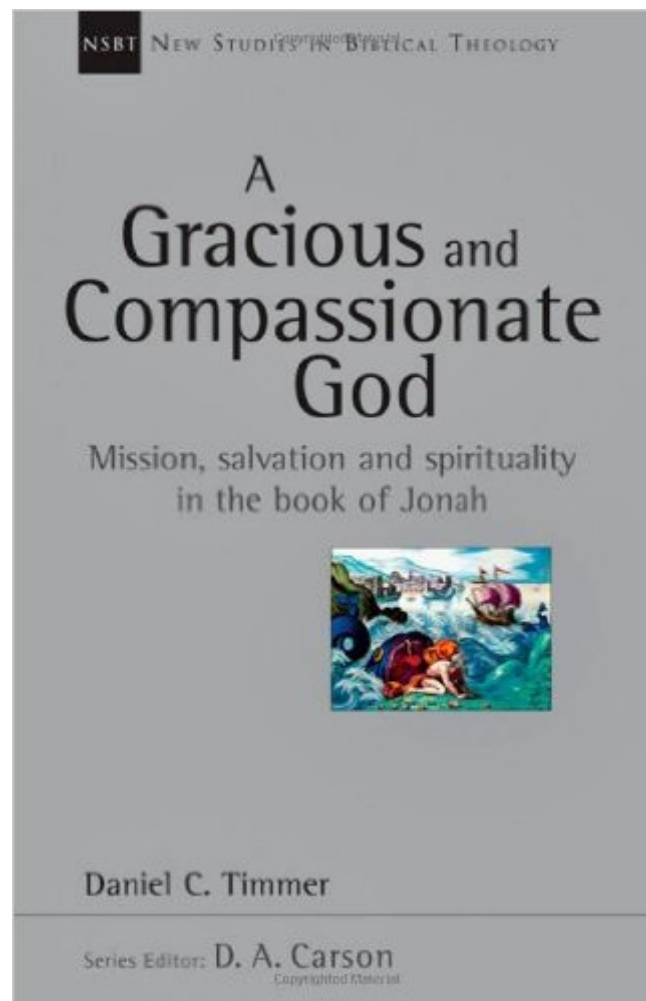


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# A Gracious And Compassionate God: Mission, Salvation And Spirituality In The Book Of Jonah (New Studies In Biblical Theology)



## Synopsis

The book of Jonah is arguably just as jarring for us as it was for the ancients. Ninevah's repentance, Jonah's estrangement from God and the book's bracing moral conclusion all pose unsettling questions for today's readers. For biblical theologians, Jonah also raises tough questions regarding mission and religious conversion. Here, Daniel Timmer embarks on a new reading of Jonah in order to secure its ongoing relevance for biblical theology. After an examination of the book's historical backgrounds (in both Israel and Assyria), Timmer discusses the biblical text in detail, paying special attention to redemptive history and its Christocentric orientation. Timmer then explores the relationship between Israel and the nations—including the question of mission—and the nature of religious conversion and spirituality in the Old Testament. This New Studies in Biblical Theology volume concludes with an injunction for scholars and lay readers to approach Jonah as a book written to facilitate spiritual change in the reader. Addressing key issues in biblical theology, the works comprising New Studies in Biblical Theology are creative attempts to help Christians better understand their Bibles. The NSBT series is edited by D. A. Carson, aiming to simultaneously instruct and to edify, to interact with current scholarship and to point the way ahead.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I can still picture the flannel-graph; a paper whale swallowing a paper man against the light blue background. The story of Jonah and the whale seems to be a favorite among children's Sunday

school Bible stories. My Children's Story Bible also told the story in a cartoon fashion. They both had the same moral: obey God or a fish will eat you. I think has contributed to more my apprehension of deep waters more than learning to fear the Lord. As I've grown, I've found the book of Jonah more intriguing. I've learned that this story is less about a fish and obeying God and more about God's concern for the nations and the prejudice of Jonah. But, what does Jonah have to do with Christ? How should Christians read this tale of this Jewish prophet? InterVarsity Press has just recently published its latest volume in the series, *New Studies in Biblical Theology*. I have enjoyed this series for a long time (Stephen Dempster's *Dominion and Dynasty* has proved my favorite so far) and I was very excited to read this latest addition. *A Gracious and Compassionate God: Mission, Salvation and Spirituality in the book of Jonah* by Daniel C. Timmer seeks to explore the book of Jonah in a fresh way. Given my background in flannel-fish-tales I was very interested in this new title. Dr. Timmer sees this book as an exploration of God's grace. "Jonah centres on the grand theme of the Bible: the manifestation of God's unmerited grace to those who have sinned against him" (17). This plays out in each character and the narrative as it develops.

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