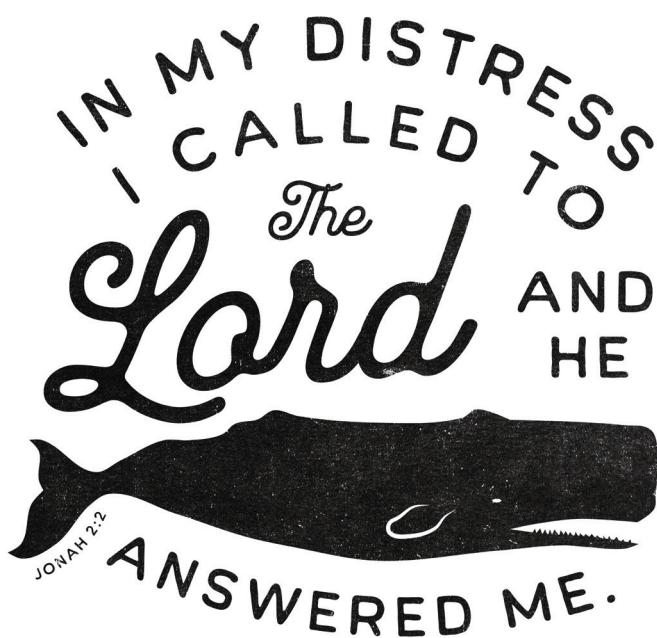


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SCRIPTURE JOURNAL

**Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible,  
New International Version® NIV®**

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## MEMORY VERSE

*"In my distress I called to the Lord,  
and he answered me.  
From deep in the realm  
of the dead I called for help,  
and you listened to my cry."*

**Jonah 2:2**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Memory Verse . . . . .               | 3  |
| O.I.A. Study Method . . . . .        | 6  |
| Jonah Outline . . . . .              | 8  |
| Background and Context . . . . .     | 10 |
| Jonah 1:1-3 . . . . .                | 12 |
| Jonah 1:4-16 . . . . .               | 14 |
| Jonah's Disobedience (Map) . . . . . | 17 |
| Jonah 1:17-2:10 . . . . .            | 18 |
| Jonah 3:1-3 . . . . .                | 22 |
| Jonah 3:4-10 . . . . .               | 24 |
| Jonah 4:1-4 . . . . .                | 27 |
| Jonah 4:5-11 . . . . .               | 29 |

# O.I.A. BIBLE STUDY

**Tools :** Bible, Journal, Pen

**Time:** 15 - 30 min

- Begin with prayer (Matt. 6:9-14. Rom. 8:26-27)
- Read the Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16-17, Heb. 4:12-13)
- Make Observations
- Use the 7 Arrows ➡

## OBSERVATIONS

### KEY WORDS

Underline words that are important. People, Places, Repeated Words

### COMMANDS, WARNINGS

"Star" what to do or not to do.  
Look for action words.

### CONNECTIVES

Circle these words.

but = contrasts

if = conditional clauses

for, because, therefore =

reason and results

in order that = purpose

### CONTRAST, COMPARISON, ILLUSTRATION

Draw arrows and label.

(CON., COM. ILL.)

Contrasts describe differences, comparisons describe

similarities, illustrations

describe information or ideas

by example.

### REPETITION, PROGRESSIONS

Underline repeated words or phrases. [bracket] lists of items or ideas. Ask. is there a significance to their order?

### QUESTIONS

Does the question asked introduce an idea, summarize a series of ideas, or challenge your thinking?

Put a question mark by anything you don't understand or need to study further.

# 7 ARROWS METHOD

## INTERPRETATION



What does this passage say?  
Summarize it in a sentence or two.



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage say about God?



What does this passage say about humanity?

## APPLICATION



What does this passage ask me to do?



How does this passage change the way I relate to other people?



What does this passage prompt me to pray to God?  
Write this down.



# OUTLINE

## Ch. 1 —

### **JONAH'S FLIGHT FROM GOD**

The Lord calls; Jonah rebels **1:1-3**

The Lord sends a storm **1:4-6**

The sailors intervene **1:7-16**

The Lord sends a big fish **1:17**

## Ch. 2 —

### **JONAH'S PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FROM THE FISH**

Jonah prays **2:1-9**

The Lord delivers Jonah **2:10**



## OUTLINE

### Ch. 3 —

#### **JONAH'S PREACHING IN NINEVEH**

Jonah obeys the call **3:1-4**

The King and Ninevites repent **3:5-9**

The Lord withholds judgment **3:10**

### Ch. 4 —

#### **JONAH'S ANGER AT GOD'S MERCY**

The Lord displeases Jonah **4:1-5**

Jonah displeases the Lord **4:6-10**

The Lord shows great pity **4:11**

# JONAH

## *BACKGROUND & CONTEXT*

The book of Jonah is part of 'The Twelve', which are a single book composed of the twelve letters from the minor prophets found in the Hebrew Scriptures. We tend to think of them as separate books, but they were always collected together into one scroll, the scroll of 'The Twelve'.

Jonah is unique in The Twelve because rather than a series of oracles, it is written as historical narrative similar to the stories about Elijah and Elisha in 1 and 2 Kings. Jonah is also the only minor prophet referred to by Jesus Christ (Matt 12:41, Luke 11:32).

Jonah was a prophet during the reign of Jeroboam II (2 Kings 14:23-25). Jeroboam reigned in the northern kingdom of Israel from 792-753 BC. He was a prophet sent to Israel's enemies in Nineveh, the capitol of Assyria. The Assyrians were a brutal people known for their vicious cruelty and they would later conquer the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 BC. This would be in the mind of every Israelite who heard and read this story. God was extending His grace and love to Israel's enemies, which can help us understand what Jonah, the unwilling prophet, was running from.

God has chosen Israel as His servant in His worldwide mission to bless "all the families of the earth" (Gen. 12:3). Whether friend or foe, God's salvation is broad enough to reach both Israelites and Gentiles who repent. Join us as we dive into the depths of God's grace for humanity.

# JONAH

## BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

### About Jonah

Jonah was a Hebrew prophet during the 8th century BC. He was the son of Amittai and he came from Gath Hepher, a town in the tribe of Zebulun in the Kingdom of Israel.

### About Nineveh

Nineveh was located on the east bank of the Tigris River, about 500 miles from Samaria, capital of the northern kingdom of Israel. Nineveh was the center of civilization and commerce in the world. Archaeological digs have uncovered massive walls that were eight miles in circumference and included both an inner wall and an outer wall. It had a water aqueduct, palaces, and a massive library.

While Nineveh did initially repent and were spared when Jonah delivered his message, they repeated their history and were later destroyed in 612 BC when King Nabopolassar of Babylon joined forces with Cyaxares, king of the Medes, and laid siege to the city for three months (prophecied by both Nahum and Zephaniah).

### Authorship

While the book of Jonah is anonymous, church tradition ascribes it to the prophet himself. If Jonah did not write it, it is surely based on his own retelling of the story.

### Date of Composition

The exact date of composition is unknown. It could have been written anytime from the eighth century to the end of the Hebrew Scripture period.

# JONAH 1:1-3

<sup>1</sup> The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai:

<sup>2</sup> “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

<sup>3</sup> But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

## OBSERVATION:

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**INTERPRETATION:**

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**APPLICATION:**

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**NOTES/PRAYER:**

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# JONAH 1:4-16

<sup>4</sup> Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup> All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. <sup>6</sup> The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”

<sup>7</sup> Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup> So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

<sup>9</sup> He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

<sup>10</sup> This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)

<sup>11</sup> The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him,

“What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

<sup>12</sup> “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

<sup>13</sup> Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. <sup>14</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD, “Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased.”

<sup>15</sup> Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. <sup>16</sup> At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

## **OBSERVATION:**

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**NOTES/PRAYER:**

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## JONAH'S DISOBEDIENCE

*in contemporary context*

1 **JOPPA**  
JNH 1:2

2 **TARSHISH**  
JNH 1:3

3 **THE STORM**  
JNH 1:4-16

4 **NINEVEH**  
JNH 3:3

# JONAH 1:17-2:10

<sup>17</sup> Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

**2** From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God.

<sup>2</sup> He said:

“In my distress I called to the LORD,  
and he answered me.

From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help,  
and you listened to my cry.

<sup>3</sup> You hurled me into the depths,  
into the very heart of the seas,  
and the currents swirled about me;  
all your waves and breakers  
swept over me.

<sup>4</sup> I said, ‘I have been banished  
from your sight;  
yet I will look again  
toward your holy temple.’

<sup>5</sup> The engulfing waters threatened me,  
the deep surrounded me;

seaweed was wrapped around my head.

<sup>6</sup> To the roots of the mountains I sank down;

the earth beneath barred me in forever.

But you, LORD my God,

brought my life up from the pit.

<sup>7</sup> “When my life was ebbing away,

I remembered you, LORD,

and my prayer rose to you,

to your holy temple.

<sup>8</sup> “Those who cling to worthless idols

turn away from God’s love for them.

<sup>9</sup> But I, with shouts of grateful praise,

will sacrifice to you.

What I have vowed I will make good.

I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the LORD.’ ”

<sup>10</sup> And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah  
onto dry land.

**OBSERVATION:**

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

**INTERPRETATION:**

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# JONAH 3:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time:

<sup>2</sup> “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”

<sup>3</sup>Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it.

### OBSERVATION:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

**INTERPRETATION:**

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**APPLICATION:**

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**NOTES/PRAYER:**

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# JONAH 3:4-10

<sup>4</sup>Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." <sup>5</sup>The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

<sup>6</sup>When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. <sup>7</sup>This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

"By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. <sup>8</sup>But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. <sup>9</sup>Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish."

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

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## APPLICATION:

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## NOTES/PRAYER:

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# JONAH 4:1-4

<sup>1</sup> But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry.

<sup>2</sup> He prayed to the LORD, “Isn’t this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. <sup>3</sup> Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>4</sup> But the LORD replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

## OBSERVATION:

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**NOTES/PRAYER:**

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# JONAH 4:5-11

<sup>5</sup> Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city.

There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. <sup>7</sup> But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. <sup>8</sup> When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?"

"It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

<sup>10</sup> But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. <sup>11</sup> And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

**OBSERVATION:**

**INTERPRETATION:**

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**NOTES:**

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