

SERMON NOTES

You Can Run But You Can't Hide: Jonah's Response to a Great and Compassionate God

Jonah 1:1–16 | Matt Green | July 12, 2020

The Prophet Jonah

- Lived in Israel's Northern Kingdom, probably during reign of Jeroboam II (c. 786–746 B.C.)
- A prosperous, but ungodly time
- Jonah was a true prophet of the Lord
- 2 Kings 14:25 – “[Jeroboam II] restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the Lord, the God of Israel, which he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher.”

God's Command (1:1–2)

- Go, preach in Nineveh
- Nineveh: A great city of an ungodly, wicked people
- Jonah did not share the Lord's compassion for the “great” city

Jonah's Response (1:3)

- Running in the opposite direction — to Tarshish!
- Running away from God
 - Away from God's presence
 - Into a place of noise, distractions

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The Lord's Response (1:4–6)

- The Lord hurls a great storm on the sea
- Jonah is forced to awake from his complacency
- Pagan sailors recognize the storm's divine source before Jonah!

Jonah's Resolution (1:7–12)

- The Lord exposes Jonah's guilt through storm and lot
- Jonah has good theology, but still has not been faithful
- Finally, he comes in line with God's compassion, and is willing to sacrifice himself so the sailors may be saved

The Sailors' Response (1:13–16)

- Fear of God that leads to trying to save themselves
- Showing compassion in attempting to save Jonah
- Finally give in to the Lord's requirement and hurl Jonah overboard
- Fear of God after He calms the storm
- Worship the Lord in the short term (sacrifice) with plans to continue in the long term (vows)

How Are We Like Jonah?

- How do we run from God and His calling?
- How do we drown out God's voice in our lives?
- How do our actions harm others (intentionally or unintentionally)?