

November 21–27
Jonah; Micah
“He Delighteth in Mercy”



Jonah and the Whale

Jonah 1:1-3

Why do you think that Jonah was so apposed to preaching the gospel in Nineveh (Syria)?

Lorenzo Snow

“Jonah fled from the presence of the Lord, for he knew that... all nations and peoples that feared [God], and lived according to the light which they possessed;... that the Lord would forgive that people.” (JD, 23:338)

Henry B. Eyring

“Think of Jonah. He fled at first from the call from the Lord to warn the people of Nineveh who were blinded to the danger by sin. He knew that wicked people through the ages have rejected prophets and sometimes killed them. Yet when Jonah went forward with faith, the Lord blessed him with safety and success.” (CR, Oct. 1998)

Orson Pratt

“He was going to condemn the great city of Nineveh.... Jonah finding that the Lord sent but one witness with such an important message felt almost discouraged, and when he was on his way to deliver it to a great people and city, he felt that he would almost rather die than go as a single and solitary witness with a message of so much importance, and he besought the people to throw him overboard.” (JD, 14:253)

Victor L. Ludlow

"How can Jonah's experience be applied to our lives? Do we ever run from our responsibilities in the Church? Are we ever afraid to do a task given us by our leaders? Does the Lord seem to put obstacles in our lives to help us turn around and establish more valuable priorities? The example of Jonah provides answers to these questions as we understand how God works with his children." ("Unlocking Old Testament Prophecy," Ensign, Oct. 1990)

Jonah and the Whale

Jonah 1:10-15

Why do you think Jonah was willing to be cast into the sea?

Lorenzo Snow

“In Jonah again we find an interesting trait of character. When upon the raging waters, and fears were expressed by the sailors as to their ability to save the ship, Jonah, feeling conscience-stricken at the course he had taken in not proceeding to Nineveh as commanded of the Lord, came forward and confessed himself as being the cause of the disaster that was about to befall them, and was willing to be sacrificed in the interest of those on board.” (JD, 23:189)

Jonah and the Whale

Jonah 1:17

What does it state in this verse that helps us to easily accept the story of Jonah in the whale?

Joseph Fielding Smith

“Are we to reject it as being an impossibility and say that the Lord could not prepare a fish, or whale, to swallow Jonah?... Surely the Lord sits in the heavens and laughs at the wisdom of the scoffer, and then on a sudden answers his folly by a repetition of the miracle in dispute, or by the presentation of one still greater.”
(Doctrines of Salvation, 2:314–15)

Matthew 12:39-41

39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

Jonah and the Whale

Jonah 2:1-2,8-10

Marie Searle

“Jonah spiritually stagnated in the belly of the fish for three days and nights until he repented and expressed this interesting realization to the Lord:

“They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.’

"Even if we have the same callings year after year... we can still gain new and vital knowledge and skills and ‘with joy... draw water out of the wells of salvation’ (Isa. 12:3).... Through Church callings, we are able to learn to understand many eternal principles." ("An Invitation from the Lord," Ensign, Dec. 1989)

Jonah and the Whale

Jonah 3:1-6,10

JST, Jonah 3:10

And God saw their works that they turned from their evil way and repented; and God turned away the evil that he had said he would bring upon them.

What impact did Jonah's message of repentance have on the people of Nineveh?

Lorenzo Snow

“Jonah turned up at last in Nineveh, a wiser, if not a better man. And he went to work in earnest, performing the mission to which he had been called, and delivered the message to the people. The king heard of it, and he had that faith in and that knowledge of the character of the Almighty that he believed and humbled himself, and used his influence with his nobles and people that they should do likewise,... and the people repented and humbled themselves before God in the hope that he would turn away his wrath from them. And they so fully complied with the requirements that his judgment was reversed, and the great city preserved.” (JD, 23:338)

Jonah and the Whale

Jonah 4:1-3,9-11

What did God know that Jonah was not able to comprehend?

Micah Calls Israel to Repentance

Micah 2:1-2,9

What evil were Israelites who had riches, power, and authority committing?

Spencer W. Kimball

“To me that means, woe unto them who will rationalize, who will explain away their errors in these matters, who justify their oppressions. Farm hands, domestic help, and unprotected people are often oppressed, when economic circumstances place them in the position where they must accept what is offered or remain unemployed. And we sometimes justify ourselves in underpaying and even boast about it.” (CR, Oct. 1953)

Micah Calls Israel to Repentance

Micah 6:12-16

What will become of the rich and powerful if they don't follow the principles of Christ?

Micah Calls Israel to Repentance

Micah 6:6-8

Why was performing an extraordinary amount of ritual sacrifices not enough for the Israelites to please the Lord?

What can we do to show the Lord that we want to be obedient and follow Him?

How do these points relate to how we should treat the poor and oppressed who are among us?

Dale G. Renlund

“Micah satirically wondered whether even exorbitant offerings might be enough to compensate for sin, saying: 'Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten [thousand] ... rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for ... the sin of my soul?'

“The answer is no. Good deeds are not sufficient. Salvation is not earned.... Not even the vast sacrifices Micah knew were impossible can redeem the smallest sin. Left to our own devices, the prospect of returning to live in God's presence is hopeless.

“Without the blessings that come from Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, we can never do enough or be enough by ourselves. The good news, though, is that because of and through Jesus Christ we can become enough.” (CR, Oct. 2020)

Dale G. Renlund

“Micah’s direction on turning our hearts to God and qualifying for salvation contains three interconnected elements....

“To be Christlike, a person does justly.... A just person is civil in words and action and recognizes that differences in outlook or belief do not preclude genuine kindness and friendship. Individuals who do justly 'will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably' (Mosiah 4:13.)

“To be Christlike, a person loves mercy. People who love mercy are not judgmental; they manifest compassion for others, especially for those who are less fortunate; they are gracious, kind, and honorable. These individuals treat everyone with love and understanding...

“To be Christlike, a person chooses God, walks humbly with Him, seeks to please Him, and keeps covenants with Him. Individuals who walk humbly with God remember what Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ have done for them.” (CR, Oct. 2020)

Micah Calls Israel to Repentance

Micah 3:9-12

What sins were the Israelites committing that resulted in the destruction of the temple and to their being scattered?

John Taylor

"Men generally, although very particular about financial matters, and things pertaining to time; although very careful about the acquisition of wealth and desirous of knowing which is the best way to invest it after they have obtained it; although desirous to obtain honor and fame and wealth; yet in regard to religious matters.... they have a hireling priesthood whom they pay to take care of their souls.... Religion is not a thing, according to the estimation of a great many, that everybody ought to be dabbling with: it belongs to the priests, teachers, etc., who are paid for teaching their dogmas, theories, creeds, and opinions." (JD, 14:250)

The Gathering of Israel in the Last Days

Micah 4:10-13

What does the Lord promise He will do for Zion even as nations gather to destroy her?

Charles W. Penrose

“I know by the revelation of the Holy Spirit that the Lord has commenced the great work of the latter days spoken of by the prophets. I know it will remain, and will prevail; though all the world rise up against it—as they will do some day, not only this nation, but others—and will say, ‘Let her be defiled.’ But they know not the Lord, neither do they understand the counsels of his will.... Though all nations oppose, this work will roll onward to completion; for the power of God will be in our midst and we shall be able to accomplish with greater ease and facility everything we are directed to do. This kingdom will prevail, and this work will roll on and accomplish everything predicted. ... The purposes of God will be developed and his kingdom roll on, while the kingdoms of this world, with all their pomp and splendor, will be brought low.” (JD, 21:45)

The Gathering of Israel in the Last Days

Micah 4:1-2

What do you think is meant by “the mountain of the Lords house”?

What do you think is meant by “out of Zion shall go forth the law”?

Gordon B. Hinckley

“Ever since the Salt Lake Temple was dedicated, we have interpreted that scripture from Isaiah, repeated again in Micah as applying to this sacred house of the Lord. And of this place, since the day of its dedication, an ever-increasing number from across the world have said in effect, ‘Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He might teach us of His ways, that we might walk in His paths.’”

“I believe and testify that it is the mission of this Church to stand as an ensign to the nations and a light to the world. We have had placed upon us a great, all-encompassing mandate from which we cannot shrink nor turn aside. We accept that mandate and are determined to fulfill it, and with the help of God we shall do it.” (CR, Oct. 2003)

Harold B. Lee

"I have often wondered what that expression meant, that out of Zion shall go forth the law. Years ago I went with the brethren to the Idaho Falls Temple, and I heard in that inspired prayer of the First Presidency a definition of the meaning of that term "out of Zion shall go forth the law." Note what they said: "We thank thee that thou hast revealed to us that those who gave us our constitutional form of government were men wise in thy sight and that thou didst raise them up for the very purpose of putting forth that sacred document [the Constitution of the United States - D&C 101]..."

(Improvement Era, Oct. 1945)

Harold B. Lee

"With regard to the political turmoil among the nations, we would earnestly pray that if this and other nations would be constrained to live by and adopt governmental systems where civil and political liberties are secure, we could then hopefully look for the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy of the prophets Isaiah... 'that out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.' When that day comes, the blessings and freedoms of the free world will then be realized." (CR, Oct. 1972)

The Gathering of Israel in the Last Days

Micah 4:3-7

What will eventually be the cause of peace in the world?

Erastus Snow

“What reason have we to expect other than a literal fulfillment of the next part of the same prophecy, ... that the Lord will rebuke strong nations afar off, and that the nations will beat their swords into ploughshares, their spears into pruninghooks, that they will live at peace and learn war no more, and the Lord will reign over them, from henceforth, even forever?”

“Such a mighty revolution as is here indicated by the Prophet can never be effected upon the earth without the voice of God, without Prophets and Apostles, and the power of the Holy Ghost working mightily among the sons of men.” (JD, 16:200)

The Gathering of Israel in the Last Days

Micah 5:8-15

3 Nephi 21:22-25

22 But if they will repent and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance;

23 And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem.

24 And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.

25 And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; and I also will be in the midst.

The Gathering of Israel in the Last Days

Micah 7:18-20

Marion D. Hanks

“He waits to be gracious! He loves to be merciful! The prophets call him ‘the Father of mercies’ (2 Cor. 1:3). They speak of his ‘abundant mercy’ (1 Pet. 1:3), and declare that ‘whosoever repenteth, and hardeneth not his heart, he shall have claim on mercy’ (Alma 12:34). They declare his ‘wisdom... mercy, and grace. (2 Ne. 9:8). And crowning all of this is the testimony that our Father ‘delighteth in mercy’ (Micah 7:18).

“The specialty of the Father is mercy.

“The specialty of the Savior is mercy.” (CR, Oct 1981)

Next Week:

November 28–December 4

Nahum; Habakkuk; Zephaniah

“His Ways Are Everlasting”

