

JONAH

God's Problem Child



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PART 2: JONAH RUNS FROM GOD

GOD SAID GO, JONAH SAID NO! (1:1-6 ESV)

"Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me." 3 But Jonah rose 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, away from the presence of the Lord.

4 But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. 5 Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep. 6 So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish."

JONAH IS THROWN INTO THE SEA (1:7-17 ESV)



7 And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" 9 And 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." 10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

11 Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. 12 He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you." 13 Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them. 14 Therefore they called out to the Lord, "O Lord, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you." 15 So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. 16 Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows."



A GREAT FISH SWALLOWS JONAH (1:17 ESV)

"17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights."

EXPLORING THE TEXT

1. Why did Jonah flee to Tarshish instead of simply staying in his hometown and refusing to do God's will from there? [Hint: see Jonah 1:10].
2. What misconception about God did Jonah have (1:10), and how is it in contrast to Psalm 139:7-10 and Jeremiah 23:24?
3. Even though most Christians today know that God is everywhere present (omnipresent), when might they feel that God is not present?
4. What does God's omnipresence mean to you personally?
5. Since Jonah refused to do God's will, why do you suppose God did not choose someone else to go to Nineveh?
6. What similarities do you see with Jonah's willingness to be thrown into the sea and what Jesus said in John 10:17-18?
7. How does this relate to those who believe Jesus was accidentally murdered?