

JONAH

2 Kings 14:23-25 (ESV) “In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, began to reign in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. ²⁴And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. ²⁵He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, which he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher.”

Jonah 1:1-2 (ESV) “Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ²‘Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.’”

1. When I try to decide who receives God’s grace.

Jonah 1:3 (ESV) “But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.”

Genesis 12:3b (ESV) “all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

2. When I think I’m powerful enough to change God’s plans.

Jonah 1:3 (ESV) “He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.”

Psalms 139:16b (NIV) “all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”

3. Because my disobedience can still hurt those around me.

Jonah 1:4-5 (ESV) “But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god.”

Jonah 1:8-9 (ESV) “‘Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?’ ⁹And he said to them, ‘I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.’”

Jonah 1:11-12 (ESV) “‘What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?’ For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. ¹²He said to them, ‘Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.’”

4. Because God can also use my experiences to reach others.

Jonah 1:15-16 (ESV) “So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.”

Jonah 1:17 (ESV) “And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”