

## Appendix

# An *Unwilling* Sign

Did you ever wonder why The Book of Jonah is placed in the Bible where it is? Remember he was that *unwilling* prophet (some would say, bigoted Jew-and rightfully so-Romans 9:4) whose mission was not to his own countrymen-his "...kinsmen according to the flesh..." (Romans 9:3), but to a great GENTILE city named Nineveh. Why did The Lord send him to a *Heathen* city and not to a *Jewish* one instead? The simple answer to this is; these people were *ready* to repent of their sins, from hearing the word of God preached from a prophet, *any* prophet! The prophet that *God* had in mind, as we all know, was Jonah. But Jonah, as the story goes, had other plans. (Jonah 1:3) [Why not read the story on your own? It's a small Book that only has four short chapters to it; forty-eight verses in all.]

Did you ever wonder why The Book of Jonah is placed in the Bible where it is? If you study Genesis to Malachi (this works in the New Testament too-Matthew to Revelation); everything in a King James Bible is in order. In other words, Genesis is *first*, because all the first things that happened happen in that Book. You wouldn't list Genesis as the *sixth* book in the Bible, would you? There's a reason why it is listed *first*. If (in the same manner) we took The Book of Daniel, and listed it right *after* the Book of Esther, that would be confusing for a few reasons. One-HISTORICALLY, Esther came *after* Daniel, and Two-that would *remove* Daniel from being *grouped* together with the other prophets. If you didn't already know it, that's exactly what happens in The Masoretic Text (The *Jewish* Old Testament). The PROPHET Daniel *is* removed from among the other Prophets, and is lost

in the post-exilic Books. This apparently means-by the standards of Jewish scholars perpetuating that text-that he *is only good enough* to be included in “The Writings” [which, by the way, are all listed *last*], but NOT AMONG THE OTHER PROPHETS.

By the time this issue makes its way to The King James Bible, it has all been worked out and set in proper order: Genesis to Deuteronomy-*The Law*; Joshua to Esther-*History*; Job to Song of Solomon-*Psalms*, and Isaiah to Malachi (*INCLUDING Daniel*)-*Prophets*.

In order to answer our original question; for this study, we will only look at the *Prophets*. There are four *major* Prophets (including Jeremiah’s Lamentations-making a fifth Book), and there are twelve *minor* (not for their *content*, but for their *size*) Prophets. These prophets preached their message, *before*, *during*, and *after* Israel’s captivity. The Prophets that preached to the Ten Tribes-Israel *before* her captivity were:

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah

*Please take note, that all these Books are in this same order as they are found listed in the Bible.* The next group all preached to the remaining Two Tribes of Judah *before* her captivity:

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah

The next group of Prophets, preached *during* Judah's captivity:

Ezekiel  
Daniel

And the last group of Prophets, preached *after* Judah's captivity:

Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi

If you go to the front of your Bible, you will see that every Book listed above is in the exact same order they are listed in the "Table of Contents" in The Bible. (The only difference in the above list is that the *major* Prophets are interspersed with the *minor* Prophets.) Look for yourself! Right down the line, just like your Bible lays them out. Oh, but we've missed a group! We missed the group of Prophets that preached even *before* the ten tribes of Israel ever went into captivity. Maybe we've missed this group, because it's NOT a *group* at all. This *group* (if you please) turns out to be only *one* Book and thus *one* Prophet: The Book of *JONAH!* OF THE SIXTEEN *WRITTEN* BOOKS OF THE PROPHETS (minus Lamentations, with the possible exception of Obadiah, 887 B.C.), **CHRONOLOGICALLY, JONAH'S BOOK WAS THE EARLIEST ONE WRITTEN. (862 B.C.)**

Let's pretend for a few moments that we are Bible scholars. You can pretend, can't you?-there are many today pretending already-what's one more, for just a few moments?! Got your monocle on, Doc? Got your concordance in hand? Don't forget your (*fake*) diploma. Okay, we're ready. If we didn't already *know* where the Book of Jonah belongs in the Bible, from looking at the Bible's table of contents, where should we list it? Knowing all the other Prophetical Books **HISTORICALLY** are placed

in the King James Bible in the group order they were delivered to their hearers, and knowing Jonah's *group* was written *FIRST*; where would a scholar like *you* put this Book? Well, you got two choices (*don't chicken out on me now, Doc*). Choose, or "take 'the fifth'"! Wouldn't you put the message that was delivered FIRST, *FIRST*? Of course you would! But that's not what someone did. It was added to the Hebrew Bible in-between the first group: The Books to *Israel*-before their captivity, and the second group: The Books to *Judah*-before their captivity. And what's amazing to me, is, that though the King James Translators changed the placement of at least *nine* other Old Testament Books, *they left this one where it was!*

While these translators were working all these things out [like the *placement* of each and every Book]; why did the Holy Spirit sanction these men to carry this *mistake* over into the Authorized Text the way they found it in the Masoretic Text? I guess they figured out that the placement of Jonah's Book *wasn't* a mistake at all. According to the One who repositioned the Books on His Shelf to make room for even twenty-seven more, it was in the PROPER place all along! (I guess we can all take off our monocles now. Anyway-at least we *tried!*) Didn't we learn by now, that God has a reason for everything in the Bible-even the *placement* of all His Books-on His own Shelving? Well I guess it's time to answer our original question. Here it is *again* for the *third* time: Did you ever wonder why The Book of Jonah is placed in the Bible where it is? With all the above information tucked under our spiritual belts, we're now ready to hear the answer. The answer is,...the *resurrection* of Jesus!

Preaching to the JEWISH Pharisees and Sadducees, who tempted Him to show them "a *sign* from heaven", Jesus gives them this answer...

**"When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can**

**discern the face of the sky: but can ye not discern the signs of the times? A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas.”** Matthew 16:1 to 4. The Pharisees wanted a sign from *HEAVEN*-did they? God gave them a sign *FROM* Heaven: *The name Jonah means DOVE!* [See, Matthew 3:16b]

With all the preaching and prophesying going on in the Old Testament from the mouths of all His holy Prophets, don't you think that The Lord wanted to give Jew and GENTILE nations that kept sinning against Him-thus the *need* for all that preaching-as many chances as He could to get things (between Him and them) right? Isn't God a *good* God? Isn't He *merciful*? Doesn't He call all men everywhere to repent and turn *back* to Him again? Of course He does! Since God was already using "...similitudes, by the mouth of the prophets..." (Hosea 12:10), He figured what's *one more*! Thus the need for the PROPHET Jonah sent to a city READY TO HEAR AND REPENT! The Lord instructs this *committed* JEW to do something he wouldn't think of doing in a million years. He tells him to preach to a bunch of GENTILES-and what's worse, a bunch of GENTILE *SINNERS*. I can hear him now, "*Pewy,... yuck,... anything but that!*" God really knows *how* to pick 'em, doesn't He?! I mean that! God picked Jonah, because He *KNEW* that he would be a *good* UNWILLING candidate. (What a veritable oxymoron!) The Lord knew that Jonah wouldn't want to preach to these (in his mind) *filthy* Gentiles [Especially when he had the opportunity to preach a *positive* message to his own kind about the future restoration of their ancient boundaries. (See II Kings 14:25)], so He uses this opportunity to put another *similitude into place*. By putting this preacher in-between a

rock, and a hard place-who didn't know that the lot<sup>1</sup> wouldn't fall on Jonah?-the only thing the men of the boat could do (at Jonah's own word, mind you-Jonah 1:12), was to toss him into the water to be swallowed by a "great fish". (Jesus tells us in Matthew 12:40 what kind of fish this *great fish* was, and it wasn't a *guppy*!)

What's the significance of all this? Here's the answer: How could there be a SIGN given to Israel, if there was no TYPE backing it up? In other words, how could Jesus point back to something, if that something wasn't *there* in the first place? That something, was "the sign of the prophet Jonas" contained in the Book of Jonah that laid PROTECTED for centuries, *JAMMED smack dab* in the *MIDDLE* of the prophets given to *Israel AND Judah!!!!* Like I said, even the King James Translators knew enough to LEAVE JONAH WHERE GOD ORIGINALLY PUT HIM!

No one since the time of Christ has any excuse to die in their sins. God gave us A SIGN! After three days and three nights; a Jew that was swallowed up, got spit out. Nine-hundred years later, it happened AGAIN-but this time, by a Jew who didn't DIE *TWICE!!!!*

The bigger blessing out of all this, is, Jonah's Book is placed BETWEEN these other two groups of Books; the same way the history of God's people plays out. By rejecting the SIGN of Jonah, The Nation of Israel rejected JESUS, in turn, giving the Gentiles, after hearing the *same* message, a chance to receive Him, IN THE SAME

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<sup>1</sup> Our Lord, once tempest and tossed in the sea of God's wrath, viewed those Roman (GENTILE) soldiers casting lots at the foot of His cross (Mark 15:24), looking down, as He ascended to Glory; the way Jonah looked back at the men of Joppa (GENTILES) who had just cast lots, before casting him into the sea. Further still, Mordecai's lot [Though the lot was prepared (Esther 3:7) for Mordecai AND his people, HAMAN couldn't *wait* to use it on Mordecai. (Esther 5:14)] had been drawn by the *head soldier* of a GENTILE army to take away his garment too. (Esther 3:13-the last ten words) "...*And lot fell upon Jonah.*" (Jonah 1:7b)

MANNER THE GENTILES RECEIVED JONAH'S MESSAGE-AFTER HIS RESURRECTED WHALE EXPERIENCE! Once the fullness of the Gentiles comes in (Romans 11:25b), it will turn *again* to A REMNANT (II Corinthians 3:16; Isaiah 10:20 to 27) of *JEWS-LIKE THE NEXT GROUP OF PROPHETIC BOOKS* [Don't forget, these were prophecies directed to the *REMNANT* of Israel-*the two out of twelve tribes-Judah*], until "ALL Israel shall be saved"! (Romans 11:26a) Wait, there's MORE! *ALL* that receive this *SIGN-JEW or GENTILE*-will live with JEHOVAH, Forever, in Eternity!

EXCEPT for unbelief; no one today that has *heard*, needs to stay lost in their sins. Heed the warning, dear friend...

**"But the fearful, and UNBELIEVING, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers [Yes, that includes *Harry Potter*, too], and idolaters [Habakkuk 2:18 and 19], and ALL liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."**  
Revelation 21:8

**"Repent,...and believe the gospel."** Mark 1:15

**"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."** Acts 16:31

