**Jonah: But the LORD…**  **Text: Jonah 1: 4-10 Date: 5/8/2022 Sunday AM**

Last week we finished up at **Jonah 1:3**. Today I am going to pick up there and continue on through Jonah 1.

If you read the first few verses carefully, it would be easy to conclude that God could have halted this book at the end of **1:3**! Why do I say that? Well, God spoke as He often did to His prophets, and normally they obeyed. In Jonah’s case, he totally and completely defied God, and took the next cruise out of town. With justice being served, Jonah would have been disciplined, and God would simply have commissioned another of His prophets! And, that would be the end of our “rebellious prophet” Jonah!

**Nahum** the prophet gives us more insight into Nineveh’s “**wickedness**” than does Jonah. Nahum says that Nineveh was guilty of:

(**1**) Evil plots against God (Nahum 1:9);

(**2**) Exploitation of the helpless (Nahum 2:12);

(**3**) Cruelty in war (Nahum 2:12, 13);

(**4**) Idolatry, prostitution, and witchcraft (Nahum 3:4). [**LASB**]

But God didn’t do that! You have to love **Jonah 1:4** and following!

* **First,** we see Jonah’s Prophetic Office – 1:1
* **Secondly,** we see Jonah’s Profound Opportunity – 1:2
* **Thirdly,** we see **Jonah’s Personal Opposition** – 1:3

**Jonah** **1:3 ~ we see Jonah’s Personal Opposition – 1:3**

* **Jonah 1:3 (KJV) But Jonah** rose up to flee unto Tarshish *from the presence of the LORD*, and went **down** to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went **down** into it, *to go with them* unto Tarshish *from the presence of the LORD*. [**Relational section**][Biographical/Missional sections 1&2]
* **1:3** ~ “**BUT**” ~ I’ll call it **a signal word**! “**BUT**” signals us that something unusual and out of sorts is happening! God *allows* Jonah to run! This could be a really short book if God wasn’t a gracious God!!! Do you see what I see? Can you feel a major shift in the text??? God’s man, His prophet, His man for the mission is not onboard with the plan!
* **LESSON/CAUTION:** We **ALL** have a little bit of Jonah in us! I know this sounds bad, and it is bad! But let’s reflect a moment on how many times we’ve done the same thing! We heard God! We understood what He said, and yet, we disobeyed the Lord!
* Let’s take a closer look at Jonah’s disobedience and measure its impact!
* **1:3 ~** When I/you flee “**from the presence of the Lord**,” there is only one way to go and that’s **“DOWN”!**
* Jonah went in the **OPPOSITE** direction… Nineveh was *east*… Jonah went *west* to Tarshish!!! [To the other side of the known world!]
* **PPT MAP of Jonah’s getaway plan!**
* In Jonah’s mind he was going as far away as he could “from the presence/face of the Lord.”
* **INSIGHT into this phrase… Genesis 3:8** And they (Adam/Eve) heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and **Adam and his wife** hid themselves *from the presence of the LORD* God amongst the trees of the garden.
* **Genesis 4:16** And **Cain** went out *from the presence of the LORD,* and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.
* **1:3 ~** “Down” to Joppa.

**“From the presence of the Lord” defines the seriousness of Jonah’s disobedience!**

* **1:4 ~** “Down” into the ship.
* **1:15 ~** “Down” into the sea.
* **1:17 ~** “Down” in the belly of the great fish.
* Jonah not only sought *horizontal distance* from God by going **WEST** when he should have gone **EAST**. Jonah was on a *vertical descent* from God. Jonah is going down and down and down in a downward spiral. Five times. Down to the port, down into the ship. Down into a deep sleep. Down into the depths of the sea. And farthest of all, down into the belly of a great fish. No prophet ever sunk this low!!! [**Rev. Dr. John C Tittle**]
* **POINT**: Jonah could run from God, but he couldn’t hide!
* **1:4** ~ **Jonah 1:4 (KJV) But the LORD**… Notice it says “**But the Lord…”** God was extending His saving mercies to Nineveh… He would do it through Jonah! He’s doing that here today through His Son Jesus Christ! Be saved today!
* **Ephesians 2:4-5 (KJV)** But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, 5  Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved**…**
* **Jonah 1:3** But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish *from the presence of the LORD*, and *went down* to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and *went down* into it, to go with them unto Tarshish *from the presence of the LORD.*
* **How does God describe Jonah in 1:3?**
* **1:3 ~ “But Jonah…” “from the presence…” “went down”**
* You see, Jonah had a plan/ **BUT** Jonah’s plan didn’t work!
* **IN FACT EVERYBODY HAD A PLAN ~** Stubborn prophet, ship’s captain, sailors, even the sea creature had a plan (marinated prophet) ~ **they ALL had a plan**!
* **Bob Utley,** “Jonah wanted to get away from God's call and foolishly thought he could (**Ps. 139:7-12**). *Possibly he thought YHWH was limited to the Promised Land.”*
* **Jeremiah 23:24 (KJV)** Can any hide himself in secret places that **I** shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.
* **INTERESTING THOUGHT…** One Old Testament historian noted that Jonah possibly was “vomited out” about **375 miles** *from* Nineveh. He could have taken off again **BUT HE DIDN’T!** Would you have gone to Nineveh or would you have tried to run again? [“Dry land” but not at the gate of Nineveh!]
* **KEY:** Find out what the Lord is doing and join HIM!

**I.** First, we see **The Lord’s Initiative – 1:4**

* **1:4 ~ “But the LORD** *sent/hurled* out a *great wind* into the sea, and there was a *mighty tempest* in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.” [“Sent” a softer, gentler word!]
* **Simply put: GOD TOOK THE INIATIVE!**
* [**Psalms 107:25**](https://www.studylight.org/study-desk.html?q1=ps+107:25-29&t1=eng_nas&sr=1) **explains**, For He commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.
* **So does** [**Psalms 148:8**](https://www.studylight.org/study-desk.html?q1=ps+148:8&t1=eng_nas&sr=1), Fire, and hail; snow, and vapor; stormy wind fulfilling His word:
* Someone has rightly said, “God doesn’t come to take sides. He comes to take over!”
* **Take this to the bank**!!! The Lord has the first word in this book, and He has the last word! That’s always true!
* God did whatever He had to do to get Jonah back on track!
* **REMEMBER THIS**: God is big enough to overcome the disobedience of His servants!
* **POINT! At *every turn***/// Jonah meets GOD… everything/everyone in this book obeys GOD/// **except Jonah!**
* **Amazingly enough…** Even *the unsaved, pagan* sailors knew something was wrong!
* Sometimes our unsaved friends and family members can identify our sins **BEFORE** we are ready to identify/confess them!!!
* **QUESTION:** Isn’t it sad that the sailor’s common sense trumped Jonah’s spiritual discernment?
* **BUT GOD’S NOT DONE WITH BROTHER JONAH… Jonah 1:17 enlightens us,** Now the LORD had ***prepared*** a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. **ALIVE**!
* **Proverbs 16:9 (KJV)** A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.
* **Thank the Lord for Romans 5:20** … “where sin abounded, **GRACE** did much more abound.”
* Thank God for His GRACE!
* First, we see **The Lord’s Initiative** – 1:4

II. Secondly, we see **The Sailor’s Intercession** – 1:5-10

* **1:5-6** ~ **First,** **Anxiety/Fear** – **1:6** “Call upon thy God” They became “Prayer Warriors” quickly!
* **Jonah 1:5-6 (KJV)** Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his **god**, and cast forth the wares that *were* in the ship into the sea, to lighten *it* of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep. 6 So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? **Arise, call upon thy God**, and if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.
* **Psalm 146:5 (KJV)** Happy *is he* that *hath* the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope *is* in the LORD his God:
* **1:5** ~ **Secondly,** **Ingenuity** – “**And** cast forth…” [They were pros!]
* **Jonah 1:5 (KJV)** Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his **god**, and cast forth the wares that *were* in the ship into the sea, to lighten *it* of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.
* **1:7-9** ~ “And they” – **Thirdly,** **Curiosity** – Casting lots – Rolling dice – Drawing straws… **Proverbs 16:33 (KJV)** The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof *is* of the LORD.
* **Proverbs 16:33 (NLT2)** We may throw the dice, but the LORD determines how they fall.
* **Jonah 1:7-9 (KJV)** And they said everyone to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil *is* upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. 8 Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil *is* upon us; What *is* thine occupation? And whence comest thou? What *is* thy country? And of what people *art* thou? 9 And he said unto them, I *am* an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry *land*.
* **1:10** ~ **Fourthly,** **Futility** – Anxiety deepens – “From the presence of God” – This was out of their hands! They get a taste of what it means to be “from the presence/face…”
* **Jonah 1:10 (KJV)** Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled *from the presence of the LORD*, because he had told them.
* **Psalm 68:4 (KJV)** Sing unto God, sing praises to His name: extol Him that rideth upon the heavens by His name JAH, and rejoice before Him.
* **Psalm 89:15 (KJV)** Blessed *is* the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance.
* First, we see The Lord’s Initiative – 1:4
* Secondly, we see The Sailor’s Intercession – 1:5-10

III. Thirdly, we see **The Prophet’s Instruction** – 1:11-16

* **1:11** ~ **First,** **Frustration** – This was beyond them!
* **Jonah 1:11 (KJV)** Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? For the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.
* **1:12** ~ **Secondly, Fix** – **QUESTIONS**: Did Jonah anticipate God rescuing him? I don’t think so! Was Jonah thinking, God is going to save me and give me a “Second Chance”? NO!
* **Jonah 1:12 (KJV)** 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*.
* **1:13-15** ~ **Thirdly,** **Futility/REALITY**! Their **FLESH** got in the way! We’ve got this! Ever hear those words before???
* **Jonah 1:13-15 (KJV)** Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring *it* to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them. 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. 15 So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.
* **Jonah 1:5 (KJV)** Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his **god**, and cast forth the wares that *were* in the ship into the sea, to lighten *it* of them. **But Jonah** was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.
* **1:16** ~ **Fourthly,** **Faith** – Did they simply add another god to their gods? No, I don’t think so!
* **Jonah 1:16 (KJV)** Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows.
* First, we see The Lord’s Initiative – 1:4
* Secondly, we see The Sailor’s Intercession – 1:5-10
* Thirdly, we see The Prophet’s Instruction – 1:11-16

IV. Fourthly, we see **The Lord’s Intervention** – 1:17

* **Jonah 1:17 (KJV) Now the LORD** had prepared/appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. [Exhausting story!]
* **QUESTION**: How significant are these words? “But the LORD” “Now the LORD”
* **GOD’S MASTER PLAN IS STILL IN TACT! Galatians 3:8 (KJV)** And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify **the heathen** through faith, preached before the Gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall **all nations** be blessed.
* **NOTHING** good from a human standpoint has happened so far! **NOTHING**! [Lost cargo, ship, sailors, everything lost!] “NOW THE LORD!” That’s good… **That’s GOD**!
* Jonah is the only prophet in the Bible that Jesus personally associates Himself with!
* Jesus, our “Second Jonah” comes through for us!
* Matthew 12:38…
* First, we see The Lord’s Initiative – 1:4
* Secondly, we see The Sailor’s Intercession – 1:5-10
* Thirdly, we see The Prophet’s Instruction – 1:11-16
* Fourthly, we see The Lord’s Intervention – 1:17

**QUESTION: What was the reason for this flight**? The cause of disobedience is to be found in the significance of God’s message to the prophet. It was a message of judgment, and yet, underlying it, as Jonah easily perceived, was a message of mercy. It taught Jonah, and through him the Jews generally, that God had a grand purpose of love and mercy to the Gentiles as well as the Jews. Such a thought as that was utterly opposed to Jewish ideas. Jonah’s conduct is but the representation of the whole national feeling. Jonah wanted the Ninevites and all other Gentiles to fall under the judgment of God, and to be destroyed from the face of the earth. This was the reason for his flight. Let us beware lest we should find his sin lying at our door. God taught the same lesson to Peter when the times of the Gentiles had fully come. We are now learning the lesson that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is God’s message of love to no one nation, or select few, but to every member of the human family.

**The Literary Element the Storm in the Plot of the Book of Jonah -** Guthrie notes Ladouceur’s comment that it was a pagan belief in New Testament times that survival of a shipwreck proved a man’s innocence, suggesting Luke included this lengthy story as a defense for Paul’s innocence. [**\***] This view finds support from [**Acts 28:4**](https://www.studylight.org/study-desk.html?q1=ac+28:4&t1=eng_nas&sr=1), which alludes to such a belief, “No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.” We also see this believe alluded to in [**Jonah 1:4-10**](https://www.studylight.org/study-desk.html?q1=jon+1:4-10&t1=eng_nas&sr=1) when the men of the ship sought the cause of the storm in their belief that someone on board had sinned against his god. According to [**Jonah 1:4**](https://www.studylight.org/study-desk.html?q1=jon+1:4&t1=eng_nas&sr=1) the men’s beliefs were accurate, because God certainly sent this storm as a form of punishment upon His servant Jonah.

[**\***] Donald Guthrie, New Testament Introduction (Downers Grove, Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 1990), 373. (See David Ladouceur, “Hellenistic Preconceptions of Shipwreck and Pollution as a context for Acts 27-28,” Harvard Theological Review 73, 1980, pp. 435-449; and G. B. Miles and G. Tromph, “Luke and Antiphon: The Theology of Acts 27-28 in the Light of Pagan Beliefs about Divine Retribution, Pollution and Shipwreck,” Harvard Theological Review 69, 1976, pp. 259-267.)