



Three Days and Three Nights (Jonah 1:1-17)

“Turn the Boat Around”

Jonah’s Disobedience

“Now **the word of the LORD came to Jonah** the son of Amittai, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and **cry out against it**; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” But Jonah arose **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 from the presence of the LORD.” Jonah 1:1-3 NKJV

Jonah 1:1-3

- ☑ *“Now **the word of the LORD** came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,” Jonah 1:1 NKJV*
- ☑ **The Word of Yahweh**
 - ☑ The role of a prophet: to hear what God is saying and then to correct and redirect the whole of a people or their leaders, by raising awareness of their incorrect

ways, with the intent to cause a mass shift in behaviors, decisions, and governance, and thus altering their ultimate destination.

- ☑ Not to be confused with...
- ☑ Pastoral prophecy or what you might think of as personal prophecy. This is what is known as the gift of prophecy that is used to encourage, reveal, warn, discern, guide or confirm God's leading for a person's personal life.
- ☑ It's pastoral, in a sense, because a pastor's role is to provide, guide and protect his flock—one life at a time. His role is not to navigate the direction of entirety of the Body of Christ—but to stay connected with his people, face-to-face one-on-one!

☑ **Personal Prophecy (a gift, not an office)**

- ☑ The **gift is personal** and used to edify people...
- ☑ “There are **diversities of gifts**, but the same Spirit.” {10}
“to another the working of miracles, **to another prophecy**, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.” I Corinthians 12:4, 10 NKJV
- ☑ “Pursue love, and desire **spiritual gifts**, but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue

does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. **But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men.** He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but **he who prophesies edifies the church.**" I Corinthians 14:1-4 NKJV

- ☑ "But to each one of us grace was given according **to the measure of Christ's gift.** Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, **And gave gifts to men.**" (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and some **pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints** for the work of ministry, **for the edifying** of the body of Christ," Ephesians 4:7-12 NKJV

- ☑ **A Prophet (an office, not a gift)**

- ☑ The **office is foundational** and related to the "whole building!"
- ☑ "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and

members of the household of God, having been **built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone**, in whom **the whole building, being fitted together**, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”
Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJV

☑ *“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and **cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.**” Jonah 1:2 NKJV*

☑ **A Prophet**

☑ Go to Nineveh and redirect the whole of a people or their leaders, by raising awareness of their incorrect ways, with the intent to cause a mass shift in behaviors, decisions, and governance, and thus alter their ultimate destination.

☑ Jonah’s role was not to give words of knowledge or to encourage, reveal, warn, discern, guide or confirm God’s leading for a person’s personal life!

☑ *“But Jonah **arose 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 from the presence of the LORD.” Jonah 1:3
NKJV*

☑ **Running from God**

☑ Note to self: Don't run from God's assignment.

☑ **Two things to consider...**

☑ One: you cannot escape God anyway...

☑ Two: examine your heart for why you would try?

The Storm at Sea

“But the LORD **sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.** Then **the mariners were afraid;** and every man **cried out** to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. **But Jonah** had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and **was fast asleep.** So the captain came to him, and said to him, “**What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish.**” And they said to one another, “Come, **let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us.**” So they cast lots, and **the lot fell on Jonah.** Then they said to him, “Please tell us! **For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” So 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. "" Jonah 1:4-9 NKJV

Jonah 1:4-9

☑ *“But **the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But **Jonah** had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and **was fast asleep.** So the captain came to him, and said to him, “**What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish.**””*** Jonah 1:4-6 NKJV

☑ The Lord sent out a great wind on the sea...

☑ “Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. **And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea [Jonah: and there was a mighty tempest on the sea.], so that the boat was covered with the waves [Luke 8:23 they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy.] [Jonah: the ship was about to be broken up.].** **But He was asleep [Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.]** Then

His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying,
“Lord, save us! We are perishing!” [Jonah: What do you
mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your
God will consider us, so that we may not perish.]

Matthew 8:23-25 NKJV

☑ Jonah and Y’shua

- ☑ Jonah’s name means “Dove”
- ☑ Y’shua said... “Behold, I send you out as **sheep in the midst of wolves**. Therefore be wise **as serpents and harmless as doves**.” Matthew 10:16 NKJV

☑ As gentle as Jonah was supposed to be!

- ☑ Both are in the boat as the storm rages.
- ☑ Both are fast asleep.
- ☑ Both are awakened by panicked passengers in fear for their lives.

- ☑ *“And they said to one another, “Come, let us **cast lots**, that we may know for **whose cause this trouble has come upon us**.” So they cast lots, **and the lot fell on Jonah**. Then they said to him, “Please tell us! **For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?** So 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.”” Jonah 1:7-9

NKJV

This is where they go sideways!

- The men are in full panic mode.
 - They roll some dice to figure out the cause of their trouble!
 - Of course this is not by chance, but by design.
 - Yahweh wants to get Jonah’s attention.

Questions and Answers

- Questions...
 - What is causing this trouble?
 - What is your occupation?
 - Where do you come from (country and nationality)?
- Answers...
 - I am a Hebrew
 - I fear Yahweh
 - He is the God of heaven, the one who made the sea and the land...
 - “The sea is His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry land.” Psalms 95:5 NKJV

Thrown into the Sea

“Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, **“Why have you done this?”** For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?”—for the sea was growing more tempestuous. And 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 this great tempest is because of me.”** Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them. Therefore they cried out to the LORD and said, **“We pray, O LORD, please do not let us perish for this man’s life, and do not charge us with innocent blood;** for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You.” **So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.** Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and took vows.”
Jonah 1:10-16 NKJV

Jonah 1:10-16

***“Then the men were exceedingly afraid,* and said to him, *“Why have you done this?”* For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them. Then they said to him, *“What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?”*—for the sea was growing more**

tempestuous. And 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 this great tempest is because of me." "Jonah 1:10-12 NKJV

☑ **More Fear More Questions**

- ☑ We are very afraid; what should we do?
- ☑ This guy has run from God and we are in the midst of his punishment.
- ☑ What can we do to calm this raging sea?
- ☑ "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" Matthew 8:25

☑ **Answer from Jonah**

- ☑ "*Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you.*"

- ☑ "*Nevertheless **the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not**, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them.*" Jonah 1:13 NKJV

☑ **In another stormy incident...**

- ☑ "Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He was alone on the land. **Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them.** Now about the fourth watch of the night **He came to them, walking on the sea,** and **would have passed them**

by. And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out; for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, **“Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”** Then He went up into the boat to them, and **the wind ceased.** And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.” Mark 6:47-52 NKJV (also John 6:16-21)

- ☑ The disciples were straining against the wind and waves.
- ☑ In contrast to Jonah hiding from the presence of the Lord, the Lord was walking into the presence of His disciples.
- ☑ In contrast to the wind ceasing **when Jonah is tossed from the boat**, Y’shua **gets into the boat** and the wind ceases!
- ☑ The underlying message here, as we look back at Jonah’s story is this. If he would have told the sailors to turn the boat around and head back toward Nineveh, the waters would have calmed instantly, like when Y’shua got into the boat. But he chose

instead, **“Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you.”**

- ☑ Notice that as Y’shua walked on the water toward His fearful disciples, He would have passed them by had they noticed Him. In fact, in the Matthew 14:22-33 version, Peter takes it a step further by stepping out on the water himself, like Jonah maybe?
- ☑ Peter is called the Son of Jonah by Christ in three areas of Scripture...this is likely because Peter was constantly resisting the Lord.
- ☑ “And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, **“You are Simon the son of Jonah.** You shall be called Cephas” (which is translated, A Stone).”
John 1:42 NKJV
- ☑ Peter knows His Lord (like Jonah)
 - ☑ “When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, **“Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”** So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, **“Blessed are you, Simon**

Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”” Matthew 16:13-19 NKJV

☑ **Peter resists the Lord like Jonah**

☑ “From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then **Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him**, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” But He turned and said to Peter, “**Get behind Me, Satan!** You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”” Matthew 16:21-23 NKJV

☑ Peter Denies Y’shua...

☑ “Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, “You also were with Jesus of Galilee.” **But he denied it** before them all, saying, “I

do not know what you are saying." And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." **But again he denied with an oath,** "I do not know the Man!" And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." Then he began to curse and swear, saying, **"I do not know the Man!"** Immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, **you will deny Me three times.**" So he went out and wept bitterly." Matthew 26:69-75 NKJV

Peter is Restored (like Jonah)

- "So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, **"Simon, son of Jonah,** do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, **"Feed My lambs."** He said to him again a second time, **"Simon, son of Jonah,** do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, **"Tend My sheep."** He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because

He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "**Feed My sheep.**

Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you **and carry you where you do not wish.**" This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me." John 21:15-19 NKJV

☑ **Matthew adds Peter walking on water...**

- ☑ "Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. **But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.** Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." **And Peter**

answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.””
Matthew 14:22-33 NKJV

- ☑ Matthew includes the narrative of Peter walking on water toward the presence of the Lord.
- ☑ As long as his eyes are on Y’shua (not fleeing from the Lord), things are good!
- ☑ **Fix your eyes on the Lord!**
 - ☑ “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising

the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV

☑ *"Therefore they cried out to the Lord and said, "We pray, O Lord, please do not let us perish for this man's life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O Lord, have done as it pleased You." **So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.** " Jonah 1:14-15 NKJV*

☑ **Jonah touches the water and the sea was calmed!**

☑ Back to our first incident with Y'shua and the raging sea...

☑ "But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then **He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea**, and there was a great calm. So the men marveled, saying, "**Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?**" Matthew 8:26-27 NKJV

☑ Y'shua commands the winds and the sea... who can do such a thing?

☑ Had Jonah stayed on the boat and turned in around...

☑ **"The winds and the sea obey Him."**

☑ “In His hand are the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills are His also. **The sea is His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry land.**” Psalms 95:4-5
NKJV

☑ “Then ***the men feared the Lord*** exceedingly, and ***offered a sacrifice to the Lord*** and took vows.” Jonah 1:16 NKJV

☑ **A Powerful Witness**

☑ What these sailors witnessed turned them to the Lord?
But what about Jonah?

Three Days and Three Nights

“Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.” Jonah 1:17 NKJV

Jonah 1:17

☑ “Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah ***was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.***” Jonah 1:17 NKJV

☑ **The sign of the Prophet Jonah!**

☑ “Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.” But He

answered and said to them, **“An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.** The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.” Matthew 12:38-42 NKJV

☑ **How is it possible you could miss something so obvious?**

- ☑ “Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said to them, “When it is evening you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red’; and in the morning, ‘It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it **except the sign of**

the prophet Jonah.” And He left them and departed.”

Matthew 16:1-4 NKJV

☑ **“An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign and there will be only one,” ...the sign of the prophet Jonah.**

☑ Jonah was swallowed by a great fish and was “entombed” deep in its gut for three days and three nights—then he was released.

☑ Y’shua “entombed” three days and three nights—then Y’shua will also be entombed three days and three nights before He is released.

☑ Ironically multiple generations of Christians, even to the present day, cannot count three days and three nights in their death, burial and resurrection narrative.

☑ The sign of Jonah has eluded them, even as it did those trapped in religionship in the first century—what Y’shua called an evil and adulterous generation!

☑ [Passover Teachings](#) for three days/three nights!

NEXT TEACHING

Gastric Prayers (Jonah 2:1-10)