercy.
 - 4) Believing the promises of God regarding mission work
 - a) What promises of God recorded in His Word assure us that He will grant us success as missionaries?
 - i) Matthew 28:18-20
 - ii) Acts 1:8
 - iii) Isaiah 55:10-12
 - iv) Psalm 126:5-6
 - v) Other promises?
 - b) What examples either from the Bible or more recent times inspire you to be a missionary in spite of your imperfections?
 - c) Why does God send some to foreign lands as missionaries and ask others to serve at home?