

JONAH – CHAPTER 1

1. Command given to Jonah to preach at Nineveh ([Jonah 1:1, 2](#)).
2. Jonah's disobedience to that command ([Jonah 1:3](#)).
3. Pursuit and arrest of him for that disobedience by a storm, in which he was asleep ([Jonah 1:4-6](#)).
4. Discovery of him, his disobedience; it's found to be the cause of the storm ([Jonah 1:7](#)).
5. He was cast into the sea for the stilling of the storm ([Jonah 1:11-16](#)).
6. Miraculous preservation of his life ([Jonah 1:17](#)).

Verse 1:

The name *Jonah* signifies a dove – a proper name for all of God's prophets (harmless as doves, mourn as doves for the sins and calamities of the land).

Jonah's father's name was *Amittai*, which means "*my truth*".

"The word of the Lord came" Jonah has been acquainted with the substance of God's Word, knowing that God's Word is real, and man's words are but wind.

Verse 2: "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city"

1. Nineveh, at this time, was the metropolis of the Assyrian monarch, an eminent city, as described in [Gen. 10:11](#) – A great city, that great city, 48 miles in compass (some say more).
2. Nineveh was great for the number of people, and especially children ([Jonah 4:11](#)). There were 120,000 children – little ones who did not know the left hand from the right hand.
3. Nineveh was great in wealth.
4. Great in power and dominion – it was the city that for some time ruled over the kings of the earth.
5. Great city, great men, and most of all, a great God.
6. The city was great, but without the knowledge and true worship of the true God.
7. A great city sitting in darkness and in the valley of the shadow of death.
8. Great, **BUT OH SO WICKED!** "*Wickedness has come up before Me.*" The words "*come up*" in verse 2 are described as "coming up to the highest pitch, or the measure of it is full to the brim."

JONAH – CHAPTER 1 (Continued)

9. The people were *bold* in their sinning. An open affront to God, as in [Gen. 18:20, 21](#). “*The sin of Sodom has come up to my face*” says the Lord.
10. Jonah must cry out – “*Cry aloud, warn of destruction*”, not whisper his message in the corners, but publish it in the city’s streets. When sin comes to the face of God, then the cry of warning must be on the lips of the prophet.

Verse 3: JONAH’S DISHONOUR TO GOD

1. Jonah refuses to obey his specific orders.
2. Instead of getting up to go to Nineveh, he “*rose up to flee to Tarshish*” to the sea, not bound for any port, but desirous to get away “*from the presence of the Lord.*” Read [Psalm 139:7-12](#). *OH, TO GET OUT FROM UNDER THE EYES OF GOD’S INSPECTION!* Is that really possible? Of course *NOT!*
3. Jonah would not go. *WHY? MANY IDEAS:*
 - a. Long and dangerous journey.
 - b. Unfamiliar road – many inconveniences.
 - c. Would not be appreciated and would not be safe.
 - d. Loved his own country and not willing for any other nation to share the honor of divine revelation.
 - e. He could see the people of Nineveh repenting, and did not like the idea. It would be a slur upon the people of Israel ([Jonah 4:2](#)).
4. He desired Tarshish. Tarsus in Cilicia. He probably had friends and relatives there.
5. He went to Joppa, a famous seaport in the land of Israel, in quest for a ship bound for Tarshish.
6. He found a ship – so providence seemed to favor his design and to give him an opportunity to escape. *BUT*, notice 4 things:
 - a. *THE READY WAY IS NOT ALWAYS THE RIGHT WAY. WHEN WE ARE OUT OF THE WAY OF DUTY, WE MAY EVEN FIND A FAVORABLE GALE.* Or does it really make any difference which way you go when you are not going the way you should?
 - b. “*He paid the fare*”. You don’t count the cost when you are determined to sin anyway!

JONAH – CHAPTER 1 (Continued)

- c. *“He went with them”* – mariners, merchants, passengers – whoever they were. *“ANY OL’ CROWD WILL DO!”*
- d. Jonah is forgetting his dignity and his duty and is heading with the crowd going away from the presence of the Lord.

Verse 4: Here, we have the deserter pursued and overtaken, discovered and convicted.

“A mighty tempest in the sea”; *“The Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea”* (Psalm 135:7 – RSV). God has the winds in His treasure. *“He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth, who makes lightnings for the rain and brings forth the wind from his storehouse.”* Just remember *“stormy winds obey”* (Prov. 30:4).

Sin brings storms into the soul, the family, the church and the nation. Sin as a tempest is disquieting and disturbing.

This particular ship was *“about to break up”*. There could have been other ships close by, and not bothered. This one had on it a *problem child*. The Lord is specific with his discipline.

Verse 5: *“Mariners were afraid”*

1. The ship’s crew members were alarmed by this mighty wind.
2. They were accustomed to dangerous winds, but this was worse.
3. God was not having a controversy with the ship’s crew, but they were suffering the consequences of Jonah’s disobedience.
4. Stay out of the ship with a bunch of negative believers.
5. Better still; don’t get in the ship with just one.
6. This reveals that the oldest, strongest, most seasoned member of the ship’s crew knew that this was no ordinary storm, but a raging storm!
7. God can strike terror upon the most daring. *“EACH CRIED TO HIS god”*. Not some prayed, but *“EACH”*, including the atheist. We see the folly of paganism. There is but one God.

JONAH – CHAPTER 1 (Continued)

8. *“They threw the cargo into the sea to lighten it”* while praying ([Acts 27:18, 19](#)). Paul’s sailors in a like situation decided that merchandise for gain was less important than their own skin. *IN THE LIGHT OF LIFE OR NO LIFE RICHES, TAKE WINGS AND FLY AWAY!*
9. Where is Jonah at this time? *ASLEEP!!* Satan is always in the business of rocking the disobedient believer to sleep in carnal security.
10. The Devil always keeps the backslidden believer from being sensitive to misery or danger.

Verse 6: the shipmaster came to Jonah and said: *“call upon your God” PRAY FOR LIFE – PREPARE FOR DEATH.*

Let’s commend this shipmaster – though a stranger to Jonah, he was treating him as family. NOTE – Jonah who could have been reproofing the king of Nineveh, BUT NOW, not being in the line of duty, was *being reproofed*. God always has, in His goodness, someone concerned enough to point out our need. Rooster? Shipmaster!

Here we have a word of advice: *“Arise, call upon your God.”*

An awareness of others should motivate us.

If we share a common interest, we should contribute our quota of concern.

In time of public distress, no one should be asleep.

Good reason for advice: The ship master was saying that this danger is great, and he was also saying that perishing was imminent.

GOD – THE ONLY HOPE