

## **SINGLE ALLIANCE**

**Series: The Greater One**

**Title: One Greater Than Jonah**

### **I. Introduction**

- A. This week I am starting a series called “**The Greater One**”.
- B. **[Ps. 34:3]- Oh, let us magnify the Lord together, and let us exalt His name together.**
  - 1. The Lord cannot get any greater than He already is, but He can become greater to us!
- C. **[Ezekiel 38:23]- I will magnify myself, and sanctify myself, and I will make myself known in the eyes of many nations; and they shall know that I am Yahweh.**
  - 1. During the Tribulation, God will magnify Himself to the whole world. The whole world will see just how great God is. However, we believers can experience the greatness of God now. We can see God clearly through His Word.
  - 2. It is when we see how great God is, that we will see the great things God’s wants to do for us and in us!
- D. In the New Testament it is recorded our Lord is greater than someone else or something else **five** times. Five is the number for grace. You experience the greatness of God when you receive His grace.

### **II. One Greater Than Jonah**

- A. **[Matthew 12:38-41]**
  - 1. The story of Jonah is one of the most told and remembered stories in the Bible. It is really hard to forget about a man who was swallowed by a great big fish!
  - 2. Jonah was a prophet. He prophesied in his day. Not only did he prophesy, but His experience in the fish and in Nineveh was a graphic prophecy of Jesus Christ and His ministry.
  - 3. When pressed for a sign from Jesus, he said the only sign they would have was the sign of Jonah. What was the sign of Jonah? It was that as Jonah was in the fish for three days and nights, so Jesus would be in the heart of the earth for three days and nights. What happened to Jonah corresponded to what would happen to Jesus.
  - 4. As Jonah was a prophet so was Jesus. He was **THE** Prophet of God. **[Deut 18:15]**

5. After the three days in the great fish Jonah was vomited up on dry ground. This represented resurrection from the dead! After three days hell and death also vomited up the Lord Jesus Christ!
6. After Jonah was “resurrected” he went to the Gentiles to proclaim a message. When this preacher came to town his message consisted of only one sentence- “**Yet 40 days and Nineveh shall be overthrown**” You barely had a chance to sit down before the sermon was over! Jonah’s message was of judgment and destruction.
7. Jonah stayed at Nineveh with a message of impending destruction for **40 days**.
8. After Jesus was raised from the dead He also remained for **40 days** to deliver a message. [**Acts 1:3**] However, Jesus message was greater than Jonah’s message. Jonah’s message for 40 days was one of impending destruction and tearing down. Jesus message for 40 days was one of impending salvation and building up! He proclaimed the good news of the grace of God.
9. Jonah told them that God was about to tear down the gentiles. Jesus proclaimed that he was going to build up the gentiles. [Matthew 16:18] – I will **build** my [**gentile**] church.
10. After the 40 days were over Jesus left and sent the Holy Spirit so the building process could begin.
11. The Spirit came on the day of Pentecost and brought salvation and the building up ministry with Him. The Spirit is carrying out the building ministry and message of Jesus.

### III. The building up ministry of the Lord

- A. How do we experience the building up ministry of Jesus today? It is no mystery. It is the same way the first disciples did. The NT believers were filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues. You will partake of the building up ministry of the Lord when you pray in tongues on a regular basis.
- B. [**Jude 20**]- But **build up** yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. If we will open our mouths to pray in tongues, the Lord will **build us up!**
- C. The grace of God is sent to build you up. Grace is not just an attitude towards you. It is all the resources of God given freely to you for you to live a God honoring life. God uses the Word of

God, especially the NT epistles to build you up because they reveal God's grace to you.

1. [**Acts 20:32**]- The word or message of His grace is what will **build you up!**

D. God wants us to build up others by speaking grace filled words to them. This is speaking the truth in love.

1. [**Ephesians 4:29-32**]- We should not let any corrupt words that **tear down** come out of our mouth. The word "corrupt" means rotten. Jonah had a rotten attitude. He had fish breath! When we tear down people with our words we have fish breath! It is rotten! Tearing down people is not the ministry of Jesus. This is the ministry of Jonah.

2. We are to put away all bitterness, wrath, anger, and malice away from us. All these were seen in Jonah. **Jonah was a sour puss!** He was bitter and angry. He had malice towards others. Jonah did not have a revelation of God's love and grace. Jesus message is greater than Jonah's! We are to use our words to **build up** others.

3. How can you go from being a Jonah to someone who builds up others?

a. [**Jonah 1:3**]- Jonah was not comfortable in the presence of God- He ran away from Him. Those who are legalistic will stay out of the presence of God

b. Once we understand God's grace and love to us then we will run into His presence. We will come away being built up and ready to build up others with grace and love.

4. We tap into the grace of God by praying in tongues and meditating in the epistles and promises of God's Word and being in God's presence. Then we will be empowered to go and build up others. Get rid of the fish breath of Jonah and get rid of his message that tears down! There is "One greater than Jonah" right here! He is in your heart dear Christian. He wants to build you up!