

Sunday, October 15, 2017

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Who Is God?

Jonah 3:1—4:2

(black Bibles page 775; Children's Bibles page 1106)

Who is God? (- and we should recognize the gravity of this question!)

Who is God, according to the book of Jonah?

- The book of Jonah tells us much about both the *power* and *character* of God
- Some verses to consider from previous weeks: Jonah 1:2, 4, 9, 17, and 2:2, 9.

The startling 'false' prophecy: Jonah 3:4 vs. 3:10.

- The book of Jonah puts this on display, so that we might take note!
- 3:4 is not a crystal ball prediction of some fact, but a *personal interaction*, as God's strenuous warning is intended to produce *change* (i.e. repentance). And this is exactly what happened! (3:10)

The importance of Jonah 4:2 in knowing who God is: "... that is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster."

- These words are very similar to how God *named himself* when talking to Moses in Exodus 34:6 – which also is similar to Joel 2:13, Psalm 86:5, 15. Jonah went to Hebrew school!

Note verse 3:5 — faith and repentance (...sounds like the New Testament, doesn't it?)

- This faith and repentance was *real*. Jesus said, "The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah..." (Matt 12:41)
- What is faith? They *believed God*.
- What is repentance? In this passage, they *humbled themselves*.

Application for us?