

I. Introduction – How can we profit from studying Old Testament narratives? I Co. 10:6
Ro. 15:4 II Ti. 3:16-17 Luke 24:27,44-45 I Co. 2:2 Mt. 12:39-41 16:4

II. The LORD pursues Jonah. v. 4-5

- A. The LORD answers Jonah with a storm. v. 4 I Ki. 18:45 Job 1:19 Ps. 107:23-31 33:7
65:5,7 89:8-9 148:8 Luke 8:25
- B. The depths of the sea portray God's wrath. 2:2 Ps. 83:15 69:1-2,14-15 Isa. 29:6
Jer. 23:19-20 25:32 Amos 1:14
- C. The pagan sailors are terrified by God's power – pantheistic panic. v. 5
 - 1. The sailors try to save themselves through human effort and superstition.
 - 2. Jonah sleeps.

III. Jonah's shameful rebellion is exposed. v. 6-10

- A. Jonah is awakened -- an ironic call to pray. v. 6,2
- B. Jonah wins (or loses) the lottery. v. 7-10 I Sa. 14:36f
 - 1. The LORD sovereignly points to Jonah. v. 7 Pr. 16:33 Jo. 7:14f Acts 1:23f
 - 2. Jonah confesses. v. 8-10 Gen. 3:13 4:10 Josh 7:19 Isa. 29:13 Ps. 95:5
Sound doctrine does not always result in a life of obedience.
 - 3. Ironically, Jonah who was trying to escape giving testimony to foreigners, bears
witness of the LORD to pagans. v. 8-9 Ps. 95:5 146:6 Dan. 2:18 I Kings 20:28

IV. Jonah is punished and the sailors are saved. v. 11-16

- A. Jonah sentences himself to death. v. 11-13
 - 1. Why does Jonah tell them to throw him into the sea? v. 11-12 2:2 Ro. 6:23
 - 2. The sailors vainly try to stay his execution. v. 13
- B. When Jonah is hurled into the sea the storm miraculously ends. v. 14-16 2:2
 - 1. The sailors pray. Ps. 115:2-3 116:17-18
 - 2. The sudden calming of the raging of the sea was probably more awe inspiring than
the storm itself. Mark 4:41 Luke 8:24-25 Ps. 107:29 65:7 145:18-19
 - 3. The decline of Jonah is complete -- a descent into hell. v. 3,5 2:2,6
 - 4. Jonah's decline results in the ascent of the sailors from superstition to faith.
v. 14-16 Psalms 107:23-32 135:6 115:3 50:14 66:13-14 116:17-18 Dan. 4:34-35
- C. The Lord appoints a great fish to swallow Jonah. v. 17

V. What should we learn from Jonah's experience?

- A. Your sin has consequences. Gal. 6:7
 - 1. You will never gain when you fight God. Heb. 10:31 Num. 32:23
 - 2. Once you start going down it is hard to change directions. James 1:14-15
 - 3. Your sin affects others. Joshua 7 II Sam. 12:1ff 24:1ff
- B. God sovereignly works out His perfect plan. Eph. 1:11 Ro. 8:28 Acts 2:23
Gen. 50:20 Ps. 119:67,71
- C. The LORD lovingly disciplines His own children. Pr. 3:11-12 Heb. 12:5-11 Am. 3:2
- D. The LORD is the only way of deliverance. Eph. 2:8-9 I Kings 18:26-29 I Jn. 3:22

VI. How does our text point to Christ?

- A. There are parallels between Jonah's experience and Jesus' calming of the sea. Mt. 8:23-27 Mark 4:36-41 Luke 8:22-25
1. The man of God sleeps in the boat while the lives of his terrified and helpless companions are at risk in a life-threatening storm. Matt. 8:24
 2. The man of God is awakened with pleas for help. Mt. 8:25
 3. The man of God calms the sea. Mt. 8:26
 4. Afterwards the companions respond with fear and wonder at God's sovereign power. Mt. 8:27
- B. There are also contrasts.
1. Jesus is exhausted from doing the will of God. Jonah is worn out because he is running away from God.
 2. Jesus slept because he knew God was in complete control of the situation. Jonah slept because he was indifferent to God's control.
 3. Jesus is in control of the storm and His disciples' well-being. Jonah's storm was a judgement which could have killed the others.
 4. Jesus meant to do good for His disciples through the storm. Jonah didn't care about the sailors.
 5. Jonah revealed the LORD as the Creator of the wind and the waves. Jesus revealed Himself to be the LORD of the wind and the waves.
- C. Jonah's experience points to Jesus' redemptive work. Mt. 12:38-41 16:4
1. Both were sentenced to death under divine justice. Jonah 1:12 2 Co. 5:21
 2. Both willingly died to save others. Jonah 1:11-12 Isa. 53:4-6
 3. Both made peace by their sacrifice. Jonah 1:15 Rom. 5
 4. Both endured suffering from God's hand. Jonah 2:3 Isa. 53:4,6 Acts 2:23
 5. Both cried out to God while suffering. Jonah 2:7 Mt. 27:46
 6. Both descended into the depths. Jonah 2:2 Ps. 16:10
 7. Both were buried for three days. Jonah 1:17 Mt. 12:40
 8. Both were delivered from death and judgment. Jonah 2:6b Ps. 16:10
 9. Both arise to proclaim the way of salvation.
 10. Both are a sign of mercy to the Gentiles. Jonah 3:1ff John 12:32,24 10:16
 11. Both are a sign of destruction and judgment to Israel. Mt. 8:11-12 21:30-46
- D. While Jonah suffers for his own sin, Jesus suffers for our sin allowing Himself to be thrown into the sea of God's wrath so that we might be saved. II Co. 5:21

VII. Conclusion: Stop fighting God!

Discussion Questions for Family Worship

1. What benefits should we gain from studying Old Testament narratives?
2. What is the significance of the storm?
3. How did the pagan sailors put God's prophet to shame?
4. Why was it necessary for Jonah to be hurled into the sea?
5. Describe the spiritual descent of Jonah.
6. Describe the spiritual ascent of the sailors.
7. What aspects of God's nature are revealed in this passage?
8. What aspects of God's dealings with men are revealed in this passage?
9. Why does it never pay to sin (or run from God)?