***“Studying the Gentile Prophets”—Jonah 4***

**Many fine scholars ask a profound question: WHY IS THIS CHAPTER HERE? Could it be that this chapter is the REAL REASON GOD ALLOWED THIS STORY? Is God pointing to us as a creature just like Jonah? Jesus points to this very story as important. THIS OLD TESTAMENT STORY IS ONE OF THE FOUR MOST POPULAR IN ALL THE BIBLE!! Many scholars quickly “jump on Jonah’s case” calling him disobedient, selfish, scared, and “the prophet with the defiant attitude!” For sure, he was disobedient at first commandment to go to Nineveh, but his story does not end there.** Does it seem a bit strange that Jesus Christ personally choose to equate himself to Jonah in his role as the Messiah? **JESUS AUTHENTICATES JONAH**--**In Matthew 12:38-41,** “***38Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.”39But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here,” Matthew* 16:4, “4A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophetJonah,”** and **Luke 11:29-32**, **“And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, “This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. 30For as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation. 31The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon *is* here. 32The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah *is* here.”** Why would the resurrected Messiah compare himself so closely to a “disobedient” prophet? Obviously, there has to be a lot more to the story of Jonah than Christians have generally realized. On close examination, one must look to Jonah’s previous role as “God’s prophet.” But GOD'S plan was to teach Israel, by the example of Nineveh, how inexcusable is their own impenitence, and how inevitable their ruin if they persevere. Repenting Nineveh has proved herself more worthy of God's favor than apostate Israel; the children of the covenant have not only fallen down to, but actually below, the level of a heathen people; Israel, therefore, must go down, and the heathen rise above her. Jonah did not know the important lessons of hope to the penitent, and condemnation to those amidst outward privileges impenitent, which Nineveh's preservation on repentance was to have for aftertimes, and to all ages. He could not foresee that Messiah Himself was thus to apply that history.

**Jonah 4:1, “But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry.”**

1. **Why did God write this chapter? BECAUSE GOD’S PURPOSE FOR YOU AND I HAVE NOT BEEN ACCOMPLISHED YET……**
2. **Why was Jonah displeased? Exceedingly, and he became angry: Not only was this strange, it was *very strange*, because Jonah was *very* upset at the success of his preaching. We should not miss Jonah’s intensity here, because the language in the original Hebrew is strong.**
   1. **Talk about the word, “angry.” here. angry**--literally, "hot," probably, with grief or vexation, rather than anger [FAIRBAIRN]. How sad the contrast between God's feeling on the repentance of Nineveh towards Him, and Jonah's feeling on the repentance of God towards Nineveh. Strange in one who was himself a monument of mercy on his repentance!
      1. **Review the lesson taught in the parable of the unforgiving, though forgiven; use** [**Matthew 18:23-35**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/passage/?q=Matthew+18:23-35)**, “**23Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. 26The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ 27Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.28“But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took *him* by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ 29So his fellow servant fell down at his feet[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+18&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23757d)] and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’30And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 31So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. 32Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ 34And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.35“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”
   2. **What was the real object of Jonah’s anger here?** Nineveh had been the prominent object with him, he would have rejoiced at the result of his mission. But Israel was the prominent aim of Jonah, as a prophet of the elect people. Probably then he regarded the destruction of Nineveh as fitted to be an example of God's judgment at last suspending His long forbearance so as to startle Israel from its desperate degeneracy, heightened by its new prosperity under Jeroboam II at that very time, in a way that all other means had failed to do. Jonah, despairing of anything effectual being done for God in Israel, unless there were first given a striking example of severity, thought when he proclaimed the downfall of Nineveh in forty days, that now at last God is about to give such an example; so when this means of awakening Israel was set aside by God's mercy on Nineveh's repentance, he was bitterly disappointed, not from pride or mercilessness, but from hopelessness as to anything being possible for the reformation of Israel, now that his cherished hope is baffled.
3. **Some scholars believe that Jonah is displaying “Misplaced Patriotism.” Elaborate. .**

**Jonah 4:2-3, “So he prayed to the Lord, and said, Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You *are* a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for *it is* better for me to die than to live!”**

1. **Compare verse 2 with I Kings 14:23-29, “**23For they also built for themselves high places, *sacred* pillars, and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree. 24And there were also perverted personsin the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel.25It happened in the fifth year of King Rehoboam *that* Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. 26And he took away the treasures of the house of the Lord and the treasures of the king’s house; he took away everything. He also took away all the gold shields which Solomon had made. 27Then King Rehoboam made bronze shields in their place, and committed *them* to the hands of the captains of the guard, who guarded the doorway of the king’s house. 28And whenever the king entered the house of the Lord, the guards carried them, then brought them back into the guardroom.29Now the rest of the acts of Rehoboam, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?” **BACKGROUND INFO ABOUT JONAH:** The northern kingdom of Israel was victorious in its wars under Jeroboam II and was regaining power and territory. In the middle of this Israelite resurgence was the prophet Jonah. Verse 25 states that the prophet Jonah had been used by God to give prophecies that Israel would be victorious in its wars and would regain territory and strength. This gave Jonah a central role in the reign of Jeroboam II. Being a prophet with a good message about the kingdom would have made Jonah popular at the king’s court and Jonah would surely have felt he had a role in Israel’s resurgence. Jonah would have had every right to feel a patriotic pride in Israel’s restoration and he likely looked forward to Israel become steadily stronger. II Kings 14:25 reveals that Jonah was from the city of Gath-Hepher, which Joshua 19:13 records was in the territory of the tribe of Zebulon. While Jonah was in the midst of this patriotic fervor in the ancient kingdom of Israel, he received an unexpected message and mission from God. Jonah 1:1-2 records that God told Jonah to go and preach against Nineveh, whose sins were so great that God had Himself taken notice of it. Jonah knew Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire which was an enemy and existential threat to the kingdom of Israel. Jonah, close to the inner politics of the Israelite kingdom, knew very well that if God destroyed Nineveh, it would be a tremendous boon to the kingdom of Israel and it would prolong the power and strength of the kingdom of Israel. Indeed, it could even restore more of the lost greatness Israel had enjoyed in previous times! However, Jonah already knew that God had been merciful to the kingdom of Israel in spite of its sins under Jeroboam II, so he also knew that God could conceivably be merciful to Nineveh as well. Jonah 4:2 reveals that Jonah had this thought “when [he] was still in his own country before he fled to Tarshish.” This verse gives a key insight into Jonah’s intentions, and why God spared him in his disobedience and why Jesus Christ himself compared himself to Jonah. Jonah realized that if God could be so merciful to sinning Israel, he might be just as merciful with sinning Assyria. If Assyria survived, Jonah also realized its power would likely overwhelm Israel in the future. Jonah loved his nation and people, and he made a plan. He thought that if he was the person who was assigned by God to bring this warning to the Assyrians, the Assyrians could not repent if they never got the warning from him. Jonah reasoned his own refusal to go would result in God’s destruction upon Nineveh and Jonah’s nation, Israel, would be spared for a long time into the future. So Jonah decided to make sure Nineveh could not repent or be spared…by refusing to go to Nineveh to deliver the message that they needed to repent.
2. **Discuss Jonah’s background with the Northern Kingdom king, Jeroboam II.**  II Kings 14:23-29 relates the fact that Jonah was a prophet during the reign of King Jeroboam II of the northern kingdom of Israel. This passage includes some surprising information. Verses 23-24 record that Jeroboam II reigned for 41 years and that he was an “evil” king like most of the kings of Israel. Jeroboam II no doubt did not see himself in that light, but the Bible makes this observation because Jeroboam II did not return his kingdom to the worship of the God of the Bible. In spite of Jeroboam II’s sinfulness, Verse 25-28 relates that God had mercy upon the kingdom of Israel and strengthened the kingdom of Israel under Jeroboam II’s reign. The kingdom of Israel regained lost territory and even conquered the Syrian cities of Hamath and Damascus. Besides giving us a historical account, this part of the Bible also gives us encouragement that God can choose to have mercy on nations in spite of their sins.
   1. **Why is this action of God, relenting, a reminder of what happened with King Jeroboam II?**
      1. **What does Jonah mean, “Was not this what I said when I was still in my country?”**
      2. **What does Jonah say about why he fled to Tarshish? ….for I knew that you are gracious and merciful God……**
   2. **Compare this with story of Sodom and Gomorrah and Abraham’s bargaining. See Genesis 18:1-33 and Genesis 19:22, “**Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there,” Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.” **(The two angels will spend an entire chapter, Genesis 19, getting Lot out of there before they can accomplish their assigned mission.)**
      1. **This could be called the “Fellowship Offering” section, even in the Arab world…….three offerings, and the non-Kosher meal of butter, milk, and calf!**
   3. **Parallel this with Elijah’s disappointment for Israel, because of Jezebel in I Kings 19:4, “**But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, “It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I *am* no better than my fathers!” **and I Kings 18:1-46.** Jonah's impatience of life under disappointed hopes of Israel's reformation through the destruction of Nineveh, is like that of Elijah at his plan for reforming Israel ([1 Kings 18:1-46](http://www.biblestudytools.com/passage/?q=1%20Kings+18:1-46)) failing through Jezebel ([1 Kings 19:4](http://www.biblestudytools.com/1-kings/19-4.html)).
3. **Re-visit another story which, no doubted, influenced Jonah’s actions. See I Kings 13:1-32.**  Jonah was a true prophet of God who surely knew that a previous prophet who had disobeyed God’s instructions had died without mercy. **I Kings 13:1-32 records that account. An unnamed prophet was sent by God from Judah to Jeroboam I, the first king of Israel, with a strong warning message.** That prophet faithfully gave the warning to Jeroboam I, but he disobeyed God’s command to fast until he returned to the border of Judah. Due to the prophet’s disobedience, God sent a lion to kill him. Jonah was a prophet serving Jeroboam II, so Jonah expected that he too would be killed by God if he refused to go to Nineveh. Jonah was reconciled to that fate, and he accepted it. However, he felt that if he sacrificed his life, Assyria would be destroyed and his nation, Israel, would be spared. Jonah’s motive in disobeying God was not rebellion. Jonah disobeyed God in order to offer himself as a sacrifice for his entire nation. Jonah’s attitude was one of willing self-sacrifice for the good of others. In this he presaged the attitude of Jesus Christ himself, who was willing to offer himself as a sacrifice for all mankind.
4. **Talk about the despair in verse 3…”take my life.”**
   1. **Is this the evidence of God’s mercy?** Jonah himself called on the mercy of God and enjoyed the mercy of God when it was extended to Jonah. Now he resents it when it is extended to others.
5. **Is Jonah’s despair legitimate? *For it is better for me to die than to live! The repentance and salvation of the people of Nineveh is so painful to Jonah that he would rather die than think about it; and he also states that this was the reason he fled the call* - not out of fear that he would be ineffective, but fear that he *would* be effective!**
6. **Parallel this section with Joel 2:13, “**So rend your heart, and not your garments;  
   Return to the Lord your God, For He *is* gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm,” **and Exodus 34:6, “**And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth.”

**Jonah 4:4, “Then the Lord said, *Is it* right for you to be angry?”**

1. **C:\Users\Linda\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IJ3CAMEY\gold_key_2_png_clipart_by_clipartcotttage-d7bvydo[1].pngTalk about “KEY TO WHOLE BOOK, verse 4, “Is it right for you to be angry?”** Jonah, in expressing his anger against God, was being honest about his feelings - something good and bad.
   1. **Discuss other times in the scripture where God asks humans questions.**
   2. **See Genesis 3:9-13, “**Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where *are* you?” 10So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” 11And He said, “Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” 12Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” 13And the Lord God said to the woman, “What *is* this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”
   3. **Elaborate on Genesis 4:6-9. “**So the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire *is* for you, but you should rule over it.”8Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.9Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where *is* Abel your brother?”
   4. **Discuss Job 38:4-6, “**“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?  
      Tell *Me,* if you have understanding. 5Who determined its measurements?  
      Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?6To what were its foundations fastened?”
   5. **Reference Isiah 6:8, “**Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.**”**
   6. **Compare with the N.T. Matthew 16:13-15, “**13when Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14And they said, some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.15He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?”
   7. **Look at Matthew 20:** **20-21**,“Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.21And He said to her, “What do you wish?”
   8. **Detail the question in Luke 22:48, “**48But Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”
   9. **View Acts 9:4, “**Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

**Jonah 4:5-8, “So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city. And the Lord God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant. But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it *so* damaged the plant that it withered. And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah’s head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, *It is* better for me to die than to live.”**

1. **Elaborate on the object lesson God prepares for Jonah with the gourd.** The Lord God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah: Just as God prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah, now He prepares a particular plant to shelter Jonah as he waited hoping that they city would be destroyed.
   1. **Contrast verse 4’s phrase, “And the LORD God prepared a plant,” with Jonah 1:17, “Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”**
2. **What kind of plant was this? gourd**--Hebrew, kikaion; the Egyptian kiki, the "ricinus" or castor-oil plant, commonly called "palm-christ" (palma-christi). It grows from eight to ten feet high. Only one leaf grows on a branch, but that leaf being often more than a foot large, the collective leaves give good shelter from the heat. It grows rapidly, and fades as suddenly when injured.
3. **Discuss the worm. a worm**--of a particular kind, deadly to the ricinus. A small worm at the root destroys a large gourd. So it takes but little to make our creature comforts wither. It should silence discontent to remember, that when our gourd is gone, our God is not gone.
4. **In verse 6, we see, for the first time, in this entire story that Jonah seems happy. Point out how “the carnal nature of man” displays itself here.** Jonah was pleased because at last, after all the compassion of God for other people, God was finally doing something for Jonah. Selfish? Of course, it was. And petty too!
   1. **What does the Bible say about selfishness?** 
      1. **Use James 3:16, “For where envy and self-seeking *exist,* confusion and every evil thing *are* there.”**
      2. **See Philippians 2:3-4, “***Let* nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”
      3. **Examine 2 Corinthians 5:15, “**And He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”
      4. **Was Jonah’s anger justified? Was he really faint?** The sun beat on Jonah’s head, so that he grew faint: Jonah was angry with God because He brought the people of Nineveh to repentance ([Jonah 4:1](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Jonah+4:1&t1=en_nas)).
         1. **The ancient Hebrew word for angry is literally to be hot. IS THIS A “PLAY ON WORDS” BY THE HOLY SPIRIT? Now God will let *Jonah* feel some of the heat!**
         2. **Did Jonah allow the plant to be an idol?**

**Jonah 4:9-11, “Then God said to Jonah, *Is it* right for you to be angry about the plant? And he said, *It is* right for me to be angry, even to death! But the Lord said, You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left; and much livestock?”**

1. **Jonah made three errors that angry people often make. Each of these things put Jonah in a worse place, not a better place. Elaborate on each:**
   1. **Jonah quit.**
   2. **Jonah separated himself from others.**
   3. **Jonah became a spectator.**
2. **Who are the “more than one hundred and twenty persons?” that cannot discern between their right hand and their left**--children under three of four years old ([Deuteronomy 1:39](http://www.biblestudytools.com/deuteronomy/1-39.html) ). Six score thousands of these, allowing them to be a fifth of the whole, would give a total population of six hundred thousand.
   1. **Refer to Deuteronomy 1:39, “**Moreover your little ones and your children, who you say will be victims, who today have no knowledge of good and evil, they shall go in there; to them I will give it, and they shall possess it.”
   2. **See also** [**Luke 17:2**](http://biblehub.com/luke/17-2.htm)**,** “It would be better for him to have a millstone hung around his neck and to be thrown into the sea than to cause one of these little ones to stumble.”
3. **Review the “lesson of Jonah is what he proclaimed before being freed from the great fish: *Salvation is of the Lord* (**[**Jonah 2:9**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Jonah+2:9&t1=en_nas)**).” Apply it to Chapter 4’s tone.** 
   1. **Parallel with Acts 10:34-35, “**Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.”  **This is the same message God made clear to Peter in this passage.**
4. **Jewish tradition says that after God said the words of** [**Jonah 4:11**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Jonah+4:11&t1=en_nas)**, Jonah then fell on his face and said: Govern your world according to the measure of mercy, as it is said, *To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness*. Elaborate on this.** 
   1. **See also** [**Daniel 9:9**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Daniel+9:9&t1=en_nas)**. We can only hope that Jonah - and we - would have such a humble response.**
5. **God showed His mercy to Jonah through a lot of *preparation*. List the ways.**
   1. **The Lord prepared a great fish (**[**Jonah 1:17**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Jonah+1:17&t1=en_nas)**)**
   2. **The Lord prepared a plant (**[**Jonah 4:6**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Jonah+4:6&t1=en_nas)**)**
   3. **The Lord prepared a worm (**[**Jonah 4:7**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Jonah+4:7&t1=en_nas)**)**
   4. **The Lord prepared a wind (**[**Jonah 4:8**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Jonah+4:8&t1=en_nas)**)**
   5. **Do you think that the real work of preparation happened in *Jonah*?**  **Defend your thoughts.**
6. **Parallel Jonah with Jesus Christ.** Finally, we now know why Jesus Christ compared himself to Jonah instead other Old Testament prophets. There were three parallels between Jonah and the Savior’s life which came centuries later. Both could sleep in a boat in the middle of a raging storm. Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a beast even as Jesus Christ was three days and three nights in the belly of the earth (the grave). However, the parallel that this article wishes to focus on is that Jonah’s willingness to offer himself as a personal sacrifice for his entire nation exhibited the same attitude of self-sacrifice that the Savior would exhibit in offering himself for the salvation of all nations
7. **How does Jonah 4 relate to today’s America and us?**

**CONCLUSION:** One should have a more compassionate evaluation of Jonah, the disobedient prophet who was anguished when his mission ultimately resulted in the repentance of his target audience. Could it be that Jonah was not thinking of himself in this episode? He offered himself freely to save the sailors on the ill-fated ship to Tarshish. He tried to save his nation by dying, and failed. Jonah tried to engineer his own death so the Ninevites would all die at the hands of God. In the end, both he and the Ninevites lived. The book of Jonah illustrates that no one can impose a desired outcome upon the Almighty, no matter how noble the reason.

If we are Nineveh, how does Jonah’s truth relate to us? **TAKE THE BIBLE, FOR INSTANCE**….although it is impossible to obtain exact figures, **there** is little doubt that the **Bible** is the **world’s** best-selling and most widely distributed book. A survey by the **Bible** Society concluded that around 2.5 billion copies were printed between 1815 and 1975, but more recent estimates put the number at more than 5 billion. Over 100 million Bibles are sold or given away for free every year in the world, according to The Economist. The Bible is the most widely distributed and best-selling book in the world….The "State of the Bible 2012" looked at the trends surrounding the most influential book of Western civilization. The survey found that while 82 percent of Americans revere the Bible as sacred literature, that number is down slightly from a year ago when 86 percent thought so. And when asked whether The Bible contains "everything a person needs to know to live a meaningful life," 69 percent agreed either strongly or somewhat. That number was down also from the previous year, when 75 percent responded the same way.

***And, here are the promises:***

**Jonah 3:10, “Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.”**

**Jonah 2:6, “I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars *closed* behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O Lord, my God.”**

**Jonah 3:9, “Who can tell *if* God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?”**

**Jonah 2:2, ““I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction, And He answered me.”**

**Jonah 4:4, “Then the Lord said, *Is it* right for you to be angry?”**

  
 