

Jonah 1

I. Jonah Flees. (1:1-17)

A. The Reason. (1:1-2)

- 1 The word of the LORD (**DEBAR YAHWEH**) came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying, (**2 Kgs 14:25**)
- 2 "Arise (**Qal Imp QUM**), go (**Qal Imp YALAK = basically to walk**) to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness (**RA' = evil**) has come up before Me." (**Lit: before My face**)

B. The Route. (1:3)

- 3 But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence (**face**) of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

C. The Results. (1:4-17)

1). The Wind. 1:4

The LORD hurled (**Hiph PF tUL = 14x; to be cast, thrown**) a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up. (**Niph Inf Cons SHABAR = to be shattered**)

2). The Sailor's Fear. 1:5

Then the sailors (**MALLACH = 4x; Eze 27:9,27,29; means "of the salt."**) became afraid and every man cried to his god, and they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down and fallen sound asleep. (**Niph IPF + w.c. RADAM = 7x**)

Summary:

1. In the Mediterranean area this would encompass at least nine of their supposed water deities.
2. The god of mariners was Sirsir.
3. The men had a long list of "gods" to call on for assistance and none of them helped.
4. Compare Paul's sermon on "Mars Hill" to an "unknown god." Acts 17

Principle: Even when we comfortably think we have _____ from God, we have not.

3). Arise! O, Sleeper. 1:6

So the captain approached him (**Jonah**) and said, "How is it that you are sleeping? Get up (**Qal Imp QUM**), call (**Qal Imp QARA'**) on

your god. Perhaps your god will be concerned (**Hith IPF ASHAH**) about us so that we will not perish."

4). The Onboard Search. 1:7

Each man said to his mate, "Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity (**RA'AH = evil**) has struck us." So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

Summary:

1. **The Jews occasionally "cast lots" when they were seeking an answer from the Lord. Lev 16:8; Josh 18:6-10 et al**
2. **As we know the soldiers cast lots for Jesus' clothing. Matt 27:35 & Mark 15:24 & Luke 23:24 & John 19:24 cf Psa 22:18**
3. **Jonah did not wake up and explain before he was called out.**
4. **He was still trying to hide, now from everyone.**

Principle: At times, _____ may have more wisdom and compassion than believers.

5) Jonah, Explain Yourself. 1:8

Then they said to him, "Tell us (**Hiph Imp NAGADH = 370x; tell me clearly**), now! On whose account has this calamity (**evil**) struck us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

6). Finally, an explanation. 1:9

He said to them, "I (**myself; p.n. is present**) am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD (**YAHWEH**) God (**ELOHEY**) of heaven (**HaSHAMAYIM**) who made the sea and the dry land."

7) Fear hits the sailors. 1:10

Then the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, "How could you do this?" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence (**face**) of the LORD, because he had told them.

Summary:

1. **The sailors demand a complete explanation from Jonah.**
2. **Jonah leads with the fact that he is a Jew.**
3. **Even though it had been 600 years since the Exodus, the peoples knew about what Yahweh had done to Egypt.**
4. **They also knew about the conquest and the rise of David and Solomon, two of the most powerful kings in the history of the world.**
5. **They had heard about their God, and feared Him.**
6. **This is reminiscent of Abraham and Abimelech. Gen 20**

Principle: There are _____ fears in this life. Cf Prov 1:7

8) Jonah is asked for a solution. 1:11

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

9) The answer is personal sacrifice. 1:12

He said to them, "Pick me up (**Qal Imp NASA'**) and throw me (**Hiph Imp tUL**) into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, for I know that on account of me this great storm has come upon you."

Summary:

- 1. Jonah presented himself a reluctant but living sacrifice.**
- 2. At this point it seems Jonah thought that death would be a better solution than going to Ninevah.**
- 3. Death would be another way of escape for him.**

Principle: Whatever Jonah's _____ in this request, he prophesied what would happen if they did.

Points to remember:

- 1. Even true prophets can get mixed up and lose their faith in God. Cf Elijah in 1 Kgs 18**
- 2. Even true prophets can be disobedient to God.**
- 3. Prophets do not make their fulfillments come true.**
- 4. Prophets are just mouthpieces for the Almighty.**

10) They were compassionate. 1:13

However, the men rowed desperately to return to land but they could not, for the sea was becoming even stormier against them.

Summary:

- 1. These sailors did not want to offer a human sacrifice.**
- 2. In a way this is a sign that they were turning from their gods, who often required human sacrifices.**

Principle: Sometimes _____ people become entangled in the sins of others.

11) A Come to Yahweh Meeting. 1:14

Then they called on the LORD (**YAHWEH**) and said, "We earnestly pray (**we beseech thee**), O LORD, do not let us perish on account of this man's life (**NEPESH = soul**) and do not put innocent blood on us; for You, O LORD, have done as You have pleased."

Summary:

- 1. This is a desperate prayer for deliverance from the increasing storm.**
- 2. The sailors don't want to die, nor do they want to kill an innocent man.**

3. The sailors had more honor than Jonah because they were seeking the Lord's will, a Lord whom they had not previously known, but evidently knew about.

Principle: At times principled men face some serious _____ in life.

12) They did what Jonah told them to do. 1:15

So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.

13) Their Thanksgiving. 1:16

Then the men (**ENOSH**) feared the LORD (**YAHWEH**) greatly, and they offered a sacrifice (**ZABACH ZEBACH = offered an offering**) to the LORD (**YAHWEH**) and made vows. (**NEDER = 60x**)

Summary:

1. They evidently got an answer from the Lord to throw him in, which went against their moral code.
2. Casting him overboard sparked a miracle that was hard to dismiss.
3. The ZEBACH is frequently tied to the Peace offering, denoting Reconciliation to God.
4. It appears that some sailors may have gotten saved that day.
5. It also appeared that they made some future commitments to serve the Lord.

Principle: At times the Lord can even use our _____ to bring others to Him.

14) Dinner. 1:17 (2:1 in Hebrew text)

And the LORD appointed (**Piel IPF + w.c. MANAH = 28x; to count out or number like the dust of the earth cf Gen 13:16; or the stars cf Psa 147:4 came to mean appoint**) a great fish (**DAG = 19x; GADHOL = great fish; generic term for fish; not necessarily a "whale."**) to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

Summary:

1. This is a clear picture that the Lord, as King, can order non-human animals to carry out His will.
2. This established what Jesus would call the "sign of Jonah."
3. This is the first of four "appointments in Jonah. A gourd (4:6), a worm (4:7), an east wind (4:8)
4. There are 8 types of whales in the Mediterranean along with some other unusually large fish, like groupers.