

# JONAH

## THE PROPHECY

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# JONAH - The PROPHECY

## Chapter One

### READ AND OBSERVE

Because of **Jonah's** familiarity to most of us, skip to the back of this study guide and take the pre-study quiz. The purpose is to start us at the point of willingness to learn. Sometimes we need to realize just how much we do not know, before we become eager to study. But don't look at the answer sheet until you are done with the entire **Jonah** study!

Read through **Jonah 1** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking, i.e. the mouth of the Lord, answered, saying, commanded, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Jonah 1** and mark every reference to Jonah with a green capital "J".

Read through **Jonah 1** and mark every reference to Nineveh with an orange capital "N".

Read through **Jonah 1** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or that day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Jonah 1** and mark every reference to storm with a black cloud.

Read through **Jonah 1** and mark every reference to the presence of the LORD with a red circle filled in with orange.

Read through **Jonah 1** and mark every time the LORD appointed something with a purple circle.

Read through **Jonah 1** and mark every reference to calamity by highlighting it in brown.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. LORD speaks to Jonah
2. Jonah flees from presence of the LORD by sea
3. LORD hurls storm on sea
4. Sailors in fearful dilemma
5. Jonah answers, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea"
6. God appoints a great fish to swallow Jonah

## READ AND ANSWER

### **Jonah 1:1-2**

Who was Jonah?

The Word of the LORD came to Jonah. What was that Word?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What was Jonah to do?

Where was Jonah to go?

What is Nineveh called?

Why was Jonah to cry against Nineveh?

**Jonah 1:3**

Did Jonah obey the Word of the LORD?

What did Jonah do instead?

Look up Nineveh and Tarshish on a Bible map. What direction are they from each other?

Why did Jonah pick Tarshish?

Where did Jonah go to catch a ship going to Tarshish?

Why was he allowed to go on the ship?

Where did he go once he was on the ship?

What phrase is used twice in this verse?

Can you flee from the presence of the LORD?

Wouldn't a prophet of God know that?

Then, what do you think Jonah had in mind?

**Jonah 1:4**

What did the LORD do?

What did God's great wind cause on the sea?

How great was the storm that God sent?

**Jonah 1:5-10**

What were the sailors' reactions to the great storm?

1.

2.

3.

Did Jonah do any of the things the sailors did?

Why not?

Where was Jonah?

What had he done?

Who went to wake him up?

What did the captain ask Jonah?

What did the captain order Jonah to do?

What did the captain hope would happen when Jonah called on his 'god'?

What did each man say to his mate?

When they cast lots, what happened?

They began to interrogate Jonah. What questions did they ask him?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Of those five questions, which ones did Jonah answer?

What nationality did Jonah say he was?

What did Jonah say about his God?

The men became extremely frightened when they heard about the LORD God. Why?  
What connection did they immediately understand?

What did the men ask Jonah?

Why?

How did they know Jonah was fleeing from the presence of the LORD God of heaven  
Who made the sea and the dry land?

What did they ask Jonah?

What did they want?

What was happening to the sea? Was it the same as when God first hurled the wind on  
the sea and caused the great storm?

**Jonah 1:12-16**

What did Jonah tell the men to do in order for the sea to become calm for them?

1.

2.

What did Jonah tell them would happen once they threw him into the sea?

What did Jonah admit to the men?

Did the men do as Jonah told them?

Why not?

What did the men try to do instead?

How hard did they try?

Why couldn't the men return to land?

How many times has the storm increase its fury?

When did the men call on the LORD?

What did they ask of the LORD?

1.

2.

What important acknowledgement did the men make?

After they had prayed, what did they do?

1.

2.

What did the sea do?

When and why did the men fear the LORD greatly?

What did the men do when they feared the LORD greatly?

1.

2.

**Jonah 1:17**

What did the LORD do?

What did the great fish do?

How long was Jonah in the stomach of the fish?

## POINT OF CONNECTION

**Has anyone ever caused you to doubt the reality of Jonah's stay in the belly of the whale? Don't you doubt! Jesus didn't!**

**Matthew 12:38-41**

***"Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him,  
"Teacher, we want to see a sign from You."***

***But He answered and said to them,  
"An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign;  
and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet;***

***for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster,  
so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.  
The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will  
condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah;  
and behold, something greater than Jonah is here."***

**Matthew 16:4**

***"An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign;  
and a sign will not be given it,  
except the sign of Jonah."  
And He left them and went away."***

## READ AND REASON

**Luke 11:29**

***As the crowds were increasing, He began to say,  
"This generation is a wicked generation; it seeks for a sign,  
and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah.***

**The people should have believed that Jesus was their Messiah, the Promised One from of old; they should have believed that He was the Son of their God.**

**The people should have repented of their sin; they should have turned away from their own ways and followed the ways of their God.**

**They didn't...**

**...but they could have.**

**Luke 11:30, 32**

***For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites,  
so will the Son of Man be to this generation.  
The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment  
and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah;  
and behold, something greater than Jonah is here."***

**The people could have believed that Jesus was their Messiah, the Anointed One of God. The people could have repented and turned to God.**

**The men of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah after he was released from the fish's belly. They had all they needed to believe and repent...and they did just that.**

**The people of Jerusalem had more than the sign of Jonah; someone much greater—God, Himself, in the flesh—Jesus, the Christ! They had all they needed to believe and repent and more...but they did not.**

# JONAH - The PROPHECY

## Chapter Two

### READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Jonah 2** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the mouth of the Lord, instruction of our God, declares, answered, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Jonah 2** and mark every reference to Jonah with a green capital "J".

Read through **Jonah 2** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or that day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Jonah 2** and mark every time the LORD appointed or commanded something with a purple circle.

Read through **Jonah 2** and mark every reference to God's holy temple with a blue box filled in with red.

Read through **Jonah 2** and mark every reference to salvation with a purple box filled in with pink.

Read through **Jonah 2** and mark every reference to calamity by highlighting it in brown.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Jonah cries for help
2. Jonah makes promises to the LORD
3. LORD commands fish to vomit Jonah up on dry land

# READ AND ANSWER

## **Jonah 2:1-6a**

When did Jonah pray to the LORD?

Why did Jonah pray to the LORD?

Jonah called out of his distress to the LORD. Did the LORD answer him in his distress?

Jonah cried for help from the depth of Sheol. Did the LORD hear his voice?

## POINT OF DEPTH

**Biblical hearing involves a response.  
God did more than just notice the voice of Jonah.  
He heard and responded to his cry for help.**

The sailors had thrown Jonah. What had God done to him?

The sailors had thrown Jonah into the sea. Where had God cast him?

1.

2.

What did the current do to him?

What did the breakers and billows do to him?

Whose breakers and billows were they?

What was Jonah's conclusion to his situation in the deep?

Even though Jonah believed he had been expelled from God's sight, what did he believe just as much?

What did the water do?

What did the great deep do?

What did weeds do?

To where did Jonah descend?

How did he describe being at the bottom of the mountains of the deep? What did it seem like to him?

**Jonah 2:6b-9**

Despite his circumstances, rescue was imminent! What did his deliverer do?

Who was his savior?

Who was Jonah's LORD?

Who was Jonah's God?

# POINT OF DEPTH

**Who is *your* LORD?  
Who is *your* God?**

**I read this beautiful thought somewhere:**

***“God loves us each with undivided love,  
as if He had created no other...  
And God allows each to say “my” God,  
as if the infinite God belonged wholly to each...”***

**If the LORD is your God,  
He allows you to say “my” God as if He belonged to no one else...  
If you belong to the LORD God,  
He loves you with undivided love, as if He had created no other...**

When did he remember the LORD?

What did Jonah do upon remembrance of the LORD?

Where was the presence of the LORD?

Where was the LORD’s holy temple?

Who is not faithful, according to Jonah?

Why do you think he says this?

Why will Jonah be faithful to his God?

What will Jonah do?

What will he sacrifice?

How will he sacrifice to God?

What had Jonah evidently done while in the belly of the great fish?

How did he regard his vow?

What mighty declaration does Jonah give at the end of his prayer?

### **Jonah 2:10**

What did the Lord do?

When did the Lord command the fish?

When is “then”?

What did the Lord command the fish to do?

Where did the Lord command the fish to vomit Jonah?

## **READ AND REASON**

**Jonah fled from God first on dry land and then in the belly of a ship.  
Now, thrown from the ship,  
he travels to God’s destination on dry land in the belly of a fish.**

# JONAH - The PROPHECY

## Chapter Three

### READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Jonah 3** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking i.e. the mouth of the LORD, word of the LORD, etc. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Jonah 3** and mark every reference to Jonah with a green capitol "J".

Read through **Jonah 3** and mark every reference to Nineveh with an orange capitol "N".

Read through **Jonah 3** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or that day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Lord speaks to Jonah the second time
2. Jonah follows LORD'S command
3. People of Nineveh believe

### READ AND ANSWER

#### **Jonah 3:1-4**

What came to Jonah?

Was this the second time?

Where was Jonah the first time?

What did Jonah do the first time?

Where is Jonah this time?

What does Jonah do this time?

What was the Word of the LORD the first time?

What is the Word of the LORD this time?

Does the Lord tell Jonah this time what he is to speak to the people of Nineveh?

Compare **chapter 1:1** with **chapter 2:1**. What do you notice?

Compare **chapter 1:2** with **chapter 2:2**. What do you notice?

Compare **chapter 1:3** with **chapter 2:3**. What do you notice?

How is Nineveh described?

1.

2.

What did Jonah begin to do when he reached Nineveh?

What did he cry out?

### **Jonah 3:5-10**

How did the people respond to the Word of the LORD?

## POINT OF DEPTH

**Amazing!**

**Can you just imagine everyone in Nineveh believing in God in one day!**

**Jonah had not even finished his proclamation in the whole city!**

**Word spread, and all the people believed!**

**Wow!**

**It might be helpful, in order to appreciate the miracle involved, to think of your own town or city. What an incredible thing it would be if a modern day prophet came to town and started to proclaim, "In forty days this town will be overthrown!" and immediately everyone in the whole town believed!**

**Imagine that the prophet's words spread ahead to the rest of the people, and to the very government of your city. Imagine that in just one day everyone believed, even the leaders!**

**Picture everyone immediately fasting and putting on sackcloth. Visualize the leaders calling for martial law to be put into effect and ordering everyone to do that very thing!**

**And, on top of that, envision all the animals: beasts, herds, and flocks being made to fast as well, and to wear sackcloth!**

**All conversion is the work of the grace of God, Himself.  
Praise the Lord that He caused such a marvelous thing to happen in Nineveh!  
Pray to the Lord that He would cause such a thing to happen in your town!**

What did the people of Nineveh believe?

What did they do upon their belief?

1.

2.

Who believed? Who was involved in the fast? Who put on sackcloth?

What news traveled to the king of Nineveh?

What did he do when he heard?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Who issued a proclamation?

Who did the proclamation say the decree was from?

1.

2.

Who and what would not be allowed eat or drink water?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Who and what were commanded to be covered with sackcloth?

What were men ordered to do?

How were they to call on God?

Why were they to call on God?

1.

2.

What does “calling on God” sound like? (Hint: it starts with an ‘r’.)

If men repented by turning from their wicked ways and from the violence in their hands, what might God do?

1.

2.

3.

What would the result be for the people of Nineveh?

What did they believe would happen if they did not repent?

What had Jonah proclaimed to them?

Did God relent?

When did God relent?

What were their deeds?

Of what did God relent?

What had God declared He would bring upon the people of Nineveh?

# READ AND REASON

Chapter 3, verse 2 says that God told Jonah to arise. He was settled somewhere. Let's reason through this for a moment.

Jonah was from Gath-hepher, which was very close to Nazareth in Galilee, northern Israel. When Jonah fled from the presence of the Lord, he went southward to Joppa (modern day Jaffa) to get on board a ship going to Tarshish. Tarshish was as far west as anyone could imagine in those days.

Okay, Jonah is on the ship heading west. God intervenes and casts him into the deep of the ocean. God appoints a great fish to pick Jonah up. After three days and nights, God commands the fish to deposit Jonah on dry land. Where exactly do you think the fish vomited Jonah?

The Bible doesn't say, but we can do some well-informed reasoning. Jonah said he was going to pay what he had vowed. A vow would be paid in Jerusalem. Did the fish drop Jonah off on the seacoast somewhere near Jerusalem? Perhaps the fish took him back to Joppa? Or did the fish take him further north to be closer to Gath-hepher, where he lived?

Whichever, we know two things. One: we know that the fish put Jonah on the exact spot of dry land that the Lord commanded it to. Two: we know that wherever it was, it was still a long way from Nineveh—about 500 miles away from Israel! Look at a Bible map to identify the places mentioned. Therefore we know that Jonah had a long trip ahead of him. This time, when God told him to arise, he did not flee. Rather, he followed. He followed the word of His God.

He went to Nineveh and did not even know what God would have him proclaim. He could have reasoned it was the same message as before, but he did not know for sure. When did God give him the proclamation which he was to proclaim? We don't know that for certain either. We do know it was sometime *after* God called him to arise, which was *after* he had settled back on dry land. We also know it was sometime *before* he entered the city of Nineveh. This time faith followed loyally to its destination. Jonah was obedient, despite his reason for not wanting to proclaim a thing to Nineveh!

# JONAH - The PROPHECY

## Chapter Four

### READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Jonah 4** and mark every reference to the LORD speaking. Highlight the word or phrase in yellow and then circle all that you have highlighted in red.

Read through **Jonah 4** and mark every reference to Jonah with a green capital "J".

Read through **Jonah 4** and mark every reference to Nineveh with an orange capital "N".

Read through **Jonah 4** and mark every reference to time with a blue box. If the time phrase is referring to the last days or that day, fill the box in with blue to differentiate it from a general time phrase.

Read through **Jonah 4** and mark every time the LORD appointed something with a purple circle.

Read through **Jonah 4** and mark every reference to anger with an orange frown.

Read through **Jonah 4** and mark every reference to compassion with a pink circle.

Read through **Jonah 4** and mark every reference to calamity by highlighting it in brown.

Read through and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Jonah becomes angry at LORD'S compassion on Nineveh
2. Jonah prays to LORD about it
3. LORD speaks to Jonah
4. Jonah goes outside the city to watch
5. LORD appoints a plant
6. Jonah happy about plant
7. LORD appoints a worm
8. LORD appoints a scorching east wind
9. Jonah angry about plant and worm and wind
10. LORD instructs Jonah

## READ AND ANSWER

### **Jonah 4:1**

Jonah is greatly displeased? Why? Over what is Jonah greatly displeased?

What did Jonah become?

### **Jonah 4:2-3**

When Jonah became angry, what did he do?

What did he tell the LORD?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What do we find out about why Jonah fled to Tarshish?

Foretell what?

Why did Jonah believe the LORD would relent concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them?

What does Jonah know about God?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

What is Jonah's pitiful plea?

Why does he believe death would be better than life, just because God relented concerning calamity for the Assyrians? (Nineveh was the capital of Assyria.)

**Jonah 4:4**

Does the LORD respond to anything Jonah has said?

What does He ask Jonah instead?

Do we see a response from Jonah?

### **Jonah 4:5**

What did Jonah do after the LORD had rebuked him?

Once outside the city, he sat. On what side of the city was he?

Why was he on the east side? (Hint: Think through which direction he had come from Israel, and which direction he would have walked through the city of Nineveh.)

What did he make for himself?

Why did he sit under it?

What did he want to see?

### **Jonah 4:6**

What did the LORD do?

Why did the LORD appoint the plant to do?

God, in His mercy delivered Jonah from his discomfort. How did Jonah react to the plant?

**Jonah 4:7**

What did God do next?

What command was given to the worm?

When did the worm attack the plant?

What happened to the plant?

When did God appoint the worm?

**Jonah 4:8**

When did God appoint a scorching east wind?

What did the sun do?

What happened to Jonah?

1.

2.

For what did Jonah beg?

What phrase did Jonah use?

Had Jonah used this phrase before?

### **Jonah 4:9**

What question did God ask Jonah?

Had God asked Jonah this question earlier?

Last time, did we see Jonah answer God's question?

This time, do we see Jonah answer God's question?

What does Jonah reply?

**We will not hear from Jonah again.  
God will speak and the subject will be closed.**

### **Jonah 4:10-11**

What feeling does God say Jonah had toward the plant?

## POINT OF DEPTH

**This Hebrew word for compassion means to spare or have regard for.**

What does God say concerning His choice to have compassion on, to spare, or have regard for, Nineveh?

Is a city greater than a plant?

God calls Nineveh the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand, as well as animals. Are people greater than plants?

Are 120,000 persons greater than one plant?

Are persons who do not know the difference between their right and left hand greater than a plant?

Are animals greater than a plant?

Did Jonah work by planting the plant?

Did God create the people of Nineveh?

Did God create the animals of Nineveh?

Did Jonah cause the plant to grow?

Did God give life to the people of Nineveh?

Did God give life to the animals of Nineveh?

Did the plant have a long life?

Had the people and animals, which God created, lived for a long time in His sight?

Is God greater than Jonah?

## READ AND REASON

Jonah was not pleased that God would spare the Assyrians from His wrath. Jonah had decided that Assyrians should be destroyed. It is no doubt they deserved it. However, it is also no doubt that he deserved it, Israel deserved it, America deserves it, and each one of us deserves it.

**Exodus 33:18-19**

*Then Moses said,  
"I pray You, show me Your glory!"*

*And He said,*

*"I Myself will make all My goodness pass before you, and will proclaim the name of the Lord before you; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show compassion on whom I will show compassion."*

**Exodus 34:6-8**

*Then the Lord passed by in front of him and proclaimed,  
"The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."*

*Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship.*

God had shown Himself to Moses 1,000 years earlier and Jonah surely knew the character of God for he quotes the words to God.

**Jonah 4:2**

*He prayed to the Lord and said,  
"Please Lord, was not this what I said while I was still in my own country?  
Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity."*

God will have compassion on whomever He chooses. God will show mercy to whomever He chooses. God will send calamity on whomever He chooses. Many

times, when God sends calamity upon a city, it is to cause that city to look up to Him and return to Him; other times it is for judgment.

God chose to send calamity on the ship that was carrying Jonah away from God in order to bring Jonah back to Himself.

God chose to warn the Ninevites before He sent calamity their way, because He wanted them to repent. They did, and He had compassion on them. He relented concerning the calamity He had declared He would bring upon them. He did not do it.

God chose to have compassion on Jonah even as he was sitting waiting to see what would happen in Nineveh; no doubt hoping God would change His mind and bring calamity rather than compassion. God appointed a plant and delivered him from his discomfort.

God chose to bring calamity upon Jonah the next day; He appointed a worm to attack the plant; and appointed the sun to beat down on Jonah's stubborn head. Jonah seemed to believe he deserved the comfort and did not deserve the discomfort.

Little did he know, that even as God was rebuking Jonah for his lack of compassion, and teaching him about God's Own great compassion, God was at work sowing a seed of compassion and mercy which would still have remnants of fruit for His Own people fifty years later. God would send His people, the Northern Kingdom, to Assyria in just a few decades. Surely there would be Ninevites who would remember the compassion of the God of Israel fifty years earlier. Would some of the Ninevites have compassion on God's people when they came into their own city, even as captives?

**Romans 11:33**

*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God  
How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!*

**Lamentations 3:22-23**

*The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease,  
For His compassions never fail!  
They are new every morning;  
Great is Your faithfulness!*

**As Moses, we should make haste to bow low toward the ground and worship...**

