

“A Nationalist to the Nations?”

Jonah 1.1-16

Do Really Believe GOD Knows what is Best? For Us? Our World?

JONAH son of Amittai: PATRIOT, Zealous Jewish NATIONALIST

“the word of the Lord, spoken thru his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet” 2 Kings 14.25

8<sup>th</sup> C – godless king of ISRAEL: JEROBOAM – UNJUST and Unfaithful

Prophets AMOS & HOSEA criticized Jeroboam

JONAH Supported Mission to Attack Neighbors > Extend GLORY

NINEVEH – Capital of Assyrian Emp / Prophet NAHUM Condemned

“Assyria had a gory and blood-curdling history...cut off the legs and of their enemies, but just one arm so they could shake their hand in mockery as they watched them die...then they would force friends and family to carry their decapitated heads on poles in gruesome parade”

Is God Really sending Patriot to this People > to Godless Gentiles?

Jonah knows WORD of God is Powerful > Able to SAVE

Heaven would not be Heaven if ASSYRIANS were There!

Jonah to Nineveh like Jewish Rabbi preaching Streets of Berlin in 1941 – Height of Nazi Power

Hard to BELIEVE God REALLY Knows what is BEST!

Jonah – 1 of 12 MINOR PROPHETS – NOT in importance – LENGTH Unlike other

Prophetic books – MOSTLY AUTOBIOGRAPHY

REAL Man & Fish – True Story / Real as Resurrection

## 1. God's Call

vs. 1,2 Now the word of the LORD came– 100 X's in OT - to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.”

1<sup>st</sup> Jewish Prophet called to GO & Preach to Foreign City / Nation

Jerem & Isaiah > Sermons / Chs to Neighbor Nations: STAYED Home

v. 2 “for their evil has come up before me.”

Prophet Nahum – whole book describes the wickedness of Nineveh

“Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims! The crack of whips, the clatter of wheels, galloping horses and jolting chariots! Charging cavalry, flashing swords and glittering spears! Many casualties, piles of dead, bodies without number, people stumbling over the corpses”  
Nahum 3.1-3

JONAH THOUGHT HIS BODY WOULD BE THROWN ON PILE

Jonah's Response: Immediate, Got up RIGHT AWAY -- WRONG WAY

JOPPA – modern day Jaffa – only natural harbor on coast of Palestine TARSHISH –

Probably South-western Spain– As FAR as Possible!

Jonah did EXACT Opposite of what God COMMANDED

Nineveh was EAST / Tarshish WEST – Nineveh OVERLAND – Jonah jumped on a BOAT /

Nineveh BIG City – Jonah goes Ends of Earth

## 2. Servant's Conflict

Why did Jonah take this ship to **Nowhereland**?

a. **Circumstances** > Guiding Principle // Many Christians Today

Hanging out at Joppa – looked at watch 2.45 – saw on notice board – Ship for Tarshish leaves at 3 o'clock – GOD'S WILL FOR ME!

People following God as Think, Feel, and Experience – not Scripture

SHIP TO SPAIN MAYBE LEAVING THEN

God ALREADY Booked JONAH on CAMEL Train to NINEVEH

b. **Challenges** – Nineveh was FAR – Journey long, tiring, expensive

4.11 Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left

Nineveh BIG > 120,000 Little KIDS = Million? Or 120,000 Hopeless Idiots

3.3 “exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth”

Mission IMPOSSIBLE and RIDICULOUS – what could 1 man do?

c. **Choice** – At End of the DAY we will DO what WE want to do

If God NOT Know what He is Doing, One cannot be Expected to OBEY

Safer follow OWN Superior Wisdom – Following by Faith SCARRY!

God spoke Clearly to Jonah – Revealed Word to US in Scripture

LOVE your Neighbor – “but God, you don't know my neighbor!?”

TITHE your Resources – “but God, Hawaii is really expensive!”

Jonah Choice – At End of the DAY Jonah DID what HE wanted to do

### 3. Sin's Consequences

Thru all of Chapter 1 > Jonah is GOING DOWN

v. 3 “down to Joppa” / 3 “down into ship” / “down the bottom of the sea”

Geographically & Spiritually WAY Away from God is Always DOWN

v. 3 So he paid the fare: NO Refund before Throwing into SEA

“When you run away from the Lord you never get to where you are going, and you always pay your own fare. But when you go the Lord’s way you always get to where you are going, and He pays the fare”  
Donald Grey Barnhouse

How can a prophet of God imagine He can run away?

Prophet – Jonah probably memorized these inspired words:

“Where could I go to escape from you? Where could I get away from your presence? ... If I flew away beyond the east or lived in the farthest places in the west, you would be there to lead me”  
Psalm 139.7-10

vs. 4,5 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. Then the mariners were afraid  
Sailors seen great storms before, but not like this

“The dismaying news is that every act of disobedience to God has a storm attached to it... This is not to say that every difficult thing that comes into our lives is the punishment for some particular sin... The Bible does not say that every difficulty is the result of sin – but it does teach that every sin will bring you into difficulty.”  
Tim Keller

“Sin sets up strains in the structures in our life which can only end in breakdown”  
Derek Kidner

Liar? Likely get Lied to – Thief? Something Taken from You – Live by Sword, Die by Sword  
Sin more like RADIATION Poison – slow, gradual, unseen at first – What will happen if  
REFUSE to Pray, Worship, Read Bible?

Probably NOTHING...at First – Start to Drift from God SLOWLY

Float on RAFT Fall Asleep – Wake Up you Landing in MAUI!

People Caught UP in OUR Storms – Member of Family choses DRUGS Whole family suffer:  
Sadness, Shame, Scared, Stealing, Security RISK

2<sup>nd</sup> Time Jonah confronted People > Culturally & Racially DIFFERENT

Ninevites: RUNS Away from / Sailors: No where to RUN – Stuck!

// NT: Jesus' Disciples in boat – Great Storm / Fear --- But Jesus was in Boat

He calmed the wind and waves

But Jonah was IN their Boat – HE CAUSED THE WIND AND WAVES!

SAILORS TRY ALL THEIR WORLDLY WISDOM ALLOWS

v. 5 Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god.

International / Inter-Religious Prayer Meeting

Sincerity – God help us, whoever you are, any god will do!!

Science – lighten the load so the ship will float more easily

SAD Truth > Unbelievers BETTER People than Believer: Prophet!

Sailors: Alert/ Jonah: Asleep– Sailors: Thot of Others/ Jonah: Thot of Himself –

Sailors: Pray / Jonah: Preaches - Sleeper: Jonah, NOT Troubled by Conscience or Storm

WORLD Rebukes Believer – Captain to Sleepy Head v. 6 So the captain came and said to him, “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.”

Same Hebrew word used in vs. 1.2 Get Up and Go!

How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god, Wisdom from God! Capt wonders if God will have mercy / Jonah running cause He does

Sailors realized STORM was SUPERNATURAL

v. 9 And 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 was Preacher in Sin/ but Still a Preacher – NO ESCAPE GIFTS AND

CALL OF GOD ARE IRREVOCABLE

JONAH will Preach to Sinners even if he DROWNS with THEM

v. 10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid > of God of the Storm

TERRIFIED to learn Jonah was Hebrew running from His God

Word was well known about the God of the Hebrews

Sent the plagues upon Egypt to set His people free

Opened Red Sea for His people / Closed on Pharaoh and his troops

He stopped the River Jordan and toppled the walls of Jericho

Rightly ask REBEL PROPHET “What have you done?”

“What can we do to quiet the storm?” EASY AND SAFE ANSWER TURN  
AROUND AND LET ME GO TO NINEVEH

Stubbornness of SIN // Hardness of Heart // Strength of Rebellion

JONAH “I’d rather DIE than SERVE GOD” – can you relate??

“Hope, justice, and integrity reside not with Jonah...but with the captain and the sailors...through blameless victims, the sailors never cry injustice. Finding themselves in a dangerous situation not of their making, they seek to solve it for the good of all. Never do they wallow in self-pity, berate an angry god...condemn an arbitrary world, target the culprit Jonah for vengeance, or promote violence as an answer.”  
*Phyllis Tribble*

Difference between COMMON Grace and SAVING Grace

COMMON – Given to All People / SAVING to Chosen People

GRACE – Undeserved, Not Earned, Not Worthy

Common Grace: nice, friendly, honest, hardworking unbelievers

Saving: Washed in the Blood, Heaven Bound, Child of God

People who are SAVED Not Always Nice, Honest, Hardworking

SHOULD Be – Salvation NOT Earned or Merited > GRACE!

V. 16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

SACRIFICES & VOWS --- AFTER the STORM was QUIET

Not unusual for people to call on God in the midst of terrible storm

AFTER STORM – Most People forget God – NOT SAILORS

Bob Kells in College – Shared Gospel – Not Interested >

Hospitalized called me Come and Pray > Prayed to Follow Jesus

OUT > Healed, NO Time for God, NO Need for God > Avoid Me Plague

Jonah Running from God cause Not want Sinners to be Saved

Even in Jonah’s Running: God Saved Sinners who Called on Yahweh

God took Election of Jonah so seriously He would even sink the Ship

JONAH was BELIEVER – Even a PROPHET – Who FORGOT God

JONAH – SEE OURSELVES AND BE WARNED

God's Love and Salvation WIDER than our PREJUDICES

God calls us to LAY Down Lives > Even take RISKS > to Serve Him

Jesus was Faithful Prophet > Dangerous Mission w Difficult People

Faithful to OBEY even to Death > Death on Cross

GOD our ONLY SAVIOR - MERCIFUL, SOVEREIGN, SAVIOR

Remember Jesus Christ...

2 Timothy 2.8

1:1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.” But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD. 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. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. So the captain came and said to him, “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.” And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, “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?” And 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.” Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. He 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.” Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. Therefore they called out to the LORD, “O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you.” So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.