



A Jesus University Study
Sundays @9:45am
(except on 1st Sundays)

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About the Class

Study: Book of Jonah

Duration: 6 Sessions *(no class August 7th)*

Curriculum: The Bible *(NASB)*

Study progression method: Verse-by-Verse

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Classroom Expectations

Seek to bring value to the class through participation

“Parking lot” tangential questions/comments till end

Strive to apply lessons learned throughout the weeks

Purposely get to know someone new & pray for them

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Study Overview

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Purpose The purpose of this study is to show the extent of God's grace – the message of salvation is for everyone.

Author (?) Jonah, son of Amittai

Date Written Approximately 785 – 760 B.C

Audience God's people everywhere

Settings Joppa, Nineveh, Belly of a large fish

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Key Passage

Jonah 4:11



“Should I not also have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 people, who do not know the difference between their right hand and their left, as well as many animals?”

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Chapter 1 – Abandoning the Mission

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Jonah 1:1-3 [Jonah runs away from God]

¹ The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² “Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and cry out against it, because their wickedness has come up before Me.” ³ But Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship that was going to Tarshish, paid the fare, and boarded it to go with them to Tarshish away from the presence of the LORD.

Jonah 1:4-6

[Jonah runs away from God]

⁴However, 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 out to his god, and they hurled the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone below into the stern of the ship, had 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."

Jonah 1:7-9

[Jonah runs away from God]

⁷And each man said to his mate, "Come, let's cast lots so that we may find out on whose account this catastrophe 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 catastrophe struck us? What is your occupation, and where do you come from? What is your country, and from what people are you?" ⁹ So he said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land."



Jonah 1:10-12
[Jonah runs away from God]

¹⁰Then the men became extremely afraid, 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. ¹¹ So they said to him, “What should we do to you so that the sea will become calm for us?”—for the sea was becoming increasingly stormy. ¹² And he said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm for you, because I know that on account of me this great storm has come upon you.”

Jonah 1:13-14
[Jonah runs away from God]

¹³ However, the men rowed desperately to return to land, but they could not, because the sea was becoming even stormier against them. ¹⁴ Then they cried out to 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, Lord, have done as You pleased.”



Jonah 1:15-17
[Jonah runs away from God]

¹⁵So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging. ¹⁶ Then the men became extremely afraid of the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. ¹⁷ And the Lord designated a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish for three days and three nights.

Jonah 1:1-3
[Jonah runs away from God]

¹ The word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² “Arise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and cry out against it, because their wickedness has come up before Me.” ³ But Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship that was going to Tarshish, paid the fare, and boarded it to go with them to Tarshish away from the presence of the LORD.

Jonah 1:1-3

[Jonah runs away from God]

Why did the Lord command Jonah to go to Nineveh?
Did Jonah obey?

Tarshish ☆
An unknown port city in the Western region of the Mediterranean (1:3), i.e. in the opposite direction to Ninevah.
Directions Search nearby Save to... move▼

Joppa ☆
A port city in Judah (1:3), where Jonah disobeyed and boarded a ship for Tarshish.
Directions Search nearby Save to... move▼

Nineveh ☆
"That great city" (1:2), namely the capital of Assyria and home to 120,000 of Israel's enemies (as well as many cattle). Also, the mission destination of Jonah.
Directions Search nearby Save to... move▼

The Assyrian king (3:6)

The great fish (1:17)

The Temple (2:4,7)

More... Map Satellite Earth

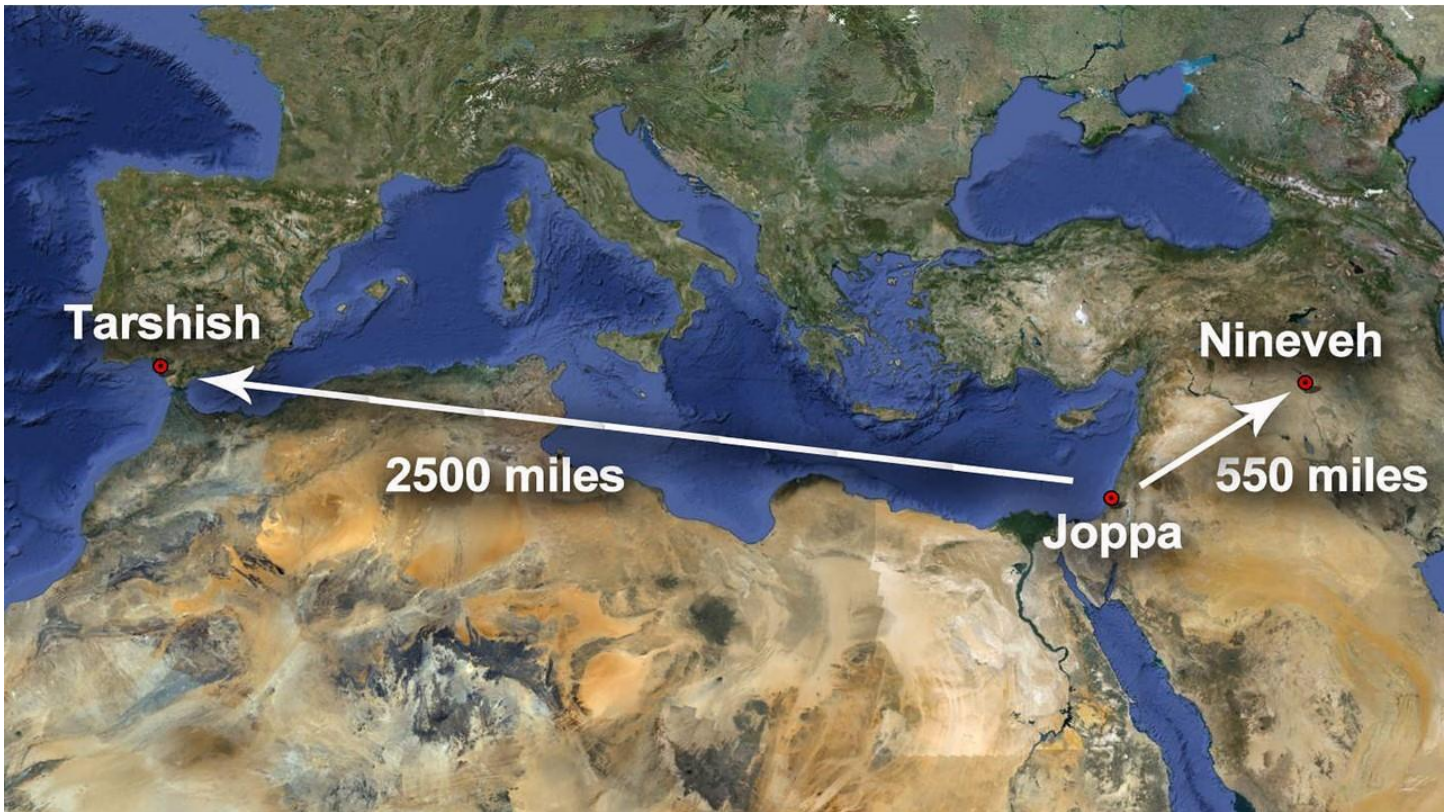
FRANCE ITALY TURKEY ASSYRIA ISRAEL JUDAH EGYPT BABYLONIA

SPAIN Tarshish?

Joppa Gath-hepher Jerusalem

Mediterranean Sea

THE FLIGHT THE MISSION



Jonah 1:1-3

[key takeaways from this passage]

- God called Jonah to preach to Nineveh, the capital of Assyria (vv.1,2)
- Assyria was the rising world power of Jonah's day
- Assyria was guilty of evil plots against God (*Nahum 1:9*)
- Jonah's hatred was strong against Nineveh, and he was actually afraid that they would repent. (v. 3)
- Jonah's disdain for Nineveh represents Israel's reluctance to share God's love and mercy with others despite their mission to do so (*Gen 12:3*)



Jonah 1:1-3

[Jonah runs away from God]

Jonah ran away from God out of fear. He did not want to carry out the assignment because he did not agree with the assignment.

Have you ever run away from God because you were either afraid of the assignment or perhaps in disagreement? How did that work out for you?

Jonah 1:4-6

[Jonah runs away from God]

⁴However, 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 out to his god, and they hurled the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone below into the stern of the ship, had 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."



Jonah 1:4-6
[Jonah runs away from God]

What was God's response to Jonah's disobedience?

Jonah 1:4-6
[key takeaways from this passage]

- The Israelites had been a nomadic people before settling into The Promise Land. Their location along the Mediterranean sea and other areas gave them access to ships and sailors. Jonah perhaps boarded a large trading vessel. (v. 4)
- Jonah's disobedience endangered the lives of others
- Jonah was sound asleep during the storm perhaps with a guilt-free conscience. (v. 4)

Jonah 1:7-9

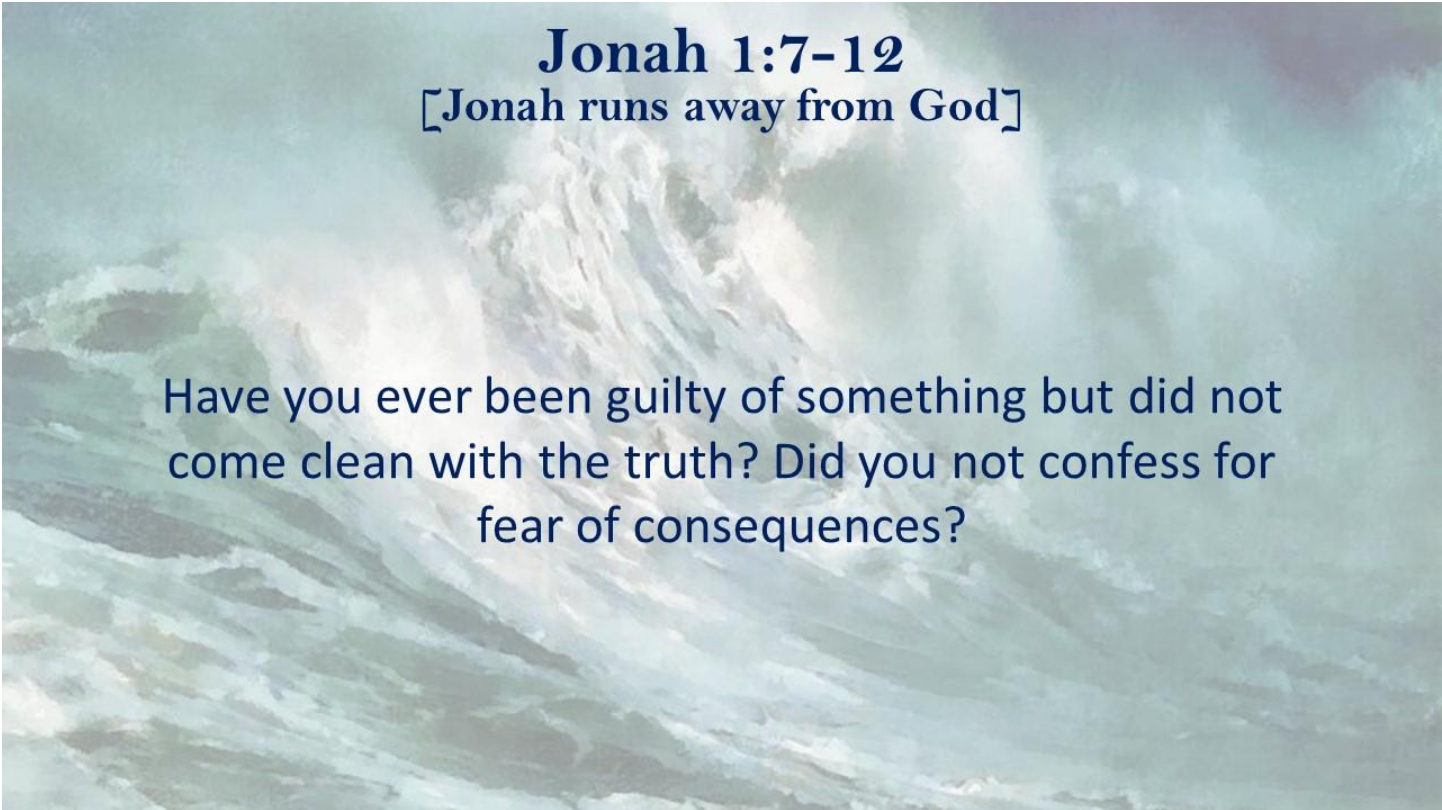
[Jonah runs away from God]

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Jonah 1:7-12

[Jonah runs away from God]

Have you ever been guilty of something but did not come clean with the truth? Did you not confess for fear of consequences?

Jonah 1:7-12

[key takeaways from this passage]

- The sailors were so afraid that they started calling on all kinds of gods.
- The crew cast lots to discover the guilty (using chance to find the truth)
- God allows the casting of lots to expose Jonah to let him know that he couldn't run from the call
- You can not seek God's love and run from him at the same time.
- Jonah knew that his disobedience caused the storm but didn't say a word until the crew cast lots.
- Jonah's hatred for Nineveh (the Assyrian empire) affected his loyalty to God



Jonah 1:13-14
[Jonah runs away from God]

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Jonah 1:15-16
[Jonah runs away from God]

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Jonah 1:13-16
[Jonah runs away from God]

By trying to save Jonah's life, the heathen sailors showed more compassion than Jonah showed for Nineveh.



Jonah 1:13-16
[Jonah runs away from God]

- As believers we are to show the most compassion for others whether they are lost or saved
- Jonah could not outrun God, so he had to start being obedient during the storm
- Admitting our sin can “literally” be life-changing for others. The pagan sailors’ hearts were changed toward God as a result of Jonah’s confession



Jonah 1:17
[Jonah runs away from God]

17 And the Lord designated a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish for three days and three nights.



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(scan to download)

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