

Book 8

Jonah: Running from God or Listening to God

Recite the verses below from memory.

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)

- ¹When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.
- ²He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying,³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
- ⁵Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.
- ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.
- ⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
- ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
- ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- ¹⁰Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ¹¹Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.
- ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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Recite the names of each of the books of the OT in order from memory.

Old Testament Books (39)

Law	History		
Genesis	Joshua	1 & 2 Chronicles	
Exodus	Judges	Ezra	
Leviticus	Ruth	Nehemiah	
Numbers	1 & 2 Samuel	Esther	
Deuteronomy	1 & 2 Kings		
Poetry	Prophecy		
Job	Isaiah	Joel	Habakkuk
Psalms	Jeremiah	Amos	Zephaniah
Proverbs	Lamentations	Obadiah	Haggai
Ecclesiastes	Ezekiel	Jonah	Zechariah
Song of Solomon	Daniel	Micah	Malachi
	Hosea	Nahum	

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Read the Old Testament book, Jonah, and answer the following questions.

As you read, try to come up with a word or phrase that describes each chapter.

Ch. 1 _____

Ch. 2 _____

Ch. 3 _____

Ch. 4 _____

Section 8:3 _____ **Date** _____

Circle the section of the Old Testament in which the book of Jonah appears.

Old Testament (39)	
Law	Poetry
History	Prophecy

Jonah is unique among all of the Old Testament prophetic books because it is written in more of a story form. Stories are full of details that help us understand what happened.

1. Who was Jonah's father (1:1)?

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2. What did God command Jonah to do (1:2)?
3. Did Jonah decide to obey God or disobey Him? How do we know what Jonah decided (1:3)?
4. Verse 3 teaches us that Jonah felt like he was about to hide or get away from *the presence of the Lord*. However, as soon as we begin reading verse 4, who do we see still involved in the story?
5. How did God try to get the attention of Jonah and the men on the ship's crew (1:5)?
6. Surprisingly, Jonah finds a way to ignore what God is doing. What is Jonah doing while God is trying to get his attention (1:5)?
7. The crew tried to do several things to make their situation improve:
 - a. v. 5 _____
 - b. v. 6 _____
 - c. v. 7 _____

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Did you know???

Casting lots is a way of giving a test to see if the truth can be known. Sometimes men would each choose from a group of straws to see which one drew the shortest straw. They believed that God would show who the guilty one was. The Bible teaches that God is able to use the practice of casting lots to help determine the truth.

Read Jonah ch. 1 and answer the following questions.

1. When Jonah began to answer the questions of the crew, he was forced to admit that God really was behind all that was happening. Jonah had to admit to himself that he was not able to run from God. What else does Jonah tell us about God in v. 9?
2. What unusual thing did Jonah advise the men to do to him?

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3. Did the men follow Jonah's advice?
4. What happened to the storm as soon as the men finally listened to Jonah (1:15)?
5. How did the crew of the ship respond to the miracle (1:16)?
6. While the sea was now calm, Jonah probably wasn't. He was stranded in the Mediterranean Sea with no hope of surviving. How did God respond to this situation in Jonah's life (1:17)?
7. How long did God protect Jonah in the belly of the fish (1:17)?

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Read Jonah ch. 2 and answer
the following questions.

1. Chapter 1 began with God speaking to Jonah. In chapter 2, Jonah is speaking to God. Where is Jonah (2:1)?
2. Jonah had disobeyed God; however, when Jonah prayed, how did God respond (2:2, 7)?
3. The *depth of Sheol* is a reference to Jonah feeling like he is on the edge of dying or of being in his grave. He is desperate before God. Before Jonah prayed, what thought does he say was going through his mind (2:4)?
4. In 2:5-6, Jonah describes what happened after he landed in the water. He lists five different things that he remembers from that time. Which ones make it sound like he is about to die?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____

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1. In spite of how Jonah's desperate situation, God helped him. How does Jonah describe this? (2:6)?
2. While in the belly of the fish, Jonah describes how he will begin responding to God. He says he will *sacrifice to the Lord with the voice of thanksgiving* (v.9). A sacrifice was the way people in the Old Testament showed their sorrow for their sins against God. Why do you think Jonah said he would do this with a thankful heart? (2:8-9)
3. When Jonah says that *salvation is from the LORD*, he obviously believes that God could save him from dying. What else does Jonah (and all of us) need to be saved from?
4. When Jonah confessed his sinfulness to God, God chose to preserve Jonah's life in a new way. After three days of being kept alive in the belly of a fish, where does Jonah end up?

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Read Jonah ch. 3 and answer
the following questions.

1. Compare 3:2 to 1:2. Both of these verses record God's commands to Jonah. In what way is God's second command to Jonah different from the first one?
2. What can we learn about the city of Ninevah?
3. Ninevah is described in almost exactly what way in three different places (1:2, 3:2, 3:3)?
4. What message did Jonah preach to the people of the city (3:4)?

Section 8:8 _____ **Date** _____

1. How did the people and the king respond to Jonah's message of judgment (3:5)?

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Did you know???

Sackcloth is rough cloth made of something like camel's or goat's hair, and was usually worn as a symbol of mourning or penitence.

2. When the king heard Jonah's message, he made several amazing commands. What did he command the people to do and not to do?
Not to do _____
Do not _____
Do not _____
To do _____
Be covered with _____
Call on _____
3. What did the king hope would happen if his people called on God earnestly (3:9)?
4. In 2:10, God answered Jonah's prayer and spared him from death. In 3:10, God answers the prayer of the people of Ninevah and spares them from death. What do these verses teach us about the heart of God?

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Read Jonah ch. 4 and answer
the following questions.

1. The final chapter begins in a way that probably surprises you. How we expect Jonah to feel about God's forgiving the people of Ninevah?
2. How did Jonah actually feel (4:1)?

What in the World???

Jonah prays again to God (4:2), but this prayer sounds very different from his prayer in chapter 2. In this prayer, Jonah actually tells us why he tried to run away from God in the first place. **Jonah does not want to preach to the people of Ninevah, because he does not want to see God forgive them.** This is hard to understand, isn't it? But it helps us realize how evil these people were—they were known for being cruel and wicked. Jonah wants God to judge them, not forgive them.

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3. Jonah describes God in many ways (4:2). In the table below, write what you think Jonah means when he describes God this way.

Jonah Describes God As . . .
Gracious
Compassionate
Slow to Anger
Abundant in Loving Kindness
Relents Concerning Calamity

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Read Jonah ch. 4 and answer
the following questions.

1. Jonah is very unhappy with God and actually wants God to kill him (4:3). After listening to Jonah, how does God respond (4:4)?
2. What sin does God say is in Jonah's heart?
3. Instead of answering, Jonah runs from God again – only this time not so far away. He waits outside Ninevah in the hot sun as a challenge to God to keep His promise to destroy it (4:5). While Jonah is still angry at God, God does something kind for him. What does God do (4:6)?
4. What is Jonah's response to God's gift of comfort?
5. When God takes away the gift (4:7), how does Jonah respond (4:8)? He responded the same in 4:3.
6. What lesson is God trying to teach Jonah through gift of the plant and then the death of the plant (vv. 10-11)?

Section 8:11 _____ Date _____

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Recite the verses below from memory.

Deuteronomy 6:5

*You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your might.*

Psalm 119:2

*How blessed are those who observe His testimonies,
who seek Him with all their heart.*

Jeremiah 29:13

*You will seek Me and find Me
when you search for Me with all your heart.*

Section 8:12 _____ Date _____

In your own words, write a summary of
Jonah. Include one lesson you learned.

Section 8:13 _____ Date _____