

Jonah chapter one

The good, the bad, the ugly

verse1

Who was Jonah?

- The name Jonah (in Hebrew Yonah) means dove.
- He was the son of Amittai of the tribe of Zebulun.
- Basing on chapter 1:1, some scholars and Jewish tradition believe that Jonah was the author of the book of Jonah.
- Jonah was a minor prophet and the only minor prophet mentioned by Jesus.

FYI:

The term major and minor prophets was simply a way to divide the old testament prophetic books. The Major Prophets were Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel and Daniel. The minor ones are Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi.

Some say That the book of Jonah was a parody but not an actual historical account. *(a humorous or satirical imitation of a serious piece of literature or writing)*

Verse 2

What and where was Nineveh?

- This was the part of a complex number of cities in Assyria but essentially the capital city. It was prominent and great according to the bible. It is said to have measured sixty miles round the walls and to have contained a million inhabitants.
- **Cry:-** prominent word for a proclamation by a prophet.
- Publicly preach against the sin of the city.

What was their wickedness?

- They say that it was full of Idols.
- Its wealth was obtained by plundering and oppressing other nations.

Why had it gone up to the Lord?

- I think that it was a sin of oppression.
- God probably heard the voices of the oppressed nations.

Judges 2:18

And when the LORD raised up judges for them, the LORD was with the judge and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge; for the LORD was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them.

Judges 10:12 "

Also the Sidonians and Amalekites and Maonites oppressed you; and you cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hand.

Psalms 9:9

The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble.

Psalms 103:6

The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed.

Verse 3

- We immediately see Jonah's wickedness and disobedience when he chooses to flee to Tarshish instead of going to Nineveh as instructed by God.
- Tarshish was as far away from Nineveh as possible.
- The same distance between Kampala and Aleppo in Syria, 6 days, 6 hours by ship.
- About 2500 miles from Joppa and Joppa was 550 miles from Nineveh.
- Jonah in his small earthly mind was thinking 'let me get as far away from the lord as possible. The further I go, the harder it will be for Him to send me to Nineveh.

Why Tarshish?

- Tarshish was an ancient city located in modern day southern Spain, due north of Gilbratar. Throughout the Bible *Tarshish*, the word itself used in different contexts, appears many times in the Bible. In the context of the city, however, Tarshish is both the city where [Jonah](#) made a concerted attempt to flee and where [Solomon](#) had a trade agreement.

Psalms 139:7

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? Ps 139:8

If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

Verse 4

Psalms 89:9

You rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them.

Psalms 95:5

The Sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land.

Psalms 107:25

For He commands and raises the stormy wind, which lifts up the waves of the sea.

- When we 'TRY' to run from God, everything is at his command to humble us and return us to Him. Everything obeys his command. If even the sea as mighty as it is, obeys God, who are we, as small as we are to disobey Him?

Verse 5

"Mariners living in the sea almost as fishes in their element are commonly men devoid of fear, venturous, and contemnners of danger. (Men who scorn and laugh at danger). Now they tremble for fear, like little children when they are frightened, lest their ship break, or leak, and so sink, and they lose their ship, lives and all. These fearless fellows were brought down by danger, and quaked like a young soldier who starteth at the sound of a gun. They did well to pray, but they prayed not well, for they turned to idol gods which could not even help themselves."

- But Jonah was fast asleep. He was contented in his sin.
- When you are in direct violation of God's law, and you know it, it's very easy for your heart to slumber and rest in that state, but very hard for your heart to get drawn out of that state of slumber and rest in rebellion.
- They were religious men.

Verse 6

It's amazing how when we are in sin, we are even rebuked by none believers.

Verse 7

- Casting of lots was a method used by the Jews of the Old Testament and by the Christian disciples prior to Pentecost to determine the will of God.

Acts 1:26

And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles. But God never condemned casting lots.

Proverbs 16:33

The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

- Imagine the embarrassment of the situation as the lots fell on Jonah.

Verse 8

Verse 9

- Isn't it ironic that that he stood and proclaimed, without fear, the same God he was disobeying and running away from?
- And he also quoted scripture.

Psalms 95:5 The Sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land.

Verse 10

Verse 11

Verse 12

- We see courage and humility return to Jonah as he offers himself to be sacrificed for their sakes.
- This is a fore shadowing of Christ giving Himself up for the sake of others.
- He exercised faith and fearlessness amid great danger and eminent death.

Verse 13

- Even when we are being disobedient to God, He will still show kindness to us through people who don't even believe in Him. What amazing grace!

Verse 14

- They turned from their idols to the one true God!
- At this point, what is Jonah thinking?

Verse 15

- This was another foreshadowing of Jesus death for our salvation.

Verse 16

- Not only did the men turned from their false gods but they embraced the living God, worshiped Him with their sacrifices and made vows to follow Him that very day.
- Salvation came to the ship that day.

Verse 17

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Romans 9:23

and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,

2Timothy 1:9

who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

- Another fore shadowing of Christ.

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.

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.

- Again, what was Jonah thinking as he sat in the belly of the fish 3 days and 3 nights?

Application

What do we learn from Jonah's experience?

- We can't run or hide away from God.
- Disobedience to God never pays.
- Let's not wallow in our sin for too long.
- God is merciful to forgive.

Conclusion

We who are called according to His purpose can never escape His will and will never be too far from His mercy and too bad for his salvation.