

And I Fear Yahweh

Jonah 1:3-17

August 31, 2025

Pastor Peter Chung

Jonah 1:9-10 [Legacy Standard Bible]

⁹And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear Yahweh, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

¹⁰Then the men became greatly fearful, and they said to him, "What is this you have done?" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of Yahweh because he had told them.

Jonah 1:4-6 [Legacy Standard Bible]

⁴But Yahweh hurled a great wind on the sea, and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship gave thought to breaking apart.

⁵Then the sailors **became fearful**, and every man cried to his god, and they hurled the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down below into the innermost part of the vessel, lain down, and fallen deep asleep.

⁶So the captain came near to him and said to him, "How is it that you are deeply sleeping? Arise, call on your god. Perhaps your god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish."

Jonah 1:9-12 [Legacy Standard Bible]

⁹And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear Yahweh, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

¹⁰Then the men became greatly fearful, and they said to him, "What is this you have done?" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of Yahweh because he had told them.

¹¹So they said to him, "What should we do to you that the sea may become quiet for us?"—for the sea was becoming increasingly stormy.

¹²So he said to them, "Lift me up and hurl me into the sea. Then the sea will become quiet for you, for I know that on account of me this great storm has come upon you."

Jonah 1:14-17 (Legacy Standard Bible)

¹⁴Then they called on Yahweh and said, "Ah! O Yahweh, we earnestly pray, do not let us perish on account of this man's life, and do not put innocent blood on us; for You, O Yahweh, as You have pleased You have done."

¹⁵So they lifted Jonah up and hurled him into the sea, and the sea stood still from its raging.

¹⁶Then the men greatly feared Yahweh, and they offered a sacrifice to Yahweh and made vows.

¹⁷And Yahweh appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

Increasing Fear

Jonah 1:5a (LSB)

⁵Then the sailors **became fearful**, and every man cried to his god,

Jonah 1:9 (LSB)

⁹And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and **I fear Yahweh**, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

Jonah 1:10 (LSB)

¹⁰Then the men **became greatly fearful**, and they said to him, "What is this you have done?"

Jonah 1:16 (LSB)

¹⁶Then the men **greatly feared Yahweh**, and they offered a sacrifice to Yahweh and made vows.

The Fear of Yahweh

Proverbs 1:7 (LSB)

⁷The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge; Ignorant fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Proverbs 9:10 (LSB)

¹⁰The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Proverbs 14:27 (LSB)

²⁷The fear of Yahweh is a fountain of life, To turn aside from the snares of death.

Sermon Outline

- I. The Fear of God is Warranted (1:3-10)
- II. The Fear of God is Good (1:11-16)
- III. The Fear of God Makes Fear Unnecessary (1:17)

I. The Fear of God is Warranted (Jonah 1:3-10)

Jonah 1:7-9 (LSB)

⁷Then each man said to the other, "Come, let us have the lots fall so we may know on whose account this calamitous evil has struck us." So they had the lots fall, and the lot fell on Jonah.

⁸Then they said to him, "Tell us, now! On whose account has this calamitous evil struck us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

⁹And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear Yahweh, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

I. The Fear of God is Warranted (Jonah 1:3-10)

הָרָעָה (ha'ra'ah) - great wickedness, evil, calamity, deep trouble

- NASB95: Calamity
- CSB: Trouble
- KJV: Evil
- ESV: Evil
- LSB: Calamitous Evil

I. The Fear of God is Warranted (Jonah 1:3-10)

Jonah 1:7-9 (LSB)

⁷Then each man said to the other, "Come, let us have the lots fall so we may know on whose account this calamitous evil has struck us." So they had the lots fall, and the lot fell on Jonah.

⁸Then they said to him, "Tell us, now! On whose account has this calamitous evil struck us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

⁹And he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear Yahweh, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."

I. The Fear of God is Warranted (Jonah 1:3-10)

Matthew 10:28 (LSB)

²⁸“And do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

I. The Fear of God is Warranted (Jonah 1:3-10)

Deuteronomy 4:23–24 (LSB)

²³“So keep yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of Yahweh your God which He cut with you and make for yourselves a graven image in the form of anything against which Yahweh your God has commanded you.

²⁴“For Yahweh your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

I. The Fear of God is Warranted (Jonah 1:3-10)

Hebrews 10:31 (LSB)

³¹It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

II. The Fear of God is Good (Jonah 1:11-16)

Jonah 1:14–16 (LSB)

¹⁴Then they called on Yahweh and said, "Ah! O Yahweh, we earnestly pray, do not let us perish on account of this man's life, and do not put innocent blood on us; for You, O Yahweh, as You have pleased You have done."

¹⁵So they lifted Jonah up and hurled him into the sea, and the sea stood still from its raging.

¹⁶Then the men greatly feared Yahweh, and they offered a sacrifice to Yahweh and made vows.

II. The Fear of God is Good (Jonah 1:11-16)

Jonah 2:7–9 (LSB)

⁷“While my soul was fainting within me, I remembered Yahweh, And my prayer came to You, To Your holy temple.

⁸“Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their lovingkindness,

⁹But as for me, I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to Yahweh.”

Jonah 2:8

(LSB) "Those who regard worthless idols Forsake **their lovingkindness,**

(NASB) "Those who are followers of worthless idols Abandon **their faithfulness,**

(KJV) They that observe lying vanities forsake **their own mercy.**

(BSB) Those who cling to worthless idols forsake **His loving devotion.**

(ESV) Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake **their hope of steadfast love.**

(NIV) "Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from **God's love for them.**

(Amplified Bible) "Those who regard *and* follow worthless idols Turn away from **their [living source of] mercy *and* lovingkindness.**

(CSB) Those who cherish worthless idols abandon **their faithful love,**

II. The Fear of God is Good (Jonah 1:11-16)

Proverbs 15:8 (LSB)

⁸The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to Yahweh, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

II. The Fear of God is Good (Jonah 1:11-16)

Proverbs 1:26–30 (LSB)

²⁶I will also laugh at your disaster; I will mock when your dread comes,

²⁷When your dread comes like a storm And your disaster comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you.

²⁸"Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me earnestly but they will not find me,

²⁹Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of Yahweh.

³⁰"They were not willing to accept my counsel, They spurned all my reproof.

II. The Fear of God is Good (Jonah 1:11-16)

Proverbs 15:33 (LSB)

³³The fear of Yahweh is the discipline leading to wisdom, And
before glory comes humility.

II. The Fear of God is Good (Jonah 1:11-16)

Joshua 2:9–11 (LSB)

⁹and said to the men, “I know that Yahweh has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you.

¹⁰“For we have heard how Yahweh dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction.

¹¹“Indeed we heard it, and our hearts melted, and a courageous spirit no longer rose up in any man because of you; for Yahweh your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

III. The Fear of God Makes Fear Unnecessary (1:17)

Jonah 1:17 (LSB)

¹⁷And Yahweh appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

Matthew 12:39–40 (LSB)

³⁹But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation eagerly seeks for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet;

⁴⁰for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

III. The Fear of God Makes Fear Unnecessary (1:17)

Hebrews 4:16 (LSB)

¹⁶Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23–24 (LSB)

²³For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was being betrayed took bread,

²⁴and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:25 (LSB)

²⁵In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often
as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:26–29 (LSB)

²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes.

²⁷Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord.

²⁸But a man must test himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

²⁹For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.