

IN &
OUT®

*Where Are
You Going?*

A STUDY OF JONAH

IN & OUT®
KINGS AND PROPHETS SERIES
Course 5
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
A STUDY OF JONAH

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Fleeing the Presence of the Lord

Was there ever a time when you wanted to run away from the will of the Lord, even die, because *your* way out seemed easier? Many have been there at one time or another.

What's the answer? What are we to do? And what if we don't?

The book of Jonah has answers. It's far more than a whale of a tale!

TAKING IT IN

1. Go to the Lord in prayer and ask Him to show you His purpose in including this account in His book, the Bible.
2. Let's observe Jonah 1 using the Observation Worksheets on Jonah in the Appendix so you can freely mark the text.
 - a. Read Jonah 1 and mark the following:
 - 1) *Jonah*, including pronouns and synonyms
 - 2) the *LORD*, including pronouns and synonyms
 - 3) references to time
 - 4) places Jonah went—There's a map in the Appendix. Follow Jonah's adventure by drawing arrows from one location to another.
 - 5) *appointed*
 - b. Now list what this chapter says about Jonah and the Lord.

- c. Read chapter 1 again. As you read, note who besides Jonah plays a significant role in this account. Mark every reference to this group of men including the captain. Then list what you learn about them.

- d. Now read the chapter again and mark the following. Then list what you learn about both.
- 1) *presence of the LORD*
 - 2) *calamity, storm*
3. Let's return to the sailors and captain and their response when they learn the reason for the storm. Review your list on the sailors/ captain. Note what happens to their understanding of the Lord from the onset of the storm to throwing Jonah overboard. How did the sailors determine who the culprit was?

Where Are You Going?

Lesson 1, Chapters 1–2

4. Now we move into Jonah 2, a touching chapter as you will see. Begin reading with 1:17, which will put you into context.
 - a. Continue to mark the references to *Jonah* and to the *LORD*. Also mark *prayed* and its synonyms in this chapter—*called out* and *cried*. Mark references to time and sequences. Double underline geographical locations.
 - b. Now, what is Jonah chapter 2 about? Describe it in one brief sentence.
 - c. List what you learn about Jonah and the Lord from this chapter.

Jonah

The Lord

- d. Now list everything you learn from marking *prayer* in Jonah 1 and 2. Note *who* prays, *what* they pray, *when* they pray, *where* they pray, and *why* they pray.
5. Finally, what do you think about what you've read in the first two chapters of Jonah? Is this a *true* story? Was there really a man by the name of Jonah? If so, was Jonah really swallowed by a great fish, or is this too much to swallow intellectually?
- a. We believe your answers will come by looking at additional statements the Word of God makes about Jonah. Scripture is the best commentary on Scripture. Look up these references and note what you learn from observing the text.
- 1) Matthew 12:39-41
- 2) Matthew 16:4

3) Luke 11:29-32

b. Now that you have looked up the above scriptures, we want to ask you some questions you may have already addressed above. However, the historic validity of events in Jonah is such a crucial issue that we want to make sure you don't miss a thing.

1) When you consider what Jesus said about Jonah, did He affirm or reject Jonah's experiences? Explain your answer.

2) What does Jesus relate the sign of Jonah to as He addresses these hypocritical scribes and Pharisees?

3) If the book of Jonah is not historically accurate, what can we infer about Jesus' death and resurrection?

4) Based on Jesus' comparison of Jonah's time in the great fish and His time in the heart of the earth, do you think He believes that the book of Jonah is historically accurate? Why or why not?

- c. Why do you think people have a hard time believing that everything in the book of Jonah is true?

Well done, diligent one. Tell others the benefits you're receiving from studying God's Word inductively. It's not hard; it simply takes time, but can you spend your time in a better way? After all, if God gave us sixty-six books in the Bible, He deems each essential or He would not have included it. It is our responsibility, then, to study each book for ourselves so that we have the whole counsel of God.

**LIVING
IT OUT**

1. How does this apply to us?
- a. Do you believe what you've observed about Jonah? Do your observations give you any problems? Raise any doubts? Write out your thoughts—be honest (you can be with God)!

- b. Do you believe what you've just learned about God? Does it give you any problems? If so, what? If not, why?
2. What do you do when calamities come your way? What's your first move? Second? Go down the line.
3. How well do you know the God to whom you pray? How important is prayer in your life? Is it an essential part of your relationship with God? The answers to these questions are so important. Why don't you come before God and ask Him to examine your relationship with Him and your prayer life? If you journal, you may want to record what He shows you.

4. Finally, what other truths can you apply to your life from this week's lesson? What are you thankful for? Has God ever rescued you after you sinned? What do you need to say to Him? How important is a thankful heart before a Holy God?

May we suggest you bring the lesson to a close by meditating on Psalms 95 and 96, and memorizing Psalm 95:3-7a. To memorize a passage simply read it aloud three times in a row, three different times a day. Soon it will be yours.

JONAH 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THE word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying,

- 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”
- 3 But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.
- 4 The LORD hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up.
- 5 Then the sailors became afraid and every man cried to his god, and they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten *it* for them. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down and fallen sound asleep.
- 6 So the captain approached him and said, “How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps *your* god will be concerned about us so that we will not perish.”
- 7 Each man said to his mate, “Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity *has struck* us.” So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.
- 8 Then they said to him, “Tell us, now! On whose account *has* this calamity *struck* us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”
- 9 He said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land.”
- 10 Then the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, “How could you do this?” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

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- 11 So they said to him, “What should we do to you that the sea may become calm for us?”—for the sea was becoming increasingly stormy.
- 12 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 on account of me this great storm *has come* upon you.”
- 13 However, the men rowed *desperately* to return to land but they could not, for the sea was becoming *even* stormier against them.
- 14 Then they called on the LORD and said, “We earnestly pray, O LORD, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life and do not put innocent blood on us; for You, O LORD, have done as You have pleased.”
- 15 So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.
- 16 Then the men feared the LORD greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.
- 17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

JONAH 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THEN Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the stomach of the fish,

2 and he said,

“I called out of my distress to the LORD,

And He answered me.

I cried for help from the depth of Sheol;

You heard my voice.

3 “For You had cast me into the deep,

Into the heart of the seas,

And the current engulfed me.

All Your breakers and billows passed over me.

4 “So I said, ‘I have been expelled from Your sight.

Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.’

5 “Water encompassed me to the point of death.

The great deep engulfed me,

Weeds were wrapped around my head.

6 “I descended to the roots of the mountains.

The earth with its bars *was* around me forever,

But You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.

7 “While I was fainting away,

I remembered the LORD,

And my prayer came to You,

Into Your holy temple.

8 “Those who regard vain idols

Forsake their faithfulness,

9 But I will sacrifice to You

With the voice of thanksgiving.

That which I have vowed I will pay.

Salvation is from the LORD.”

10 Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.

Jonah's Journey



