

**BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE  
SERMON OUTLINE**

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**Series #9 Understanding the Book of Jonah**

**“THE PREACHER AND HIS WAYWARD HOPE”**

**Jonah 4:5-8**

Jonah’s motive for service came to the forefront. God’s mercy and grace should always lead to joy and praise in a believer’s life. Did you know that many have their hope set on the destruction and downfall of others? Jonah’s selfishness led to Jonah’s hopelessness. This text reveals some characteristics of one who has a wayward hope.

**I. GOD’S PROMISE IS TESTED BY THE BELIEVER *V-5***

The east side of the city was up in the hill country, up at an elevation. Jonah got himself a good spot where he could look out over the city. Why? Because he didn’t trust the Ninevites. God had promised to overthrow Nineveh, so Jonah was testing the promise of God. Jonah did not want to think about the promise being conditional. God responded to the Ninevites faith and repentance with grace and forgiveness. Jonah’s hope might have been that the people of Nineveh didn’t truly repent and therefore God would keep His promise to destroy them.

Jonah wanted God to carry out His **PROMISE** of destruction on Nineveh. Jonah’s testing God’s promise was not based on faith, but on a lack of faith. Outside the city Jonah made a shelter so that he could comfortably wait for God’s judgment on Nineveh.

When we have anger and resentment in our lives over the work of God; then we quench the Spirit of God in our lives. In *verse 5*, we’ve seen **God’s promise tested by the believer**. In *verse 6*, we see:

**II. GOD’S PROVISION IS TRUSTED BY THE BELIEVER *V-6***

Just as God prepared the fish to capture Jonah, now God prepared the plant to comfort Jonah. The plant provided shade for Jonah to deliver him from his misery. Jonah was **miserable spiritually**; but now we also see that he was **miserable physically**.

What a pitiful spectacle Jonah presented, yet some Christians are like him. They get more upset over a shrub in their garden that succumbs to blight than over the doom of millions of people - including their families and friends - who are heading for a lost eternity.

We often get attached to the gourds in our lives and we let them get in the way of doing God’s will for our lives. We can trust in God’s **provision** for our lives without ever trusting in God’s **vision** for our lives.

In *verse 5*, we’ve examined **God’s promise tested by the believer**. In *verse 6*, we’ve examined **God’s provision trusted by the believer**. In *verses 7-8*, we see:

**III. GOD’S PLANNED TRIAL FOR THE BELIEVER *Vs. 7-8***

**A. A Prepared Worm *V-7***

“The word for ‘*worm*’ implies something small. God uses both the great fish and the insignificant worm equally as instruments of His purpose.” God prepared the worm for the purpose of teaching Jonah to trust fully and completely on the Lord.

**B. A Powerful Wind *V-8a***

God worked through the night using the worm and he worked during the day using the wind. When we are in rebellion against God He will send worms and winds of adversity into our lives. The result of a **prepared worm and a powerful wind** is seen in the last part of *verse 8*.

**C. A Prophet’s Wish *V-8b***

Jonah’s wayward hope brought him to the point of wishing death for himself. Jonah thought he would be better off dead than to see the pagan Gentiles forgiven and loved by God.

May God help us to have our hope in the blessed Lord Jesus Christ! Would you surrender fully to Jesus today to do His work His way for His glory? What gourds are you rejoicing over and attached to? Some of you need to stop trusting in the provisions of God and start trusting in the God of the provisions!