

## Jonah 1

### The Power of the Word of God

#### Introduction

- Jonah background
  - Prophet from Gath-hepher (Zebulun).
    - 2 Kings 14:25-27 (CSB): *<sup>25</sup> He restored Israel's border from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word the Lord, the God of Israel, had spoken through his servant, the prophet Jonah son of Amittai from Gath-hepher. <sup>26</sup> For the Lord saw that the affliction of Israel was very bitter for both slaves and free people. There was no one to help Israel. <sup>27</sup> The Lord had not said he would blot out the name of Israel under heaven, so he delivered them by the hand of Jeroboam son of Jehoash.*
  - Jesus taught that Jonah was a literal character with a literal history.
    - Luke 11:29-32 (CSB): *<sup>29</sup> As the crowds were increasing, he began saying, "This generation is an evil generation. It demands a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. <sup>30</sup> For just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation. <sup>31</sup> The queen of the south will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and look—something greater than Solomon is here. <sup>32</sup> The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at Jonah's preaching, and look—something greater than Jonah is here."*
- Nineveh background
  - Modern Day Mosul.
  - Built by Nimrod according to Genesis 10:11.
  - Principle city for the Assyrian Empire.
  - Jonah was sent to them at a time of weakness. The Assyrian Empire was struggling.
  - Extremely evil. Known to cut off the lips and hands of its enemies as well as flaying them alive.
- Jonah fled to Joppa. Modern day Tel 'Aviv.
- Why Jonah didn't want to go to Nineveh?
  - Fear could be a factor. Prophets often spoke out against the cities and people but rarely had to go in person. Maybe there was a sense that he would most likely die.
  - Jonah 4:2 suggests that Jonah wanted the evil people of Nineveh to die and face the judgement of God.
    - Jonah 4:2-3 (CSB): *He prayed to the Lord, "Please, Lord, isn't this what I said while I was still in my own country? That's why I fled toward Tarshish in the first place. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger, abounding in faithful love, and one who relents from sending disaster. <sup>3</sup> And now, Lord, take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."*

## Section 1: God's Location

- Fleeting from the Presence of the Lord
  - Some will read this and conclude:
    - God sees everyone everywhere
    - God is not limited to Jerusalem and the Temple
  - Which is all true. But there maybe a little more to this particular phrase. Often this phrase was used as a walking away from the Lord. It's more likely Jonah was giving up on being a prophet. This phrase is used by Cain (Gen. 4:16) to reference him being removed from the presence of the Lord in a "I am no longer apart of God's people". Thus, his leaving Israel all together. But...
    - God does not let His people walk away.
    - Philippians 1:6 (CSB): *I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*
      - Adam wasn't able to walk away. Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Daniel, Peter, etc.

## Section 2: God's Word

- Commands Jonah to go.
  - What does this reveal about God?
    - God sees and cares about all people in all places.
    - Our sin is conducted before the very face of God.
    - God will send specific people into your life for a specific purpose.
    - God graciously allows His people to join Him in His work in people's lives.
- Hurles a Storm
  - What does this reveal about God?
    - God disciplines those He loves.
    - God controls the weather.
    - God's ways maybe a mystery to many.
    - God works through suffering and hardship just as much as He works through peace and ease.
    - God is serious about His people keeping His Commands.
- Controls the casting of lots
  - What does this reveal about God?
    - God doesn't leave anything to chance.
- Creator of the sea and Dry land
  - What does this reveal about God?
    - God is the Creator of all things.
    - God's Word will never pass away.
- Calms the Storm
  - What does this reveal about God?
    - God is faithful.
    - All of creation obeys Him.
- Directs a Big Fish
  - What does this reveal about God?
    - God's ways are higher than man's ways. What looked like certain death was God's deliverance.
    - God is always in control of creation.
    - God has a reason for everything He does.