

## THE JONAH PARADOX

Introduction – A paradox consists of true statements that lead to an apparent or real contradiction in logic or intuition. In Jonah we see the God who is indiscriminately selective.

- A. In the Bible God is clearly selective as He chooses Noah's family, Abraham's family, and the people of Israel.

Jonah 1:1-4

1. The pagan sailors showed more respect for Jonah's life than he did for theirs. They also honored the one true God, when introduced to Him, better than Jonah did.
2. Jonah was saved by a great fish after being thrown overboard and was spit out on the shore so he could fulfill God's prophetic mission.

Jonah 3:1-6

Jonah 3:7-4:3

- B. In Jesus, we have the mirror opposite of Jonah. Jonah was an unwilling missionary, whereas Jesus was willing to be God's missionary from Heaven. Jonah's life and words reveal his resentment and rebellion whereas Jesus reveals God's love and compassion for the world. Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days; Jesus was in the grave three days. Jonah preached judgment to the pagans; Jesus preached judgment to Israel. Jonah cried when judgment did not come; Jesus cried for Jerusalem because judgment was coming on them. Jonah did not want God's grace to be given to the nations; Jesus sent the Spirit to empower His followers to be witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8

Matthew 12:41

Conclusion – We worship the God who is indiscriminately selective. You have been selected to be His disciple and to make disciples of all peoples. Are you a reluctant missionary like Jonah or a joyful and sacrificial one like Jesus?

Hebrews 12:1-3