

Jonah 1

Jesus

- **Book of Jonah:** 5th of 12 Minor Prophets
- **Author:** Jonah?
- **Date:** 793-753 BC Around the reign of Jeroboam II King

Application: Because we belong to Christ we are obligated to fulfill God's purpose in our lives no matter how difficult or objectionable it may seem to us. Aligning our rebellious heart with God's will/purpose sometimes requires God's painful intervention to accomplish His radical redirection in our lives. [NJC]

- **Book of Jonah:** Full of surprises...
 1. God's prophet is rebelling
 2. Pagan sailors are obeying
 3. A fish is used for transportation
 4. Evil King/Entire mega-city repent after a 5-word sermon
 5. End: God's prophet still not getting it...

If David was a man after God's own heart...Jonah was not
Jonah is a man in desperate need of a heart change

I. Jonah Runs from God

1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai...

Jonah was a real guy
Prophet sent by God to the Northern Kingdom

2 Kings 14:25 [Jeroboam II] ...restored the territory of Israel...according to the **word of the LORD** God of Israel, which God had **spoken through His servant Jonah** the son of Amittai, the prophet who was **from Gath Hepher.**

Jonah was a contemporary of Amos/Hosea
Jesus spoke of Jonah 250 years later as a living historical figure...

Matthew 12:39...An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and **no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.**

793-753 The Word of the LORD came to the Prophet Jonah

2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city...

Leave Israel/Go to the Pagan City of Nineveh
The Greatest City in the Greatest Empire

- **Ninevah**
 1. Capital of Assyria
 2. NE of Israel
 3. Founded by Nimrod

- **Nimrod**

1. Name means Rebellion or Valiant
2. Founder of Babel **and** Ninevah after flood

Genesis 10:8 Cush begot **Nimrod**; he began to be a **mighty one** on the earth. 9 He was a **mighty hunter before the LORD** [lit. *hunter of the souls of men*]; therefore it is said, "Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before the LORD." 10 And the beginning of his **kingdom was Babel...in the land of Shinar [Babylon]**. 11 From **that land Nimrod went to Assyria and built Nineveh...**

Nimrod: General contractor for Satan's pet project the Tower of Babel
False mother/child religion established in Babel then Ninevah

AC called the Assyrian in Micah 5:6
Ninevah the Capital of Assyria was deeply rooted in evil

- Largest City in the world
 - Cruel Military w/reputation preceding it
1. Impaling/Maiming POWs
 2. Bury in dirt up to head/Nail their tongues to ground in hot sun
 3. Slow march to war taking families with
 4. Unorganized: A mob-like bunch until arriving to lay siege
 5. Cities chose mass suicide than risk torture/death by Assyrians

Jonah knows the reputation of this Great Wicked City
Jonah on break gets the surprise call from God...*Arise, go to Nineveh*

2b... and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

Wickedness: heb. *ra* lit. Evil, mischief, hurt, bad, trouble, sore, affliction, ill, adversity, ill-favored, to harm, noisome, grievous, sad, miscellaneous

Genesis 18:20 [E.g.] And the Lord said, "**Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave,** 21 I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

Why have Jonah cry out against Ninevah. Why not just judge?
God has a heart for this people...Calls Jonah to reveal God's heart to them

3 But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

God said *Arise and Go*
But Jonah *Arose and Ran* the other way. Why?

- **Prideful:** They don't deserve a chance
- **Busy:** State of disobedience
- **Frightened:** Being Impaled/Maimed did not seem appealing

- Or ...

Did he hate the Assyrians enough to see them damned?
Did he know God desired to spare those SINNERS?

Jonah 4:2 [Clue] ...Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? ... for **I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.**

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that **Christ Jesus came** into the world to **save sinners**, of whom I am chief.

Matthew 5:44 ... love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you...

Luke 6:32 But **if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you?** For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 **teaching them...**

Why do we run away from God's clear command to arise and go to others?

- **Prideful:** We don't think they deserve to be saved
- **Busy:** Other things are more important.
- **Frightened:** Fear of embarrassment/persecution/Fear of man not God
- ...

Are we so apathetic to others that we would allow others to be damned?
Do we know/care that God desires to give them a new heart?

- **Ways we run...**

1. **Procrastinate:** Delayed obedience is disobedience
2. **Shut out God's voice:** Attempt to hide from God
3. **Substitute:** Sacrifice for obedience

Do we have the heart of David or the heart of Jonah?

We can only love as we realize God's great love for us
We can only forgive when we realize God's profound forgiveness toward us

Those who know they are loved much *by God* ...love others much *for God*. [NJC]

3b ...Jonah 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 from the presence of the LORD.

Jonah followed his heart/feelings which directed him away from the LORD

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is **deceitful above all things**, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

- Jonah left his home in Gath-hepher. Near Nazareth
- **Stopped at Port of Joppa**
 1. Modern Jaffa
 2. Centered on West coast of Israel
 3. NT Home of Tabitha [Dorcas]/Simon the Tanner

Joppa was Jonah's port to catch ship to Tarshish
Away from the presence of the LORD

Psalms 139:7 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8 If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, 10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

- **On his way to Tarshish:**
 1. Near Spain
 2. Always linked w/ships in Scripture
 3. Synonym for the *end of the earth*

Jonah *happened* to have money for the fare
Jonah *happened* to find a ship that *happened* to be going where he wanted

We can always find a sign to confirm our own will. [NJC]

What have you to do with the devices and desires of your own hearts? Are these to be a law to you? I pray you, be not among the foolish ones who will be carried about with every wind of fancy and perversity. [Spurgeon]

IOWs Satan already had a ship to ready to sail...

...the crafty devil and your deceitful heart together will soon conjure up a plea for it being the Lord's will. [Spurgeon]

So how do I know the will of God? Not by our feelings/circumstances/even peace
We find God's will by being in His Word and expecting an answer

Jonah paid the fare to flee from God. Every day people are buying their own ticket to hell; Making a covenant with death, lighting their own fires and eventually lying down in eternal torment that began with one poor decision to go the wrong direction. [NJC]

Every time we say no to God we go further down
Jonah is about to go down even lower...on his way to the end of the earth

II. God Sends a Storm

4 But **the LORD sent** out a **great wind** on the sea, and there was a **mighty tempest** [hurricane] on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.

God said Go. Jonah said No. God said yes
God responds w/a Supernatural Hurricane

5 Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. **But Jonah had gone down** into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.

Sailors cried to their gods/Dropped their baggage
Jonah slept...

Every time we say no to God we yes to Satan. Jonah is now lulled to sleep in the deceitful embrace of the devil. IOWs Satan always has a cuddle waiting for us when we run from God.
[NJC]

6 So the captain came to [Jonah], and said to him, "**What do you mean, sleeper?** Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish." 7 And they said to one another, "Come, **let us cast lots**, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the **lot fell on Jonah**. 8 Then they said to him, "Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" 9 So Jonah said to them, "**I am a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD**, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

III. Jonah Thrown Overboard

10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "**Why have you done this?**" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, **because he had told them.**

If you're a Hebrew who fears the LORD why are you disobeying Him?

Legit question from unbelievers:

If you're a follower of Christ why are you doing what you're doing?

- If you fear the Lord why are you...
 1. Living together in sin?
 2. Misusing alcohol/drugs?
 3. Gossiping/Slandering?
 4. Not going to church?
 5. Using godless language?

11 Then they said to him, "**What shall we do to you** that the sea may be calm for us?"—for the sea was growing more tempestuous. 12 And Jonah said to them, "Pick me up and **throw me into the sea**; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is **because of me.**"

Intrinsic to all humans: We know Sin demands Sacrifice
Jonah offers himself as a type [*flawed as it is*] of Christ

Throw me into the midst of God's wrath and you will be saved...

13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them. 14 Therefore they **cried out to the LORD** and said, "We pray, **O LORD**, please do not let us perish for this man's life, and do not charge us with innocent blood..."

Hell-bound pagans are only one prayer away from Eternal Life

Luke 23:39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." 40 But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for **we receive the due reward** of our deeds; but **this Man has done nothing** wrong." 42 Then he said to Jesus, "**Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.**"

- I am a sinner/You innocent
- Though You die you will live again...

Remember me when You receive Your Kingdom

...43 Jesus said to him "Assuredly, I say to you, **today you will be with Me in Paradise.**"

14b... for You, O LORD, have done **as it pleased You.**"

Sailors submit to God: We relinquish our lives to You
We commit our souls to our faithful Creator!

1 Peter 4:19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God **commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.**

You do Right/We need Mercy/We are powerless/You're in Control
They Pre-load the action w/prayer: Don't charge us w/what we are about to do...

15 So they picked up Jonah and **threw him into the sea**, and the **sea ceased from its raging**. 16 Then the **men feared the LORD** exceedingly, and **offered a sacrifice to the LORD** and **took vows**.

Psalms 89:9 You rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them.

Psalms 107:29 He calms the storm, So that its waves are still.

In all this, Jonah is a wonderful picture of the Messiah that would come after him, Jesus Christ. Jesus threw Himself into the fury of God's storm to rescue those far from God. However, here are many differences between Jonah and Jesus, and one of the greatest was that Jonah was disobedient and guilty, and Jesus was completely obedient and innocent. [Guzik]

1. Sinners tossed upon the sea of conviction make desperate efforts to save themselves
2. The fleshly efforts of awakened sinners must inevitably fail
3. The soul's sorrow will continue to increase as long as it relies on its own efforts
4. The way of safety for sinners is to be found in the sacrifice of another on their behalf [Spurgeon]

▪ **Changed Men**

1. Feared God
2. Sacrificed
3. Made vows

They stopped fearing the storm
Began to fear the One over the storm...

Mark 4:37 ...a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. 38 But [Jesus] was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" 39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "**Peace, be still!**" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. 40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" 41 And they **feared exceedingly**, and said to one another, "**Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!**"

Jonah a flawed type of Christ...Our wrath taker

Brethren, I wish I had right words with which I could fitly describe the peace which comes to a human heart when we learn to see **Jesus cast into the sea of divine wrath on our account.** [Spurgeon]

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

A fish especially prepared by the LORD
To accommodate the Prophet Jonah

- **Fish:** heb. *Dag* Creature/Fish/Whale

A Greater miracle than a man living in a fish for 3 days/nights?
Hardened pagan sailors gave glory to their Creator/Were saved

The most unbelievable miracle in the Bible is the salvation of lost souls like us
That's God's heart. That was David's heart. Jonah, not so much. What about us?