



Running

From the Will of God

Jonah 1:1-4

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • SEPTEMBER 18, 2016
 All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible: Page 851
 In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in bold faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the lighter faced text.

Overview of the Book of Jonah

Overview: Jonah is the autobiography of a reluctant prophet who did not want to preach repentance to Israel's enemy, the godless Assyrians, in their capital city, Nineveh.

Jonah: 700s BC: Best known for getting swallowed by a huge fish, Jonah bears yet another incredible distinction among God's prophets. He gave only one prophecy ("Forty days from now, Nineveh will be destroyed" – Jonah 3:4) in the book named after him—and it didn't come true.



Location: Nineveh is near what is now Mosul, Iraq.

The Fish: The original Hebrew language simply calls it a *dag gadol* literally translated "big fish." (Note: A whale is a mammal, not a fish.)

Theme: God's grace to all people—if there is repentance.

Lessons: You must not run from God's call in your life; God's love and mercy is available to all people; Disobedience leads to catastrophe in your life; there is no limit to what God can—and will—use to get your attention; failure does not necessarily disqualify you from God's service; disobedience affects the lives of others you come in contact with; nationalism/patriotism should never stand in the way of God's plan; and God is concerned about the heart of all men.

Key Verse: "I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm" (4:2)

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1. The Order

Jonah 1:1–2, HCSB -¹ The word of the LORD came [notice the Divine source] to Jonah [born in Israel but lived there only a few decades before his country got erased from the world map by one of history's most vicious empires—Assyria] SON OF Amittai:² "Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh [largest city in the world at that time, 500K pop., capital city of the Assyrians] and preach against it, because their wickedness [like ISIS of today—they loved to see people tortured and killed] has confronted [lit., "come before me"] Me."

2. The Objection

Jonah 1:3, HCSB -³ However, Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish [God commands Jonah to go 600 miles to the East, so he fled more than 1,200 miles to the West] from the LORD's presence [God said "go" and the prophet said "no"] . He went down to Joppa [the nearest seaport to his home town] and found a ship going to Tarshish [on the southeast coast of Spain]. He paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish, [away] from the LORD's presence.

3. The Ordeal

Jonah 1:4, HCSB -⁴ Then the LORD hurled a violent wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose on the sea that the ship threatened to break apart.

JONAH - Life Application Section

- God's will may not be easy—but it will be right!
- God's will may not be without risk.
- God's will may not make total sense.
- Disobedience to God's will leads to catastrophe in your life.

"If God is silent, it means it's your next move."

- Manley Beasley



God cares whether your heart says "yes" to His will!