

# Jonah

## Other People's Storms

Welcome back and here we go!

Today we look at a country reprehensible and yet God extended a hand of forgiveness and opportunity for Divine Favor over a nation. The nation is Assyria and its capital is Ninevah. We have studied extensively the story of Israel/Judah and Israel's fall to the Assyrians because of the golden calves and false worship.

Assyria was the world power from 900 – 603 B.C., about 300 years. We established that several prophets said Israel would fall and Israel did fall to the Assyrians, who began to cut off Israel in 860 B.C. according to Chronicles. In 840 B.C., the earliest prophet, Joel, began the long list of prophets to warn of Assyria conquering. Fifty years later, 790 B.C., the Assyrians began a stepped-up campaign against Israel and God then spoke to Jonah.

So, is Jonah real or just an allegory / parable / fish story? Jesus said it was fact.

***Matthew 12:39-41***

Was Jonah real? His ministry was around 780 B.C.

***II Kings 14:23-27***

Hosea, Amos and Isaiah followed..... So that's the history for this lesson.

Now let's get into the meat of it. There are plenty of stories about Jonah and his running from God. Let's look at some other consequences!

### ***Jonah Chapter 1***

1. What is chapter 1 about?

#### ***Jonah 1:1-3***

Here Jonah identifies himself and reveals God has given him a commission. Instead of going, Jonah famously runs!

Why? ... He's not going to give any good news to his enemies. He refuses!

2. Were Jonah's actions a sin and why or why not?

#### ***Jonah 1:4-6***

The mariners were unbelievers.

**Verse 4** – Suddenly they are in a storm.

**Verse 5** – Cargo, spiritually represents sin / baggage.

**Jonah 1:7-10** - Jonah identifies himself and why he is there.

3. Which is worse: problems you cause yourself or problems that others bring unexpectedly and why?

4. Name different ways others can bring storms into our lives.

Don't forget – we also bring storms into other's lives. Your friends and family may be living out your storm. That's why we have been studying about being empowered with the Holy Spirit so that we can bring peace to our lives and bring calm to our storms.

5. Name a storm in your life that someone else has brought into your life.

6. Tell me how you are going to calm or remove that storm...

Remember: The Holy Spirit --- He is your #1 Source of strength and power through the name of Jesus.

**Jonah 1:10-13**

The mariners, unbelievers, did not want to come under the wrath of a God who can cause a storm like this – so they didn't want to harm Jonah for sure.

**Jonah 1:14-16** - The mariners converted and threw Jonah out!

7. What good can come from your chosen storm?

**Verse 16** – The men feared the Lord.

8. How can you prepare yourself for the next storm that will blow in?