

Jonah 1:11-2:10

Day 1

Read Jonah 1:11-17

Jonah in the sea

1. What was happening to the storm at sea? 1:11
 - What does the sailors' question indicate about their regard for Jonah? Their regard for God?

2. What reason did Jonah give for being thrown into the sea? 1:12 (What do you think he had concluded about God's work in his life?)
 - What other options did he have? (Compare 1:6b)
 - Why do you think Jonah seemed more willing to die than to go to Nineveh?

3. How did the sailors respond to Jonah's instruction? 1:13 (Why do you think they didn't want to harm Jonah or what do you think they were afraid of?)

4. Ironically, who prayed first? What did they ask? 1:14
 - What did they acknowledge about God?

5. What happened when Jonah was thrown into the sea? 1:15 (Compare Psalm 93:3,4)

6. Mark the word sea in chap. 1, and list the phrases that describe it.
 - Vs. 4
 - Vs. 11
 - Vs. 13
 - Vs. 15

Digging Deeper

What are some other amazing things that God did with wind?

Exodus 10:13,19

Exodus 14:21

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7. List the phrases that describe the response the men had to this miracle. 1:16 (What does the fact that they are trained and experienced seamen add to this account?)

- Compare the disciples' response in Matthew 14:32-33 and Mark 4:37-41 to the storm and to the miracle. What did the disciples and the sailors both recognize about the power/authority used in calming the storm?

8. What kind of a fish swallowed Jonah? 1:17 What does the word "*prepared/appointed*" indicate about this event?

FYI: "**1:17 prepared.** The Lord 'prepared' a fish, a gourd, a worm, and a wind (Jonah 1:17; 4:6,7,8), in accomplishing His will and proclaiming His Word through Jonah...This 'great fish' was not necessarily a whale, although there are some whales with the ability to swallow a man whole. It could have been, for example, a large whale-shark...It may even have been—for all we know to the contrary—a special marine animal created by God just for this purpose." - Henry Morris

9. Read Matthew 12:39-41; 16:4 and Luke 11:29-32. How did Jesus regard the reality of Jonah's experience? What significance did He give to it? (Note how Jesus' enemies responded to His answer concerning the sign of Jonah: Matthew 27:62-66)

FYI: "Jonah is the object of more skepticism than any prophet except Daniel. Nevertheless the book has been fully accepted as canonical and historical by both Jews and Christians until modern times." - Henry Morris

"The storm, Jonah's being swallowed by the sea monster, the conversion of the Ninevites, and the fast-growing plant are no more incredible than the dividing of the Red Sea, the cloudy and fiery pillar, manna from heaven, water out of the flint, or the resurrection of Christ...The book is certainly designed to be viewed as historical. There is nothing in it to suggest otherwise. To assert that our Lord's words regarding Jonah did not imply His belief in the historicity of events is highly artificial and arbitrary. Ancient Jewish opinion looked upon the account as historical (Josephus Ant. 9.10.2). The general Jewish and Christian tradition has followed the same view." - The New Unger's Bible Dictionary.

1:17 "three days and three nights. The Lord Jesus confirmed the historicity of both Jonah and his experience in the 'whale' by citing it as a type of His own coming death, burial and resurrection (Matthew 12:39-40). In fact, these words of Christ probably indicate that Jonah, like Jesus, actually died and was then restored from death." - Henry Morris

Applying the Word: *In what ways have you experienced God's pursuit of you when you have taken a wrong turn?*

Day 2

10. Character studies can be done by marking each occurrence of a person's name and noting what is said about that person. In chapter 1, mark the word *Jonah* (and its pronouns) with a "J" and mark the word *sailors* with an "S." After marking these words, observe what you learn about them and record your findings below.

Jonah	Sailors
<p><i>Vs. 1: God spoke to him the Son of Amittai</i></p>	

11. What contrasts do you see between Jonah and the sailors?

- *Jonah had been brought up with an understanding of the one true God/
The sailors had been brought up believing in many gods*
- *Jonah was running from God/...*

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12. What do you learn about God and His actions from these marking? How did He work in the sailors' lives and Jonah's life so far?

Applying the Word: Read Psalm 135:5-7 and Psalm 95:3-7. Take time to contemplate God's majesty and power. Where in your life do you need to submit to His control or what problems to you need to entrust to His care?

Day 3

Read Jonah 2:1-7

Jonah's prayer

13. What did Jonah finally do? 2:1 List the phrases that describe what Jonah did? 2:2

- List the phrases that describe how God responded. 2:2.

FYI: "The prayer that follows could be made in a few seconds due to the tremendously fast speed a person can think... The prayer can be recited in less than a minute, so it could be prayed in Jonah's thoughts in seconds...All the verbs in chapter two are past tense, not present. This indicates the prospective of Jonah looking back at his thoughts or prayer."
- Robert Brown (11)

"It is at our point of greatest weakness and helplessness that we realize our need for God most clearly. In the depths of the ocean, or in the depths of despair, all we can do is cry out to Him. And He hears us."
- Charles Swindoll (46)

14. In the following Psalm underline God's attributes and His responses to prayer.

Ps 116:1-9 I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. 2 Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. 3 The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came upon me; I was overcome by trouble and sorrow. 4 Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, save me!" 5 The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. 6 The LORD protects the simplehearted; when I was in great need, he saved me. 7 Be at rest once more, O my soul, for the LORD has been good to you. 8 For you, O LORD, have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, 9 that I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living. NIV

15. What assurance do we have about our prayers? Hebrews 4:14-16

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16. Underline the motives or attitudes of our hearts that prevents God from answering our prayers the way we may want them answered.

- James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. NASU
- Psalm 66:18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; NIV
- Proverbs 1:28-29 "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently but they will not find me, 29 Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD. NASU

17. What did Jonah experience when he was cast overboard? 2:3 (See Psalm 42:7) (What do the words "You" and "Your" in 2:3,4 indicate about his circumstances?)

18. What distress and what hope did Jonah express in 2:4? (Compare Luke 23:43)

19. King Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple is recorded in 2 Chronicles 6.

- How did Solomon connect the temple and prayer? 2 Chronicles 6:18-21; 36-39
- What insights does this give to Jonah's reference to the temple and his hope for answered prayer in Jonah 2:4,7?

Digging Deeper

What did the *temple* signify to the nation of Israel

Deuteronomy 12:11-12

1 Kings 8:6,10,11; 9:3

20. What else did Jonah experience when he was cast overboard? 2:5-6a

- What would you say about how hopeless his condition was?

FYI: Jonah 2:6 "The *roots* or *bases* of the mountains could indicate that Jonah sank to the bottom of the water before being swallowed.

'*earth beneath barred me in forever*' The implication is that he cannot return the way he came." - Robert Brown (13)

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21. What great reversal occurred? 2:6b (Mark the words “*but*” and “*yet*” in Jonah 2.)

IT'S HEBREW TO ME: *Pit/corruption* KJV Strong's OT:7845 *shachath*; a pit (especially as a trap); figuratively, destruction:
- Strong's Concordance

“God brought Jonah’s life back from the place of corruption, either death or the fish’s stomach could be implied. The acids and digestive juices in the fish’s stomach must have disfigured Jonah’s body after three days and three nights. God alone could restore it and give it life!”
- Robert Brown (13)

22. As Jonah’s life was “*fainting away*” (“*ebbing away*” NIV), what did he do? How effective was his prayer? 2:7 (Consider: When would Jonah have recorded this prayer?)

FYI: “Theologians and scholars debate whether Jonah was alive during those three days in the belly of the fish or whether he died and was brought back to life. In any case, no doubt when he remembered and recorded this prayer long after he had been deposited back onto dry land, he was fully aware that he’d been preserved and protected by Yahweh.”
- Priscilla Shirer (72)

“In his prayer from the fish’s stomach, Jonah fell unconscious. Had it not been for resurrection, this prayer would not have been recorded...”

Fish do not chew their food. They swallow it whole...stomachs stretch to accommodate the contents. They do not come with cathedral ceilings! Even swallowed whole, a human would suffocate in minutes without oxygen in a fish’s stomach. If Jonah died and was resurrected later, it would indeed be a miracle. If Jonah lived three days and three nights there, that would be a miracle too, since he did so without air.”
- Robert Brown (11,14)

Applying the Word: How do feel about praying when you have failed? How do you picture God’s response? What does Jonah’s example say to you about this?

Day 4

Read Jonah 2:8-10

Jonah’s vow

23. Because of his experience, what message did Jonah want people to heed? 2:8 How would you state this in your own words? (Compare Psalm 31:6 and note what two things are contrasted.)

Regard/cling/observe (2:8) “*Shamar* means ‘to keep’ in the sense of ‘tending’ and taking care of...The word also means ‘to keep’ in the sense of ‘watching over’ or giving attention to.” - Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

2:8 They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. “Lying vanities’ mean idols, and ‘their own mercy’ means God...The point...is...the emptiness of all objects of human pursuit apart from God... Any, or all, the other objects of human endeavour may be won, and yet we may be miserable. These vanities are ‘lying vanities’” - Alexander Maclaren

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24. What “*grace/mercy/faithfulness*”(2:8) do you think Jonah had missed?

25. What change in attitude did Jonah have? 2:9 (What are vows connected with in Psalm 50:14-15.)

- What “vows” (2:9) do you think Jonah was referring to? (*Compare the prophet Micaiah’s words in 1 Kings 22:14*)

Digging Deeper

Because of God’s love, what sacrifices should we offer?

Romans 12:1

Hebrews 13:15,16

26. A good way to understand how a person is feeling or reacting to a situation is to look at the verbs. Go through Chapter 2 and mark the verbs that describe the steps Jonah took in *turning back to the Lord*.

(2:2) e.g. “*prayed, called out*”

27. How would you describe the process of repentance (i.e. turning around)?

28. Now mark the phrases in Chapter 2 that express Jonah’s hope in God’s presence/*forgiveness/restoration*.

- 2:2 . “*He answered me, You heard my voice*” (See Psalm 30:3)
- 2:4b
- 2:6b
- 2:7b
- 2:9

Food for Thought: “Jonah must have known Scripture, in particular the psalms. Much of chapter 2 seems to mirror the words written by the psalmist. Since Jonah didn’t have a pad and paper - much less a scroll of the Old Testament with him in the fish that day, he had an arsenal of memorized verses freshly stamped on his heart and mind...Jonah 2 shows the power of praying the Scriptures...In dire circumstances the disciplined preacher didn’t waste a moment uttering his own words or wishes. His mind went straight to God’s Word and repeated it out loud. Friend, no prayer is more effective than the one that finds its roots in the pages of God’s Word ”
- Priscilla Shirer (74,75)

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29. Circle the actions that God asks us to take:

- Isaiah 45:22 "Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other." NASU
- John 6:40 "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day." NASU
- Ephesians 4:22-24 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. NIV
- Hebrews 12:1-2 let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, NASU

30. How was Jonah saved? 2:10 What miraculous elements do you see in this event? (e.g. timing...)

Digging Deeper
Memorize Jonah 2:8

Food for Thought: "First Jonah 1:9 says that our God is faithful and He will forgive, no matter how far off track you may have gone, how far you may have run, or how much time you may have lost. He's willing to take the old and replace it with the grand newness of life in him. We don't have to go one more day or even take one more step with the shame of yesterday's choices and unwise decisions weighting us down. He was willing to honor Jonah's desire to yield despite past failure, and His is willing to honor ours as well."
- Priscilla Shirer (69)

Applying the Word: Have you ever felt that you have resisted God for too long or wasted too much time to ever change or for God to ever give you another opportunity? What does Jonah's experience teach you?

