

Jonah : Talk the talk AND walk the walk

PART 1

Men's Ministry Breakfast and Bible Study

CHAPTER 1:

Verse 1 - 2: LORD (All caps) = the proper name for God in Hebrew... Yahweh. Shortened to YHWH (called the Tetragrammaton) because they didn't want to speak the name frequently and inadvertently take His name in vain. Goofing around with the letters of the word has led some (JW's) to say that "Jehovah" is the true proper name of God.

"Arise and go..." is the prophetic mandate from the LORD. Arise (Hebrew: Qum)
[The response of other prophets at other times] (I Kings 17:8-10) (I Kings 18:1-2)

3:

"BUT..." Jonah attempts to flee from the presence of the LORD (which, as we will see, is against his own Theology!) (Psalm 139:7-10)

Spiritual Growth Indicator #1: (From Mark Yarbrough, a DTS professor, not me.)

A life that is growing spiritually is moving toward God's Commands, not away from them... regardless of the cost, danger or difficulty.

4. "BUT..." The LORD controls the wind and the sea!

5. "Mariners" in Hebrew = "Old Salts" (very experienced sailors)

They recognize that this is no ordinary storm!

Each man cries out to his small "G" hand-made god [they are a poly-theistic crew]

It's all hands on deck as they throw the cargo overboard [trade pay for their lives]

Yet the LORD's prophet is sound asleep in the hold!

6. The pagan Captain has to say “Qum” [KOOM] (*Arise* in Hebrew) to the LORD’s prophet and tells him to pray!

7. The pagan sailors cast lots to determine who’s to blame for the supernatural storm, the lot falls on Jonah. [God is in command even of this pagan divination method!]

8. The sailors give Jonah the “20 Questions” treatment.

9. Jonah proudly says “I am a Hebrew, and I fear [reverence] the LORD, the God of heaven, Who made the sea and the dry land.”

(Jonah’s own Theology makes escaping from God by sea impossible!)

Spiritual Growth Indicator #2:

A life that is growing spiritually shows consistency between one’s words and one’s actions.

10. After Jonah’s statement the sailors are “completely terrified” (Hebrew translation) because they realize that this supernatural storm is being caused by the One True God of Israel (Jonah had apparently already told them he was running away from the LORD.)

11. The sailors ask what do we need to do to YOU to keep US from dying?! (The human response)

12. Throw me overboard... Jonah admits their predicament is his fault and he would rather die than follow God’s command.

13. NEVERTHELESS... The pagan sailors attempt to save the LORD’s prophet’s life, but the LORD thwarts their attempt! (God is in control of every little facet of the situation)

Spiritual Growth Indicator #3: A life that is growing spiritually exhibits a testimony to the nonbelieving world, not the other way around.

14. The sailors *may* have come to saving faith, because NOW they pray to the LORD [what does LORD all caps mean?] [Thus they ARE NOT praying to gods made with human hands] They pray to be spared from the storm caused by Jonah's disobedience and pray to be absolved of innocent blood from throwing him overboard and they confess that the LORD is in control!

Spiritual Growth Indicator #4: A life that is growing spiritually acknowledges and responds to the grace of God.

15. Jonah goes swimming and the sea becomes calm.

16. The sailors fear (reverence) the LORD, offer sacrifices and make vows to Him!

(This would have happened later in time at Jerusalem when/where they would have had the resources to do so and make it public and official... further indication that their hearts had been changed)

Spiritual Growth Indicator #5: A life that is growing spiritually knows and applies the Word of God in daily living.

17. The LORD is in complete control of ALL creation and "appointed" a huge fish to swallow Jonah and keeps him alive in the INSOLUBRIOUS* environment of its gut for 3 days and 3 nights.

*[explain meaning and where the "Insalubrious" came from]

[Many people have tried to "prove" that Jonah's experience could have been real by discussing the lumen size of various whale's stomachs and how one might be able to breathe and stay out of the stomach acid, etc. This seems irrelevant if you already believe that Jesus was actually dead for 3 days and came back to life!!]

(Romans 3:4)

CHAPTER 2:

1 - 9. Jonah prays a "foxhole" prayer, which is actually a psalm (song) of thanksgiving that he copied/personalized from various Psalms, but not one word of repentance.

Spiritual Growth Indicator #6: A life that is growing spiritually confesses sin and repents, not simply speaking words of pious religiosity.

(The sailors actually offered sacrifices and made vows to the LORD... Jonah SAID he would but never did!) [His WALK didn't match his TALK]

(Next class we see why repentance is important)

10. God allows the fish to comment on Jonah's psalm of thanksgiving!

(Leviticus 18:26-28) (Revelation 3:16)

[Listen: "To Obey Is Better Than Sacrifice" by Keith Green]

