

- 2) What occupation? Was it an ordinary one? Was it one which was displeasing to God? What had he left?
- 3) Whence comest? Where were you before you got on this boat?
- 4) What country? Was he a foreigner or what?
- 5) What people? What national group did he belong to?

b. By the prophet. v. 9.

Jonah confessed the truth. He noted two facts about himself:-

- 1) I am a Hebrew. This is a term normally employed to distinguish from the heathen (cf. 32 times in the O.T.: Gen. 40:15; Ex. 1:19).
- 2) I fear God the Lord. This phrase means he stood in awe of Him. Jonah added that He is the One Who is the God of both Jews and Gentiles (heaven). He is the One who controls the raging sea and the dry land. He is both the Creator and the Supreme Being. No doubt with Jonah as to Who God is!

Conclusion. It is clear that the flight of Jonah was not allowed to stand unreacted to by God. The sailors were in a pitiful situation because of the dead weight of a disobedient servant of God. God Himself became dishonored. One of the most striking statements of all Scriptures, however, is noted at this time: "Why hast thou done this (v.10)?" Why did you who worship the one true God flee from HIM? It has well been said: "Avowed skepticism cannot do a tenth part of the injury to practical faith, that the constant spectacle of the huge mass of worldly unreal belief does." It is really not so strange that the world should reject the Gospel. This is a patent explanation but God help you not to hide behind it for you are eternally responsible to believe on Christ no matter how numerous are the cases of unbelief! Amen.

BOOK OF JONAH
 "What Do You Mean?"
 Jonah 1:3-10

Introduction

1. The story of Jonah is so human and so much like the experiences of others who know the Lord. The more you read it, the more you become involved in the affairs and circumstances of your own life.

2. Jonah had some real problems. Not the least of them was his inability to listen to God's charge for service. What this meant for him and how it affected the rest of his contacts is given attention in this section. He was a man who demonstrated the fact that you can't live any portion of your life unto yourself.

3. Trace carefully the episode as recorded and see at least three who are touched by the actions of the prophet. Along with this you will find lessons of spiritual content you will not want to forget. They all accent the matter of disobedience. This is seen in:-

1. The FLIGHT of Jonah. vv. 3, 4.

a. Action of Jonah. v. 3.

A series of verbal words explain exactly what Jonah did. Mark them in your Bible:-

- 1) Rose. The big item here is that Jonah stood up to disobey and not to heed the Word of the Lord. He rose to flee! He couldn't go from the Lord (Psa. 139), but from His influence and from the place where he could fulfill God's Word.
- 2) Went down. Like the man in the N.T., Jonah was on the descent (Luke 10:30). Sin always leads this way.
- 3) Found. The ship was there and the wayward servant of God located it! How tragic. He ferreted out help to disobey God.

- 4) Paid. The price of disobedience is always there.
- 5) Went down to go. A second rehearsal that the way of Jonah was down. He seemed to have done all in his attempt to get away from the Lord. He had taken the fullest measures.

b. Reaction of God. v. 5.

God's measures are in response to what Jonah had done. He apparently allows men to go a certain distance and then--then He moves in to show it in His doing and not theirs! Again mark the verbal words of action:-

- 1) Sent. The original means that God sent along a wind. The wind was no ordinary blowing.
- 2) Caused. With the wind came a terrific tempest. Jonah had sought peace, but found instead the restlessness of the elements at his heels. The word "great" is used to qualify both the wind and the movements of the sea.
- 3) Made. Jonah seems to personalize the ship so as to give it the ability to think for that is the meaning of the verb "like." It is as if an inanimate object sensed its own danger. It was ready to think it would break in pieces.

NOTE:

Any movement against the will of God will provoke the movement from God!

2. The PLIGHT of the mariners. vv. 5-7.

a. With themselves. v. 5.

- 1) Afraid. This is the common verb for fright and it made them withdraw from the Supernatural!
- 2) Cried. This verb means to exclaim, cry, and this by way of complaint. To implore for help.

- 3) Cast forth. The literal translation is "to lighten from against them." They did not realize that the whole weight was the prophet. Nothing is so onerous and heavy as sin!

b. With Jonah. vv. 5, 6.

- 1) Gone down. A man who runs from God also runs from man. He shrank from himself and cared not to communicate with others.
- 2) Lay fast asleep. Literally he was snoring. He was oppressed with a deep sleep and stupified. It may have been that the sorrow of the whole thing had got to him (Luke 22:41). It was in this condition that the master of the ship came to him and rebuked him for failing to be involved in the tragedy which had befallen them (v.6). He asked him bluntly "What ails you?" The master of the ship and his crew all knew that the present storm was no common one. The surges were an infliction borne down from God and above the skill of man. They all left their oars, sails, cables, and gave themselves and their hands to heaven and called upon God. The master also recognized that Jonah's God was the God.

c. With evil. v. 7.

The major concern here is that evil had befallen them. Who was to blame. The lot was cast and fell upon Jonah (cf. Prov. 16:33). It was God Who guided the lots. As a result, something had to be done with Jonah to still the roaring sea which kept on accusing him!

3. The BLIGHT of God. vv. 8-10.

a. By the sailers. v. 8.

There are five successive quick questions in a court scene on that turbulent sea. A hearing and defence were allowed!

- 1) Whose cause? Literally this means: "for what to whom?" Was he guilty against someone? They did not press the fact of guilt before God.