

JONAH 1:5 - 2:2

Introduction: (Recap verses 1-4)

1. We have seen the prophet Jonah was commanded to go to Nineveh and preach against Nineveh's wickedness. But Jonah, not wanting them to repent so that God would destroy Nineveh, flees in the **opposite** direction to Tarshish (**Spain**). Jonah thinks that if Nineveh (Assyrians) were destroyed they could **not invade** N. Israel and take the Jewish people captive, as was prophesied in the book of Nahum.
2. Jonah **knew** that God was gracious, and more than likely, **if** Nineveh repented, God would **forgive** them. But, he also knew that the nations were to come to faith through Israel's **rise**. If Nineveh took Israel into captivity, **perhaps God would have no further use for Israel**. So, Jonah flees because he wanted no part in Nineveh's repentance. Jonah is on a ship headed toward Tarshish and **God** sends His **storm**.

A. Jonah 1:5 - Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that *were* in the ship into the sea, to lighten *it* of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

1. Running from God does affect **others**. The consequences of Jonah's sin placed the lives of the whole crew in jeopardy.
2. It is interesting that when people see their lives at stake - they get **religious**! Here they cry out to their gods. They start throwing the merchandise into the seas to **lighten** the load. But Jonah goes below deck and falls **asleep**. This was probably from being worn out and having a guilty conscience.

B. Jonah 1:6 - So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.

*The captain wakes Jonah to join in praying with the crew to try to have as much **influence** on their gods- God to help them not to die.

Their gods had **not answered, so he is asking for others' prayers.

C. Jonah 1:7 - And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil *is* upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

1. These sailors were superstitious and believed someone was guilty of something that was causing anger from a god. So they cast lots and **God** interferred by controlling the lots to make Jonah the guilty one.

Proverbs 16:33 - The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof *is* of the LORD.

2. It is bad when **un**believers call out, or **un**veil, a **believer's** sin.

D. Jonah 1:8 - Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil *is* upon us; What *is* thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what *is* thy country? and of what people *art* thou?

*Amazing that these men treat Jonah with such kindness and **respect**. They are asking Jonah **what** he did to bring this storm upon them.

E. Jonah 1:9 - And he said unto them, I *am* an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry *land*.

Jonah answers by telling them the **truth**. Jonah knows who he is and that his God was the true God, Who created all they saw. He is **not** ashamed.

F. Jonah 1:10 - Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

Evidently when Jonah had boarded the ship, he had **mentioned** he was running from God. So there was more conversation that took place between the sailors and Jonah. Now they want to know **why** he was running.

Jonah 1:11 - Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.

G. 1. They are trying to figure out what to do. They have Jonah honestly confessing in front of them. What are they to **do**? They want the storm to **stop**.

- a. Proverbs 25:26 - A righteous man falling down before the wicked *is as* a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.
- b. Isaiah 6:5a - Then said I, Woe *is* me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips,
- c. Luke 15:19 - And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

*Note: It is only at that **point** of humbling oneself that restoration is possible.

2. Also, notice that they have enough respect for Jonah's God that they ask Jonah to speak his **own** punishment. They knew something must be done to save their lives.

H. Jonah 1:12 - And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest *is* upon you.

1. Jonah knew that it was his **disobedience** that had brought the storm upon the ship and crew. He knows that if he **stays** aboard, **they will all perish**. Jonah is **willing** to give his life to calm the sea.
2. This might seem heroic, but it is still showing a prophet who is running from God's will. He would rather just **die** than to go to Nineveh to preach hope to them!

I. Jonah 1:13 - Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring *it* to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them.

1. Amazing that lost sailors had **more** concern for one man than Jonah had for the thousands in Nineveh. They said, "Let's try this first", and they tried to row to shore. They used all their skill and strength to save everyone, including Jonah.
2. However, God's purpose-**plan** was against them, and so the storm **in**creased against their best effort. They could not prevail.

J. Jonah 1:14 - Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee.

1. These sailors begin to cry **out** to Jonah's God. "LORD, be gracious to us for we have not done anything wrong to cause this. Please spare us."
2. *Somewhere in their awareness, they knew that Jonah's God was in control of the situation. They knew it was God's doing because of Jonah's running. They did not want to be guilty of murdering Jonah, so they are pleading with God not to hold them **re**sponsible for what they are about to do.

K. Jonah 1:15 - So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.

*The fact that the sea stopped raging suddenly showed the sailors they had done the **right** thing by throwing Jonah overboard. The sudden sea tempest becoming calm also showed that God **controls** the sea and wind.

L. Jonah 1:16 - Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows.

1. Having this "eureka moment", **re**ligious fear came upon the sailors. It was reverential godly fear, not only of God's power, but also for His graciousness in **saving** them.
2. It seems their **faith** was now placed in Jehovah. They offered a praise sacrifice to the Lord, making promises to Him that this was not a **one**-time deal.

*Though Jonah had refused to go to the Gentiles in Nineveh, God made it possible for some Gentiles to see and believe in Him.

M. Jonah 1:17 - Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

1. Not only does God control the sea, He also controls the **creatures** in the sea! God had prepared-ordained-appointed-**com**missioned [a great fish] (whale in Matt. 12:40) to be at the precise place and **time** Jonah was cast into the sea, so it could swallow him.

2. As we can see, Jonah's difficult journey was the result of his running from God's will.

Jonah's fleeing shows us also how our **old nature-**flesh** always battles the spiritual.

3. Jonah's chastening was **not** over yet, as he had to spend 3 days and nights in the whale's belly.

N. Jonah 2:1 - Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,

*It seems at this moment Jonah is **converted**, or ready to acknowledge his sin. Before, he did not want to follow God's commands - but **now** he wants to talk to God.

O. Jonah 2:2 - And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.

1. Did Jonah live 3 days and 3 nights in the fish's belly?

Answer: Had God wanted to keep Jonah alive in the whale's belly for 3 days and 3 nights, He could have **easily** done so. If God can call the universe into existence out of nothing, don't you understand that **nothing** is **impossible** with God!

2. Consider the following:

- a. The Bible never says Jonah **lived** in the belly of the whale. In 1:17, he is swallowed by the [great fish]. So where is the indication he died?
- b. The Bible in 2:2 does say Jonah cried out of [the belly of **hell**]. This language is telling of physical **death**. In the Old Testament, it was a general term where all souls went upon death. It also is showing man is conscious **after** physical death, or Jonah could not have prayed.
- c. The Bible says that Jonah pictured Jesus Christ's **death** for 3 days and 3 nights - in Matt. 12:38-40. If Jonah were not dead, then we are forced to conclude that neither was Jesus.
 - (1) *Jonah was physically dead in the belly of the whale, as Jesus' physical body was in the tomb. Jonah's soul was in hell's **para**diside side, as Jesus' soul was in the paradise side of hell (Luke 16).

Luke 23:43 - And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

- (2) Jonah then resurrected - Jesus likewise resurrected. I am not saying that I comprehend how this could happen, but I believe the Bible indicates this.

Whether Jonah lived or died, it was a **miracle that he is later spit up on the shore.

d. Also remember, Jonah pictured Israel dead among the nations.

Ezekiel 37:11-14 - Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Eze. 37:12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Eze. 37:13 And ye shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, Eze. 37:14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

- (1) Jonah lived during 800-775 B.C. Israel was **dispersed** among the nations, beginning with the Babylonian captivity in 606 B.C. Israel **died** in respect to her promised land. The lands of the Gentiles are called "graves" in verses 12 & 13 of Ezekiel 37.
- (2) *One day, after our Dispensation of Grace is finished, God will **restore** Israel by breathing **new** life into her. This life will cause Israel to reenter her **land**, and that time it will be permanent - **never** to be banished again. That is when the Abrahamic Covenant will be fulfilled and the Jewish people become God's Kingdom of **priests** to Israel and the Gentiles (Isaiah 2:1-3; Zech. 8:20-23; Isaiah 60:1-3; Isaiah 61:6, etc.).
- (3) The nation of Israel **refused** to be God's messengers to the Gentiles. Israel rejected God and His Word (commands).

* Likewise, Jonah **fled** from God's presence and His instruction to go preach to the Ninevites.

* The Israelites did not want to minister to the families of the **earth** on God's behalf. They rebelled against the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:1-3).

- (4) **Once God chastened Jonah (killing and resurrecting him), Jonah then went **without** arguing with God (Jonah 3:1-3), but he wasn't happy!

Likewise, once God chastens Israel by His scattering and the **Tribulation, God will give her new life again. She will be God's **ministers** to Gentiles in her 1000-year reign.

* So Jonah died to be a picture of the coming death and resurrection of Jesus **Christ** and

* **Israel**. God was not done with Jonah!

How did Jonah's body-soul go from where the fish swallowed Jonah to Nineveh!

<p><u>Question?</u> Blows your mind!</p>
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