

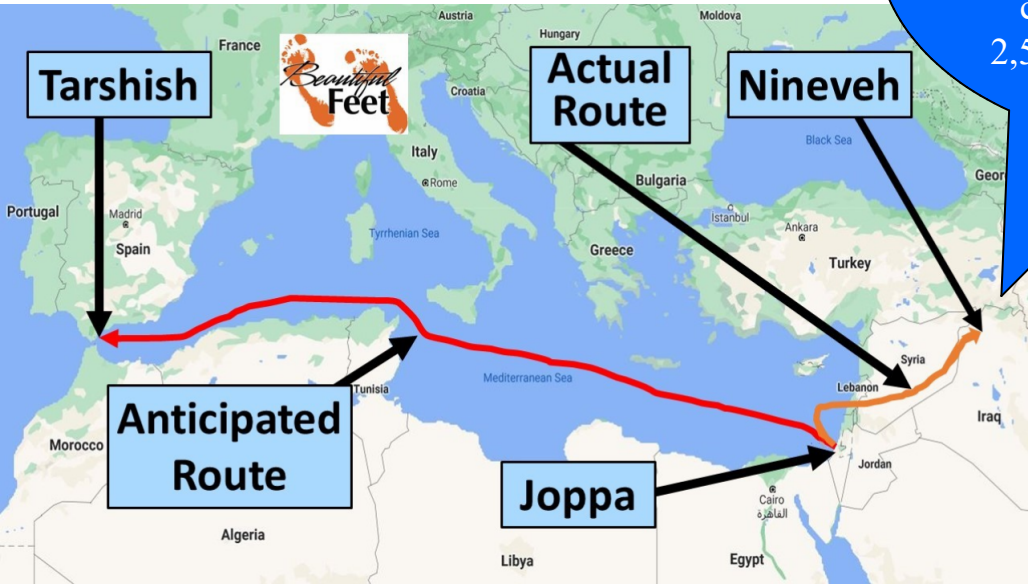


Jonah

Jonah 1:10-17 - Jonah Accused - then the Sea and the Fish

- Was Jonah really a prophet?
- What kind of a place was Nineveh?
 - Review *Jonah 1:1-9*
 - Let's revisit Jonah's decision to make

Nineveh was 550 miles northeast of Israel, but Jonah headed to Tarshish, located on the coast of Spain some 2,500 miles to the west!



- This storm was severe and its likely would have torn the ship into threads. Moreover, the experience of these mariners was doubtful in this setting.



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- The slumbering Jonah had no opportunity to tell the mariners that he was on a mission of the God of Israel to go to Ninevah, and in the terrible storm the mariners had forgotten that Jonah was on board.
- When they learned of why Jonah was on board, they were terrified.
- What do you think the mariners were thinking after Jonah stated –
“I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”?



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Jonah 1:10-17 - 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. 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. 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.



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- ***Jonah 1:10 - 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.***
 - When do think Jonah told the men *that he fled the presence of the Lord*?
 - *knew* is 3rd person perfect.
 - So why were they *exceedingly afraid*?
 - Is this like Nebuchadnezzar or Pilate?
 - » *Dan 5:6 – Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.*
 - » *John 19:8 - When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;*
 - But did they understand that the Lord was the creator of the sea?
- ***Jonah 1:11 - Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea was growing more tempestuous.***



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- So why do you think they asked Jonah *what they should do*?
 - Constable – ‘They had no idea what would placate the creator of the sea in such a case, so they asked Jonah since he knew his God.’
 - Perhaps this is like the Philistines in *Samuel*?
 - » *1 Sam 6:1,2 - And the ark of the Lord was in the country of the Philistines seven months. And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, What shall we do to the ark of the Lord? tell us wherewith we shall send it to his place.*

- ***Jonah 1:12 - And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.***

- How did Jonah *know* (absolute state) that the *sea would be calmed*?
 - Would God punish the innocent because of one person’s sin?
 - » *Deut 24:6 - The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers: every man shall be put to death for his own sin.*
 - » *Rom 3:23 - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*



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- Constable – ‘Jonah's answer reveals the doublemindedness of the prophet. He could have told them to sail back to Joppa if he really intended to obey the Lord and go to Nineveh. His repentance surely would have resulted in God withholding judgment from the sailors just as the Ninevites' repentance resulted in His withholding judgment from them. Still Jonah was not ready to obey God yet..... Why did Jonah not end his own life by jumping overboard? I suspect that he did not have the courage to do so.’
 - Or was Jonah a type of Messiah here – that one man would die to save others?
 - » *John 11:50 - Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.*
- ***Jonah 1:13 – Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea was growing more tempestuous against them.***
 - So why did the mariners decide to head towards land?
 - » *Prov 21:30 - There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the Lord.*



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- *Jonah 1:14 - Wherefore they cried unto the Lord, and said, We beseech thee, O Lord, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O Lord, hast done as it pleased thee.*
 - Doesn't this remind you of the desperate prayer of a non-believer (or even some of us believers)?
 - McCalley – 'The sailors do not wish to perish for the sin of another, nor on the other hand, do they wish to be guilty of the shedding of innocent blood,'
- *Jonah 1:15 - So they took up Jonah and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.*
 - Doesn't this remind you of the disciples' experience on the Sea of Galilee?
 - » *Mark 4:39 - And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.*



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- And the OT gives similar attention to this power of God.
 - » *Psalm 89:9 – Thou rules the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them.*
 - » *Psalm 107:29 - He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.*

- ***Jonah 1:16 - Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the Lord, and made vows.***

- How does this response to trials relate to today's experiences?
 - McCalley – 'The most common meaning of the word fear is not fright, but respect. This is doubtless the meaning here. It does not imply that the sailors rejected their **polytheistic** beliefs. Their respect for the Lord is demonstrated by their sacrifices made to Him.'
 - » *Psalm 116: 17,18 - I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people,*

- Could these *vows* indicate conversion, at least by some?



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- *Jonah 1:17 - Now the Lord had prepared (ordained) a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.*
 - McGee lists extravagant theories of the critics:
 - 1. There is a theory that Jonah fell asleep during the storm, had a dream, and that the Book of Jonah is the account of that dream; 2. There are those who relate the Book of Jonah to the Phoenician myth of Hercules and the sea monster; 3. It is claimed that Jonah was picked up after the storm and shipwreck by a boat that had a fish for a figurehead — which gave support for the record in the Book of Jonah; 4. Others resort to the wild claim that a dead fish was floating around and that Jonah took refuge in it during the storm.
 - But the story becomes validated when referenced by the Lord Jesus Christ:
 - » *Matt 12:39-41 - But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and there shall no sign be given to it, but **the sign***



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of the prophet, Jonah; for as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation and shall condemn it; because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, a greater than Jonah is here.

- Constable – ‘The Jews were familiar with the mythical sea monster (Ugaritic lotan, Heb. leviathan) that symbolized both the uncontrollable chaos of the sea and the chaotic forces that only Yahweh could manage (cf. Ps. 74:13-14; 104:26). The Hebrews did not believe that leviathan really existed any more than we believe in Santa Claus. Yet the figure was familiar to them, and they knew what it represented. For Jonah to relate his experience of deliverance in his cultural ancient Near Eastern context would have impressed his hearers that a great God had sent him to them. It is probably for this reason that God chose to save Jonah by using a great fish.’
- McCalley – ‘. The verb translated appointed is *manah* and means to **ordain**. It is used four times in the book of Jonah, and in each case God is the subject of the action. God **ordained** a fish (1:17). God **ordained** a plant (4:6). God **ordained** a worm (4:7). Finally, God **ordained** a wind (4:8). This reveals the sovereignty of God behind the events that take place in the book of Jonah.’