

The Church of Jesus Christ

Lessons for the church in Jonah

Jonah Chapter 4 - The Conclusion of God and the City

I. God's Call to the City

- Three times God calls Nineveh that great city (1:2; 2:2; 4:11). Great refers to both big and important. Thus it is a strategic center.
- Jonah was called out of a safe and comfortable life to go to the city.
- The next great city after Nineveh was Babylon (Jer. 29). The exiles of Israel camped outside the city of Babylon to avoid the pollution of that wicked city, but God sends Jeremiah to speak to them. He calls them to move into the city and not just seek the good of their own group but the entire city.
- In Acts, the missional strategy was to go to the largest city in a region and plant a church-planting church.
- The church has a prophetic and apostolic function and mission. Therefore the church must focus on cities.

II. God's View of the City

- In the country there are more plants than people – in the city there are more people than plants. Jonah loves the plant – God loves that great city.
- August 24, 410 – Rome sacked by Barbarians. The only city that cannot be taken or destroyed is the city of God. All human cities and civilizations are temporary. Nothing can destroy the city of God, nor stop it from continuing and advancing.
- God's final ultimate purpose is to build a city that is concerned for God's name and glory (Rev. 21-22).

III. God's Love for the City

- Jonah went outside the city as soon as he could to condemn it. A Greater Prophet (Heb. 13) was dragged out of the city, weeping for it. He died for it to save the ungodly in it. Jesus, the anti-Jonah, went outside the city, not to condemn the city, but to save it.