



a survey of the Bible

Exile & prophets

June 2nd '19

[If you've decided to get people to research various questions raised as we're going through this survey of the Bible – make sure time's set aside for this each week.]

1. What stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday? What questions do you have about the Old Testament prophets, the times they lived in and their continuing impact on the lives of Bible readers?

2. Elijah was known as the greatest of all prophets.

i) Read 1 Kings 19:1-4. Elijah had just experienced the two greatest spiritual victories of his lifetime: the defeat of the prophets of Baal, and the answered prayer for rain. But he feels alone, afraid, discouraged and depressed – his life had been threatened. Have there been times in your life when you've said those words: "I've had enough, Lord"? Describe that time, and how you dealt with it.

ii) Read 1 Kings 19:11-15. Share your observations from this passage about how God spoke to Elijah. What do you need to do in your life to hear God more?

iii) What profound things we can learn from Elijah's experiences about dedicating our lives to serve God?

3. Read Jonah 1:1-3 & then Jonah 3:1-5

So why did Jonah turn and run away from the call to Ninevah? What can make us feel like running away from God's call to share His message?

Consider the symmetry between God's first call to Jonah (1:2) and His second call after Jonah had run away but had then been restored (3:2). What might this reveal about how God handles our failures? How can this encourage us to get up and go again for God?

4. Read Isaiah 53:1-9. Who despised Jesus during His birth and ministry? How was Jesus a 'man of sorrows' during His life on earth? Reflect on the gospels and see how many ways this was true of Jesus. Look up these passages to see just some of the New Testament references that show the fulfilment of these prophecies made about 700 years prior to the events in Jesus' life & death that they look ahead to. Matthew 8:16,17; John 12:37,38; Luke 18:31-33; Mark 14:61; Matthew 27:57-60; 1 Corinthians 15:3. What impact does this have on our lives.

Use this passage the truths in this passage to fuel your prayers.

Please also pray specifically for the Fun Day this Saturday – June 8th.

Further study

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Jonah-whale.html>

<https://coldcasechristianity.com/writings/from-reliable-to-divine-fulfilled-prophecy-in-the-old-testament/>