

## Jonah I

Minor prophet. Named by the amount of content, not importance. Hebrew Scriptures included them in one scroll called the Book of Twelve.

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Naham, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. Follow the books of the Major Prophets.

All are called the *Latter Prophets* because they write after the division of the kingdom.

Jonah writes during reign of Jeroboam II (786-746 BC). Northern Kingdom. Mentioned in II Kings 14:25.

Jonah gets a commission from God. Preach in Nineveh. Word of God to a prophet.

Nineveh- great city if Assyria. Powerful and very wealthy. Its wickedness has come up before God. Hebrew words mean to His Face. Jonah has to cry against the evil. He has to CRY against it. Not whispering, not in secret. Must go now.

Disobedient. Goes to Joppa to go to Tarshish. Tarshish is opposite direction from Nineveh. Wants to get as far away as possible. Paid and was determined to go. Forgets his calling and his office as prophet.

Jonah thought he was safe. God sends a tempest. Ship could break apart.

Only Jonah is not afraid. Sailors are terrified. They pray to their gods. Jonah is asleep. They ask him to call upon *his* God. Their gods were not helping.

Sailors cast lots. Whose fault is this ? God brings to light that Jonah is the problem. So they examine him. In what way was it his fault. His occupation? His country?

V9: Jonah makes a confession. He is a Hebrew who follows the True God Who made the sea and the dry land. That is also his occupation.

The sailors knew that Jonah had fled God's Presence. They realize that this was his crime. God had sent the tempest to deal with Jonah. They knew that this was the problem they were in. If He is God of everything and you worship Him, why did you run away ? How can we fix this problem ?

They have some fear of Jonah since he is a prophet. Don't take action immediately.

Jonah takes guilt on himself. Tells them to throw him overboard. He is the one who deserves punishment. Assumes the guilt and wants to save the sailors.

They tried not to have him thrown overboard but it did not work. They could not fight against God's plan.

V14: sailors pray to God not to make them guilty of Jonah's blood. They are not crying out each to their *own* gods any longer. They pray to the God of Israel. They are forced to throw him overboard and they know that God has brought this on.

The men worshipped the God of Israel from then on. Made vows. They saw power and they saw signs and wonders. They also realized that God had spared them.

A great fish is prepared. God is not done with Jonah. He has work for him to do. This creature is prepared just for this work of swallowing Jonah. Protects and delivers him. Jonah is protected from the sea and not digested by the fish.

Jesus mentions this in Matthew 12:40. Becomes a pre-figurement of Christ's burial.