

How We Will Approach the Book of Jonah

Jonah

History

Ninevites

Joppa and the Phoenicians

Why Run?

Chap. 4:2-3 “And he prayed to the LORD and said, ‘O LORD, is not this what I said when I was yet in my country? That is why I made haste to flee to Tarshish; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from disaster. ³Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.’”

Resembling Jonah

Proud

Judgmental

Hateful

Self-righteous

Running from God

Asleep

Sailors

These sailors are model citizens

Vs. 6 – The captain said, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.”

Vss. 12-13 – They refuse to throw him overboard until all other options are exhausted

Ignorance and Conversion

Vss. 9-10 “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and dry land. Then the men were exceedingly afraid...”

Verses 9 and 10 are the climax of the passage

- A Sailors are afraid; the sea rages (4)
- B Sailors cry to their gods (5a)
- C Attempts to save the ship (5b)
- D Jonah is asked to help (6-7)
- E Sailors ask Jonah the cause of the storm (8)
- F PROCLAMATION BY JONAH (9-10)**
- E` Sailors ask Jonah the remedy to the storm (11)
- D` Jonah gives instructions that will help (12)
- C` Attempts to save the ship are in vain (13)
- B` Sailors cry to the LORD (14)
- A` Sailors are afraid of the LORD, sea quits raging (15-16)

God

Who is God trying to save?

Especially look at *B and B`*, vss. 5,14 “Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god...”
“Then they called out to the Lord...” and “They offered sacrifice and made vows.”

How does he do it?

Looking forward to Jesus – Mark 4:37

- Both stories have a storm on a sea, causing the boat to fall apart
- Both stories have the main character, asleep in the lower part of the boat
- Both stories have the men afraid because of the storm, but then more afraid because of God
- Both stories have the sailors cry out “Don’t you care that we are perishing?”
- But in Jonah, Jonah’s life is forfeit to save the sailors. In Jesus’s story...

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. Which characters do you resemble in the story? Are you more of a prodigal or an older brother?
2. Why does it matter that the Bible is historically accurate in what it records?
3. What do we learn about God’s heart in this story?
4. How is our God a missionary God? What does it look like for you to live a life of mission to those around you?