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GOD'S MASTERWORK, VOLUME FOUR
AN INVITATION TO RETURN—A SURVEY OF HOSEA–MALACHI
JONAH: THE PRODIGAL PROPHET
A SURVEY OF JONAH



The Heart of the Matter

Who hasn't heard of Jonah? The brunt of numerous jokes and the classic example of a rebel, Jonah stands as the best known of all the prophets. His story—familiar to young and old alike—has been proclaimed, analyzed, criticized, and assaulted for centuries. Viewed by critics as something between parable and fable, the veracity of Jonah's book has suffered greatly. To most scholars, it's merely a myth, little more than a humorous legend that originated in the mind of some creative soul in antiquity. Nevertheless, it remains preserved by God . . . because it was inspired of God. From the account, we find extremely practical food for thought. And to the surprise of many Christians, the book of Jonah is the clearest revelation in all the Old Testament of the missionary heart of our God. Jonah is not the story of a whale but of a nation in desperate need of deliverance . . . and a messenger who was reluctant to go and announce the truth.



Discovering the Way

1. Some Helpful Information about Jonah

Jonah, the “dove,” was a prophet who resided in the Galilean town of Gath-hepher. But he was a merciless man called to deliver a message of mercy to a merciless people.

2. An Overview of the Book

Jonah's four chapters provide a simple structure to the book. In chapter 1, Jonah ran from God. In chapter 2, Jonah ran to God. In chapter 3, Jonah ran with God. And in chapter 4, Jonah ran against God.



Starting Your Journey

Two direct applications come from the book of Jonah. First, it is utterly impossible to escape from God. Quit trying! Second, it is absolutely essential to submit to God. Quit resisting!



Tools for Digging Deeper



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JONAH

	Running from God	Running to God	Running with God	Running against God
	First commission of Jonah	Prayer of Jonah	Second commission of Jonah	Prejudice of Jonah
	Results of disobedience	Communication with the Lord	Results of obedience	Lessons from the Lord
	CHAPTER 1	CHAPTER 2	CHAPTER 3	CHAPTER 4
Theme	God's infinite mercy for all people; our reluctance to share His mercy			
Key Verses	2:9; 4:11			
Christ in Jonah	Jonah's three days in the fish anticipates Christ's death and resurrection. The Ninevites' salvation represents the salvation available to all people in Christ.			

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