

the significance of their mission embracing Gentiles as well as Jews, and exhibiting God's thoughts towards them and His ways with them. As all the prophets were commissioned by Jehovah to preach judgment on the sinner and mercy to the penitent, the views and experiences of Jonah are quite typical of human estimations, dispositions and actions. The message of judgment, so general and constant, was particularly distasteful to the prophets and would have been poorly performed, if at all, but for the constraint of Jehovah. In the case of Jonah Jehovah showed conspicuously that flight even unto the uttermost parts of the earth would not avail, nor would the sea succeed to drown the commissioned of the Lord, nor would even the monsters of the deep, ravenous as they are, be able to dispose of him; but the very worst would become the vehicle for bringing the Divine purpose to its consummation. Man has ever been bent on having his own way, trusting to the correctness of his own judgment. He has his prejudices, and forms his own plans to carry them out; but who can after all resist the counsel of Jehovah? The experiences of Jonah afford a signal example of the triumph of the Divine will over human disobedience. As always the foolishness of God is wiser than the best plans of man. Hence, standing at the head of all the Prophets who announce the downfall of the theocracy, Jonah is the typical messenger of the judgment of God in which the messenger as well as the message cannot be resisted.

IV. In a derivative sense the Prophet Jonah is also a "sign" in respect of the principle of a literal interpretation of Scripture as opposed to the allegorical (or spiritualistic).

On the conservative side the reality of the experiences of Jonah with the sea-monster and Nineveh has ever been stoutly maintained. They receive the words of Scripture at face value, especially so in this case on the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. The