

# JONAH

The book of Jonah though placed in the midst of prophetical books is to be described more as history than a prophecy.

There is one line of prediction: “*YET FORTY DAYS, AND NINEVEH SHALL BE OVERTHROWN*”; the rest of the book is narrative of, the preface to, and the consequences of that prediction.

Many different words have been used to describe this unique book:

- Obscure
- Puzzling
- Entertaining
- Strong meat for strong men
- Milk for babies
- A Messenger of mercy to Israel
- Remarkable instances of human infirmity
- God’s mercy, both in pardoning repenting sinners, and in bearing with repining saints

## CRITICISM

This book is perhaps criticized more than any other book in the Word of God.

Even many believers unfortunately cast aspersion upon this important book, by making statements like: “My, *that's a Jonah*”, meaning “*That is hard to believe*”.

There has been an avalanche of criticism relative to this book by way of allegory that is classifying it with *Robinson Crusoe* and *Gulliver's Travels*.

Note now some extravagant theories:

1. Jonah was the son of the widow of Zarephath.
2. Jonah had a dream in the ship, and wrote about it.
3. This book is called a Phoenician myth (of Hercules and the sea monster).
4. Some claim that Jonah was picked up after the storm, and shipwrecked by a boat that had a fish for the figurehead.
5. Others say that a dead fish was floating around, and Jonah simply took refuge in it during the storm.

## JONAH (Continued)

The producers of these speculations claim that the book of Jonah is *unreasonable*.

We must dismiss the extravagant theories. There is no vestige of proof from a historical standpoint; just mere imaginations of man. Liberalism today largely takes the position that the book of Jonah is nothing in the world but an allegory, a fairy tale.

It can be established that Jonah was an historical person, and not a character from mythology. No one denies that David, Josiah and Hezekiah were real people or real kings, and it is among the records of these kings that we find the mention of Jonah. Speaking of Jeroboam, the son of Joash, the historian writes: ([II Kings 14:23-25](#)) Read

Note: No one questions that Jeroboam was a king in the northern kingdom of Israel and that he reigned 41 years.

1. He was a real person.
2. Israel was a real nation.
3. It is unlikely that this man Jonah was just a figment of the imagination.
4. This is an historical record and it is reasonable to conclude that Jonah is real.
5. The name Jonah is not like that of the names Jones, Brown or Smith today. It is not a common name.
6. So it is stretching a point to say that the Jonah of [II Kings 14](#) is *another* Jonah.
7. It is not likely that two men both had a father named Amitai, and both men being prophets.
8. There can be only one *JONAH* in the Bible, referred to in the book of Jonah, in II Kings, and in many New Testament references ([Matthew 12:38-41](#); [Matthew 16:4](#); [Luke 11:29-32](#); [John 21:15-17](#)).

Take note of another prophet, Obadiah. Do we have anyone questioning or criticizing the existence of the man who wrote the book of Obadiah? Yet there is not one historical record in either the Old or New Testaments concerning him. Why would anyone reject Jonah? That's denying the miracle of God, and it's *denying the credibility of the Lord Jesus Christ*.