

obstacle course

SUNDAY JULY 13 2025

INTRODUCTION TO JONAH

The Book of Jonah is the fifth of the Minor Prophets. It is unique among the "Latter Prophets" in being almost completely narrative. Jonah prophesied during or shortly before the reign of Jeroboam II (793–753 B.C.).

DATE AND SETTING

Jonah ministered after the time of Elisha and just before the time of Amos and Hosea.

Many modern readers still dismiss the work because the text tells us that Jonah was saved from the storm when swallowed by a "great fish" (Jonah 1:17).

- How you respond to this will depend on how you read the rest of the Bible. If you accept the existence of God and the resurrection of Christ (a far greater miracle), then there is nothing particularly difficult about reading Jonah literally.
- The text does not show evidence of the author having made up the miracle account. A fiction writer ordinarily adds supernatural elements in order to create excitement or spectacle and to capture reader attention, but this writer doesn't capitalize on the event at all in that way. The fish is mentioned only in two brief verses and there are no descriptive details.
- Until the nineteenth century, Jonah was regarded as history. Before that there had been skeptics who had denied much of its truth and regarded its miracles as mere folklore.
- Jesus referred to the story of Jonah as something obviously historical (Matt 12:38–41, Luke 11:29–30, 32).

JONAH 1:1–2

1 Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me."

Jonah had a _____.

JONAH 1:3

3 But Jonah rose 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, away from the presence of the Lord.

Jonah avoided _____

JONAH 1:4-10

4 But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. 5 Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep 6 So the captain came and said to him, "What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish. 7 And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?" 9 And 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." 10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

Jonah's Wound Impacted _____

Temporary relief is not the same _____

Minimizing the pain only _____

Healing starts the moment you stop _____

1. Face _____

2. Process _____

3. Invite _____