

Jonah 1:1-2

1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: 2 "Get up! Go to to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because their evil has come up before me."



3 He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. He paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the LORD's presence.

4 But the LORD [YHWH] threw a great wind onto the sea, and such a great storm arose on the sea that the ship threatened to break apart.

"Do not despise the LORD's instruction, my son, and do not loathe his discipline; for the LORD disciplines the one he loves, just as a father disciplines the son in whom he delights." (Proverbs 3:11-12)

"The dismaying news is that every act of disobedience to God has a storm attached to it." (Tim Keller)

"Claiming to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for [lesser things]... Therefore God delivered them over in the desires of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies were degraded among themselves. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator..." (Romans 1:22-25)

5 The sailors were afraid, and each cried out to his god. They threw the ship's cargo into the sea to lighten the load. Meanwhile, Jonah had gone down to the lowest part of the vessel and had stretched out and fallen into a deep sleep.

6 The captain approached him and said, "What are you doing sound asleep? Get up! Call to your god. Maybe this god will consider us, and we won't perish."

7 "Come on!" the sailors said to each other. "Let's cast lots. Then we'll know who is to blame for this trouble we're in." So they cast lots, and the lot singled out Jonah.

Casting Lots



"Casting the lot ends quarrels and separates powerful opponents." (Proverbs 18:18)

"The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD." (Proverbs 16:33)

8 Then they said to him, "Tell us who is to blame for this trouble we're in. What is your business, and where are you from? What is your country, and what people are you from?"

9 He answered them, "I'm a Hebrew. I worship [lit. "fear"] the LORD, the God of the heavens, who made the sea and the dry land."

10 Then the men were seized by a great fear and said to him, "What have you done?" The men knew he was fleeing from the LORD's presence because he had told them. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Proverbs 9:10)

"The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning people away from the snares of death." (Proverbs 14:27)

Prayers for the Jonahs in Your Life or Mirror

1. Ask God to send His Spirit of wisdom and revelation to that person.

"I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him... that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance... and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe." (Ephesians 1:17-19)

Prayers for the Jonahs in Your Life or Mirror

2. Ask God to turn their eyes away from worthless things and that they come to their senses.

"Turn my eyes from looking at what is worthless. Give me life in your ways. Confirm what you said to your servant, for it produces reverence for you." (Psalm 119:37-38)

"[Instruct] opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth. Then they may come to their senses and escape the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." (2 Timothy 2:25-26)