***“Studying the Gentile Prophets”—Jonah 1***

**Written between 800-750 B.C., The book of Jonah, though it is placed in the midst of prophetical books, is rather a history than a prophecy, with only one line of prediction, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown,” Jonah 3:4. The rest of the book is a historical narrative. This book centers on “A TYPE OF JESUS CHRIST.” Jonah, the reluctant prophet, authors one of the most “denigrated,” “maligned” books in the Bible. It is often misunderstood, misinterpreted, and misquoted. His name means “dove,” and he was a Hebrew, the son of Amittai, which means “my true one.” He is from Gath-hepher near Nazareth, and he was a prophet to the northern tribes just prior to Amos during the first half of the eighth century B.C., 760 B.C. This discounts the Pharisees’ wrong assumption which said, “NO PROPHET HAS ARISEN OUT OF GALILEE,” JOHN 7:52. Jonah was the ONLY OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET TO ATTEMPT TO RUN FROM GOD. JEWISH TRADITION STATES THAT JONAH WAS THE WIDOW’S SON OF ZAREPHAH WHOM ELIJAH RAISED FROM THE DEAD, I KING 17:8-24. Jonah’s ministry was parallel with Elijah, Elisha, Hosea and Amos and was in the time of evil king Jeroboam II, king of Israel. Jeroboam II, was the most powerful King of the northern Kingdom, according to 2 Kings; he was able to acquire the land that formerly belonged to Aram, N.E. toward Damascus when Assyria suffered a political, internal set-back. However, the “Sleeping Giant, Assyria” awakened to devour the Northern Kingdom, and the prophets’ predictions were fulfilled. Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, is in the middle of the Assyrian Kingdom. In 722 B.C. Sargon II carried them into captivity. It is important to understand the gospel before we study Jonah. KEY: MATTHEW 12:40, “**For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” **AND SEEKING A SIGN:** **Luke 11:29-30, “**And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, “This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. 30For as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation.”

**Paul defines THE GOSPEL this way in I Corinthians 15:3-4, “**For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”



**OUTLINE OF JONAH**

 **LEAVE DESTINATION ARRIVE**

**CHAPTER 1 Israel Nineveh Fish**

**CHAPTER 2 Fish Nineveh Dry Land**

**CHAPTER 3 Dry Land Nineveh Nineveh**

**CHAPTER 4 Nineveh Gourd Vine God’s Heart**

1. **Who is Jonah? Prophet, son of Amittai…THERE IS ONLY ONE JONAH MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE**
	1. **Reference Matthew 12:39-41, “But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah *is* here.”**
2. **Compare Jonah with the Apostle Paul.**
	1. **Both Paul and Jonah are apostles to the Gentiles**
	2. **Both used the sea: cast into the sea, witnessed to the sailors on board, and used to deliver the sailors on board.**
	3. **The four chapters of Jonah can be compared to the four missionary journeys of Paul (Jonah: 1. Journey into a fish, 2. Journey to dry land, 3. Journey to Nineveh, 4. Journey to the heart of God.)**
3. **Elaborate on the six themes of the Book of Jonah.**
	1. **Jonah is the one book of the Old Testament which sets forth the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**
	2. **The Book of Jonah emphasizes that salvation is not by works, but by faith which leads to repentance.**
	3. **The third purpose of this book is to show that God’s purpose of grace cannot be frustrated.**
	4. **God will not cast us aside for faithlessness.**
	5. **God is good and gracious.**
		1. **Check out Jonah 4:2, “So he prayed to the Lord, and said, “Ah, Lord, was not this WHAT I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You *are* a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm.”** **…..MOST PENETRATING PICTURE OF GOD IN THE ENTIRE BIBLE!**
	6. **GOD IS THE GOD OF THE GENTILES, TOO!**
4. **Discuss the concept of “The Third Day.”**
	1. **See Genesis 1:9-13, “**Then God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry *land* appear”; and it was so. 10And God called the dry *land* Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that *it was* good.11Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. 12And the earth brought forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed according to its kind, and the tree *that* yields fruit, whose seed *is* in itself according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good. 13So the evening and the morning were the third day.  **“New life on the 3rd day.”**
	2. **Use John 2:1, “**On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. “ **“The Wedding at Cana.”**
	3. **Abraham’s offering Isaac, Genesis 22:4, “**Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off,”  **and Hebrews 11:9, “**By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise,”
	4. **Jonah and the Great Fish, Jonah 1:7, “**And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble *has come* upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.”
	5. **Jesus’ resurrection on the Third Day, I Corinthians 15:4, “**and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”
5. **Name other prophets from Galilee. Refer to Jonah, 2 Kings 14:23-25, “**In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, became king in Samaria, *and reigned* forty-one years. 24And he did evil in the sight of the Lord; he did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin. 25He restored the territory of Israel from the entrance of Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the Lord God of Israel, which **He had spoken through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet who *was* from Gath Hephe**r,” **Nahum 1:1, “**The burden[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Nahum+1&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-22686a)] against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.”
6. **Compare the ministry of Jonah with his predecessors Elijah in I Kings 17-21 and 2 Kings 1-2, and Elisha 2 Kings 2-9, 13.**
	1. **Refer also to Amos 5:27, “**Therefore I will send you into captivity beyond Damascus,”Says the Lord, whose name *is* the God of hosts,” **and Hosea 11:5, “**He shall not return to the land of Egypt; But the Assyrian shall be his king, because they refused to repent.”
7. **Name the Old Testament prophets which Christ referred to?**
	1. **Jonah in Matthew 12:41, “**The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah *is* here,” **and Luke 11:32, “**The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah *is* here.”
	2. **Elijah, Matthew 17:11-12, “**Jesus answered and said to them, “Indeed, Elijah is coming first[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+17%3A11-12&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-23712a)] and will restore all things. 12But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands.”
	3. **Elisha, Luke 4:27, “**And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”
	4. **Isaiah seen in Matthew 15:7, “**Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying…”
	5. **Daniel in Matthew 24:15, “**Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand)...”
8. **Why does Jonah write his entire book in third person?**
9. **Some call Jonah, “The Book of Second Chances.” Elaborate.**
10. **List ways in which Jonah is himself, a paradox.**
	1. **Prophet vs. runaway from God**
	2. **Drowned man vs. man alive**
	3. **Preacher of repentance vs. ‘worrier’ about repentance**
	4. **Loyalist to Israel vs. antagonist to Nineveh**
11. **Why does the prophet Jonah never refer to Israel, only Nineveh, unlike any other Old Testament prophet?**
	1. **Compare Luke 2:32, “**A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles,
	and the glory of Your people Israel,” **with this concept.**
12. **Discuss Matthew 12:39-41, “**But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+12%3A39-41&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-25499a)] not allowed his house to be broken into. 40Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”41Then Peter said to Him, “Lord, do You speak this parable *only* to us, or to all *people?*”

 **and Luke 11:29. 30, and 32, “**And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, “This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. 30For as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation. 31The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the Wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon *is* here. 32The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah *is* here,” **which is called the key to Jonah?**

* 1. **Do these references recognize the authenticity of Jonah’s history?**
1. **Retell the miracle of Jonah’s recovery from the fish using Matthew 12:40, “**For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”
2. **Discuss also the validity of Jonah’s message of repentance as referenced in Matthew 12:41, “**The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah *is* here,” **and Luke 11:29-30, “**And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, “This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. 30For as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation.”

**1:1, “Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, goes to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.”**

1. **Elaborate on the theme of Chapter 1: “Call and commission of Jonah; Jonah goes west; the great wind; Jonah arrives in the fish.”**
2. **What was the “call and commission” of Jonah? MOST OTHER PROPHETS CALLED TO THE JEWS, NOT THE GENTILES.**
3. **Where is Jonah’s home town? Gath-hepher, in the northern kingdom of Israel**
4. **Where is Nineveh? The city of Nineveh was located on the east side of the Tigris, 550 miles northeast of Samaria. In Jonah’s day, this journey required more than a month, with normal distance of 15-20 miles on the boat per day. This great city was second only to the great Babylon. It was capital of the Assyrian empire from 930-612 B.C….took the northern kingdom captive in 722 B.C. It had a large outer wall and inner wall, 50 ft. by 100 ft., where 3 chariots could race around it. It had 1200 towers, each 200 feet high. It was 60 miles in circumference, with a population of 600,000. This complex was so big that they had fields encompassed inside where they grew their own food. THIS CAPITAL CITY WAS FOUNDED BY NIMROD, GREAT GRANDSON OF NOAH,**
	1. **What does the word “Nineveh” mean? It comes from the root, Ninus (Genesis 10:11), NIMROD!!**
	2. **Discuss Nineveh’s reputation for brutality.**
		1. **Was known for evil and violence; see Jonah 3:8, “**But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily to God; yes, let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands,” **Zephaniah 2:15, “**This is the rejoicing city That dwelt securely, That said in her heart, “I *am it,* and *there is* none besides me.” How has she become desolation, a place for beasts to lie down! Everyone who passes by her shall hiss and shake his fist,” **and Nahum 3:1, 4, 16, “**Woe to the bloody city! It *is* all full of lies *and* robbery.
		*Its* victim never departs. **…..** Because of the multitude of harlotries of the seductive harlot, the mistress of sorceries, who sells nations through her harlotries, and families through her sorceries……. You have multiplied your merchants more than the stars of heaven. The locust plunders and flies away.”
	3. **Which gods were worshipped in Nineveh? Nabu, Asshur, Adad, and Dagon (also the god of the Philistines).**
		1. **Talk about the “fish god” hats worn by modern priests. What about the fish symbol, “icthus” used on jewelry and decals?**
	4. **Refer to Assyria’s doom in Isaiah 10:5-9, “**“Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger
	and the staff in whose hand is My indignation. 6I will send him against an ungodly nation, and against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, To seize the spoil, to take the prey, And to tread them down like the mire of the streets. 7Yet he does not mean so, nor does his heart think so; but *it is* in his heart to destroy, and cut off not a few nations. 8For he says, ‘*Are* not my princes altogether kings? 9*Is* not Calno like Carchemish? *Is* not Hamath like Arpad? *Is* not Samaria like Damascus,”**17:12-14, “**Woe to the multitude of many people *who* make a noise like the roar of the seas, And to the rushing of nations *that* make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters! 13The nations will rush like the rushing of many waters; But *God* will rebuke them and they will flee far away, and be chased like the chaff of the mountains before the wind, like a rolling thing before the whirlwind. 14Then behold, at eventide, trouble! *And* before the morning, he *is* no more. This *is* the portion of those who plunder us, and the lot of those who rob us,”**18:4-6, “**For so the Lord said to me, “I will take My rest, and I will look from My dwelling place Like clear heat in sunshine, Like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.” 5For before the harvest, when the bud is perfect and the sour grape is ripening in the flower, He will both cut off the sprigs with pruning hooks and take away *and* cut down the branches. 6They will be left together for the mountain birds of prey And for the beasts of the earth; The birds of prey will summer on them, And all the beasts of the earth will winter on them,” **30:27-33, 37:21-35, and Hosea 4-14. It was destroyed by the Medes and Persians in 612 B.C.**
	5. **What “forewarnings” had preceded Jonah’s arrival to this evil city?**
		1. **1. Two plagues, 765 and 759 B.C.**
		2. **2. Total eclipse of the sun, June 15, 763 B.C.**
		3. **3. Did God use these to “precondition” with fear the Ninevites into repentance with Jonah’s message in 759 B.C.?**
5. **List the seven “greats” in the book of Jonah.**
	1. **“Great” city—Jonah 1:2, “**Arise, go to Nineveh, **that great city,** and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before,” **3:2, “**Arise, go to Nineveh, t**hat great city,** and preach to it the message that I tell you,” **4:11, “**And should I not pity Nineveh, that **great city**, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left—and much livestock?”
	2. **“Great” wind—Jonah 1:4, “**But the Lord sent out a **great wind** on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.”
	3. **“Great” storm—Jonah 1:12, “**And he said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this **great tempest** *is* because of me.”
	4. **“Great”ly feared—Jonah 1:16, “**Then the men feared the Lord **exceedingly,** and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and took vows.”
	5. **“Great” fish—Jonah 1:17, “**Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”
	6. **Very “great”ly happy—Jonah 4:6, “**6And the Lord God prepared a plantand made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very **grateful** for the plant.”
6. **What two things did the word of Lord tell Jonah to do? First, *go to* Nineveh; second, cry out against it - that is, rebuke them for their sin and call them to repentance.**

**1:2, “But Jonah arose 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 down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.”**

1. **Why didn’t Jonah want to go to Nineveh and do what the Lord told him to do?**
	1. **Refer to Nahum 3:1-4, “**Woe to the bloody city! It *is* all full of lies *and* robbery.
	*Its* victim never departs. 2The noise of a whip and the noise of rattling wheels,
	of galloping horses, of clattering chariots! 3Horsemen charge with bright sword and glittering spear. *There is* a multitude of slain, A great number of bodies, countless corpses— they stumble over the corpses—4Because of the multitude of harlotries of the seductive harlot, the mistress of sorceries, Who sells nations through her harlotries,
	and families through her sorceries.” **It may have been because he was given a *difficult job to do*.** [**Nahum 3:1-4**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Nahum+3:1-4&t1=en_nas) **gives us a good idea of how wicked the people of Nineveh were. Jonah had every reason to expect that at the very best; he would be mocked and treated as a fool. He might be attacked and killed if he did what the Lord told him to do.**
	2. **Perhaps Jonah wanted the Assyrians to be punished. Elaborate.** It was also because Jonah didn’t *want* the Assyrians in Nineveh to escape God’s judgment.
	3. **Compare Jonah’s attitude with our own. Use Matthew 28:19-20, “**Go therefore[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28%3A19-20&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24215a)] and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen,” **God told Jonah to *go* and to *preach*; every Christian has the same command in** [**Matthew 28:19-20**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Matthew+28:19-20&t1=en_nas)**.**
2. **Where is Tarshish? (From the root word, “Akkadian,” meaning “to be smelted.”) Because this city was thought to be towards the end of the earth, and is always associated with ships in the Bible. Jonah wanted to go as far as he could to escape Gods presence, but this was a futile attempt. Nineveh was to the east of Israel and Tarshish was about as far as you could go west, on the coast of what is today Spain, past the straits of Gibraltar. In heading for Tarshish, Jonah intended to get as far away from Nineveh and the calling of God to go there as he possibly could. Tarshish was a distant port known for exporting silver, iron, tin, lead, ivory, monkeys and peacocks. OUTSIDE THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, “Beyond the Pillars of Hercules,” according to Herodotus. From Jonah, this was A THREE YEAR-TRAFFIC CYCLE. It may be present-day Seville.**
	1. **Parallel the “Britannia link” to this city. Britain was known for its tin. Tin was exported from Britain in the Roman period in large quantities.**
	2. **The name “Tarshish” eventually becomes a synonym for all large, sea-going ships. Examine 2 Chronicles 20:36, “**And he allied himself with him to make ships to go to Tarshish, and they made the ships in Ezion Geber,” **Isaiah 23:1-14, and I Kings 10:22, “**For the king had merchant ships[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=I+Kings+10%3A22&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-9102a)] at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once every three years the merchant ships came bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and monkeys,” **22:49, “**Then Ahaziah the son of Ahab said to Jehoshaphat, “Let my servants go with your servants in the ships.” But Jehoshaphat would not.”
	3. **Look up Psalm 48:7, “***As when* You break the ships of Tarshish
	With an east wind,” **Isaiah 2:16, “**Upon all the ships of Tarshish, And upon all the beautiful sloops,” **and Ezekiel 27:25, “**The ships of Tarshish were carriers of your merchandise. You were filled and very glorious in the midst of the seas.”
	4. **Refer to Jeremiah 10:9, “**Silver is beaten into plates; It is brought from Tarshish,
	And gold from Uphaz, The work of the craftsman And of the hands of the metalsmith;
	Blue and purple *are* their clothing; They *are* all the work of skillful *men,”* **and Ezekiel 27:12, “**Tarshish *was* your merchant because of your many luxury goods. They gave you silver, iron, tin, and lead for your goods.”
3. **Why did Jonah try to escape the Lord? See Psalm 139:7-10, “*Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.*”**

**1:4, “But the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.”**

1. **Was this a normal storm? Parallel with Acts 27.**
	1. **Compare Jesus’ sleep while the tempest raged with Jonah in Mark 4:37-39, “**And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. 38But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”39Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. “JESUS **FALLS ASLEEP, JUST LIKE JONAH, WHEN SEA RAGES!**
	2. **Look up Psalm 135:7, “**He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth;
	He makes lightning for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasuries,” **and Proverbs 30:4, “**Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What *is* His name, and what *is* His Son’s name, if you know**.”**

**1:5-6, “Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that *was* in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep. So the captain came to him, and said to him, what do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish.”**

1. **In verse 6, comment on a pagan sea captain calling the prophet, Jonah, to prayer!**
2. **Since Jonah was fast asleep in the midst of the storm, compare this with today’s church in America who is fast asleep in the storm which surrounds.**
3. **Review Isaiah 8:19, “**And when they say to you, “Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter,” should not a people seek their God? *Should they seek* the dead on behalf of the living?”**…should not a people seek under their God?**

**1:7-8, “And they said to one another, Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble *has come* upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, Please tell us! For whose cause *is* this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?”**

1. **What does “casting lots” mean? See Proverbs 16:33, “**The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision *is* from the Lord.” **BUYING A LOT TODAY, COMES FROM THIS PRACTICE OF CASTING LOTS.**
	1. **Refer to “The Sin of Achan,” Joshua 7:16,** “So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel by their tribes, and the tribe of Judah was taken.” The story of Achan’s sin and God’s punishment is found in [Joshua 7](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Josh%207). Achan was an Israelite who fought the battle of Jericho with Joshua. God had commanded the Israelites to destroy the entire city of Jericho because of its great sin. Only [Rahab the harlot](http://www.gotquestions.org/life-Rahab.html) and her household were spared because she had hidden the Israelite spies ([Joshua 6:17](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Josh%206.17)). God further commanded that, unlike most victories when soldiers were allowed to take the spoils, the Israelites were to take nothing from Jericho. Everything in it was “[accursed](http://www.gotquestions.org/definition-anathema.html)” or “devoted to destruction.” God warned that anyone taking spoils from Jericho would “make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it” ([Joshua 6:18-19](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Josh%206.18-19)). The Israelites obeyed, except for Achan, who stole a beautiful robe and some gold and silver and hid these things in his tent. His sin was discovered, of course ([Numbers 32:23](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Num%2032.23)). God commanded that Achan and his entire family and all his possessions be destroyed;
	2. **See also “The Division of the Land,” Joshua 15:1, “**So *this* was the lot of the tribe of the children of Judah according to their families.”
	3. **“Assigning Inheritances,” Numbers 26:55, “**But the land shall be divided by lot; they shall inherit according to the names of the tribes of their fathers,” **and 34:13, “**Then Moses commanded the children of Israel, saying: “This *is* the land which you shall inherit by lot, which the Lord has commanded to give to the nine tribes and to the half-tribe.”
	4. **Examine “Selecting men for Expedition,” Judges 1:1, “**Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass that the children of Israel asked the Lord, saying, “Who shall be first to go up for us against the Canaanites to fight against them?” **and 20:10, “**We will take ten men out of *every* hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, a hundred out of *every* thousand, and a thousand out of *every* ten thousand, to make provisions for the people, that when they come to Gibeah in Benjamin, they may repay all the vileness that they have done in Israel.”
	5. **Look at “Electing a King,” I Samuel 10:20, “**We will take ten men out of *every* hundred throughout all the tribes of Israel, a hundred out of *every* thousand, and a thousand out of *every* ten thousand, to make provisions for the people, that when they come to Gibeah in Benjamin, they may repay all the vileness that they have done in Israel.”
	6. **Search “Jonathan’s Trespass,” I Samuel 14:36, “**Now Saul said, “Let us go down after the Philistines by night, and plunder them until the morning light; and let us not leave a man of them.” And they said, “Do whatever seems good to you.” Then the priest said, “Let us draw near to God here.”
	7. **Discuss “Mathias’ Appointment,” Acts 1:26, “**And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.”
	8. **What about “Goats,” Leviticus 16:8, “**Then Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats: one lot for the Lord and the other lot for the scapegoat.”
	9. **Note “Cities of Refuge,” I Chronicles 5:24, “**These *were* the heads of their fathers’ houses: Epher, Ishi, Eliel, Azriel, Jeremiah, Hodaviah, and Jahdiel. They were mighty men of valor, famous men, *and* heads of their fathers’ houses.”
	10. **See the “Urim and Thummin,” Exodus 28:30, “**And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim,and they shall be over Aaron’s heart when he goes in before the Lord. So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over his heart before the Lord continually.”
	11. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ARE NO FURTHER EXAMPLES OF CASTING LOTS IN THE BIBLE AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE PENTECOST.**
2. **Discuss the sailors’ “five questions” to Jonah?**

**1:9-10, “So 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, Why have you done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.”**

1. **When do we begin to see a repentant spirit in Jonah? At the moment when Jonah said, I fear the LORD; he may have already repented of running away, turning back to God because of the present circumstances.**

**1:11-16, “Then they said to him, What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us; for the sea was growing more tempestuous. And he said to them, Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest *is* because of me. Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them. Therefore they cried out to the Lord and said, We pray, O Lord, please do not let us perish for this man’s life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O Lord, have done as it pleased You. So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord and took vows.”**

1. **Why did Jonah ask to be thrown into the sea?**
	1. **Compare Jonah to “a type of Messiah” in that he offers himself for others. See Psalm 69:1-2, “**Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to *my* neck.
	2I sink in deep mire, Where *there is* no standing; I have come into deep waters,
	Where the floods overflow me,” **and John 11:50, “**nor do you consider that it is expedient for usthat one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.”
	2. **Is Jonah a symbol of true repentance? Examine Leviticus 26:41, “**and *that* I also have walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and they accept their guilt— **and 43, “**The land also shall be left empty by them, and will enjoy its Sabbaths while it lies desolate without them; they will accept their guilt, because they despised My judgments and because their soul abhorred My statutes.”
2. **In verse 13, the men on the boat tried to “row harder” rather than throw Jonah overboard. Compare that with “best efforts” to go against God’s will for us.**
	1. **Refer to ISAIAH 64:6, “**But we are all like an unclean *thing,* And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away,” **Romans 4:5, “**But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,  **8:3-4, “**For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit,” **Titus 3:5, “**not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,”  **I Corinthians 3:15, “**If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. **And 2 Peter 2:7-8, “**and delivered righteous Lot, *who was* oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8(for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented *his* righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing *their* lawless deeds.)”
3. **Parallel verse 14 with Deuteronomy 21:8, “**Provide atonement, O Lord, for Your people Israel, whom You have redeemed, and do not lay innocent blood to the charge of Your people Israel.’ And atonement shall be provided on their behalf for the blood.”  **and Pontius Pilate’s actions in Matthew 27:24, “**When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather *that* a tumult was rising, he took water and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this just Person.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mATTHEW+27%3A24&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24154a)] You see *to it.*” **Innocent blood.**
4. **A trilogy of salvation appears in Jonah: the salvation of sailors, eventually Jonah, and finally the whole city of Nineveh. Elaborate about the power of “3.”**
5. **Why did the sea cease from raging when Jonah was thrown over?**
6. **Compare: The sailors moved from fearing the storm to fearing the Lord, just the disciples in the boat did when Jesus calmed the storm; use** [**Mark 4:35-41**](http://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Mark+4:35-41&t1=en_nas)**, “**On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side.” 36Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. 37And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. 38But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” 39Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. 40But He said to them, “Why are you so fearful? How *is it* that you have no faith?”41And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!”
	1. **Did the sailors convert to the Lord at the end of this event? And took vows: Notice that the vows of the sailors came *after* they were delivered. Based on this, many commentators believe that the sailors came to a true faith in God.**

**1:17, “Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”**

1. **Compare the “three days and three nights” to Jesus’ words in Matthew 12:39-40, “But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”**
2. **Discuss the Greek word translated, “whale,” in Matthew 12:40, “**For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”
3. **Elaborate on the “Ten Miracles” explained in Jonah.**
	1. **The “supernatural” storm**
	2. **Selection of Jonah as guilty**
	3. **Sudden subsiding of the storm**
	4. **The great fish at the right time and place**
	5. **Preservation of Jonah**
	6. **Ejection, safe and sound, onto dry land**
	7. **Repentance of the entire city of Nineveh**
	8. **The Gourd**
	9. **The Worms**
	10. **The East Wind**
4. **Also take-in I Corinthians 15:4, “**and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”
5. **Review “Spurgeon’s” famous sermon based on four points about the crew in this chapter.**
	1. **“Sinners, when they are tossed upon the sea of conviction, make desperate efforts to save themselves.”**
	2. **“The fleshly efforts of awakened sinners must inevitably fail.”**
	3. **“The souls sorrow will continue to increase as long as it relies on its own efforts.”**
	4. **“The way of safety for sinners is to be found in the sacrifice of another on their behalf.”**
6. **Why do “good people” suffer? Refer to Job 1:8, “**Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?” **Ephesians 3:8-11, “**Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?” **and I Peter 1:12, “**To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=I+Peter+1%3A12&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30387a)] they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things which angels desire to look into.”--**FOR TESTIMONY TO THE ANGELS!!!**
7. **Sum-up the central theme of Jonah 1. How does it apply to us today?**
8. **Wrap-up by analyzing this ancient poem found on the walls in a Cathedral in Lubeck, Germany:**

**“Thus speaketh Christ our Lord to us; thus speaketh Christ our Lord to us;**

**Ye call me Master and obey Me not.**

**Ye call Me light and see Me not.**

**Ye call me the Way and walk Me not.**

**Ye call Me Life and choose Me not.**

**Ye call me Wise and follow Me not.**

**Ye call Me Fair and love Me not.**

**Ye call Me Rich and ask Me not.**

**Ye call Me Eternal and seek Me not.**

**Ye call Me Noble and serve Me not.**

**Ye call Me Gracious and trust Me not.**

**Ye call Me Might and honor Me not.**

**Ye call Me Just and fear Me not.**

**If I condemn you, blame Me not.”**

***And, here are the promises:***

**Jonah 1:9, “So 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 1:17, “Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”**

**Jonah 2:9, “But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation *is* of the Lord.”**

