

# Jonah

## Chapter 1, part 2

- I. Introduction
  - a. In our previous lesson, we introduced the book of Jonah
    - i. We explained how the city of Nineveh was hated by the Jews, Jonah included
  - b. We also saw that God sent Jonah to this wicked city
    - i. However, Jonah not only refused to go but took off in the opposite direction
      1. Today's lesson catches up with Jonah on a ship heading towards Tarshish
- II. Commentary
  - a. **Verses 4-9**
    - i. Though Jonah thought he was fleeing from the presence of God (vs. 3), he was not
      1. God knew exactly where Jonah went
      2. The Lord sent a storm to the place where the ship was
        - a. This was no normal storm
          - i. The NASB says, "*The LORD hurled a great wind on the sea*"
            1. This is a violent storm that even regular sailors were afraid of
        - b. The ship was about to be broken into pieces
        - c. The sailors had unloaded the cargo trying to save the ship
          - i. Every man was praying to his pagan god
            1. Except Jonah – he was asleep below the deck
              - a. He was this content with his refusal to do God's will
        - d. The captain woke Jonah and begged him to pray to the Lord
        - e. The mariners cast lots to see whose fault this was
          - i. By the providence of God, the lot fell on Jonah
            1. They questioned him
              - a. He said he was a Hebrew
              - b. He said that he was a worshipper of the One who created land and sea
                - i. This was the opposite of these Baal worshippers
  - b. **Verses 10-12**
    - i. The men asked Jonah why he had fled from the Lord and brought this storm on them
      1. Jonah apparently had told them the whole story
    - ii. They asked him how they could fix this problem
      1. He told them that the sea would calm if they would simply throw him overboard

- a. It's as though he'd rather die than fulfill the mission that God had set before him

c. **Verses 13-16**

- i. The men continued to try to save the ship without throwing Jonah overboard
  1. MacArthur says, "Heathen sailors had more concern for one man than Jonah had for tens of thousands in Nineveh"
- ii. The sailors offered prayers to the Lord
  1. It appears Jonah had elaborated more about the Lord than is written here
  2. They asked that God not charge them with "innocent blood" as their desire was not to throw Jonah overboard
- iii. As a last resort, it seems, they threw Jonah into the sea
  1. The sea calmed
    - a. The account says that these mariners fear the Lord, offered sacrifices to Him and made vows
      - i. It's impossible to know for sure, but it certainly appears that the Lord saved them

d. **Verses 17**

- i. The Lord had made a great fish to swallow Jonah
  1. The Hebrew word for whale is not used here
    - a. So, it's impossible really to know exactly what kind of fish this was
      - i. Whatever kind it was, God supernaturally prepared it
  2. This fish saved Jonah's life
    - a. He was in the belly of the fish 3 days and 3 nights