

# CHASING JONAH

Session Two – JONAH'S UNREPENTANT HEART

## Interpreting Jonah

The book of Jonah is an accurate historical account of his experiences and the responses of the sailors and the people of Nineveh. But those experiences were recorded as a means of calling Israel to repentance, just as Amos and Hosea would do through their preaching.

## From Chapter One

God called His prophet Jonah to go to Nineveh to preach to them. Jonah not only refused, but fled toward Tarshish (in Spain) by ship. God used a storm, the pagan sailors, and a casting of lots to call upon Jonah, and by implication, Israel, to repent. Jonah refused and chose death to repentance, and was thrown overboard. But God chased Jonah with His mercy.

## Preview of Ch. 2

Jonah was form over substance. He wrote a Psalm, but retained an unrepentant heart. Jonah prayed for deliverance, but had no interest in a changed life.

## Studying Chapter Two

OUTLINE FOR THE LESSON:

### I. JONAH'S REBELLIOUS HEART (CH. 1)

- f. Jonah would rather die than **repent** (1:10-12)
- g. Pagan sailors show compassion on Jonah (1:13)
- h. Pagan sailors pray to God (1:14-15)
  - respond to God despite Jonah
- i. Pagan sailors sacrifice to God (1:16)
  - worshiped and made vows for deliverance
- j. God intervenes for Jonah (1:17)
  - **undeserved** mercy from God

### II. JONAH'S UNREPENTANT HEART (CH. 2)

- a. Jonah prays because of his affliction (2:1-4)
  - subtle **blaming** of God
  - Prays because of his "affliction" not his sin
- b. Jonah hits bottom but no repentance (2:5-7)
  - Jonah prayed at the last possible moment
  - only asked for deliverance
- c. Jonah talks the **talk** (2:8)
  - remains self-righteous toward the sailors and the people of Nineveh
  - blind to Israel's guilt
- d. Jonah makes a vow (2:9)
  - no confession of sin
  - no promise to **go** to Nineveh
- e. God intervenes for Jonah (2:10)
  - underserved mercy