

JONAH



Key Features

God's sovereign power over nature

God's heart for all people

The prominence of prayer

Jonah contrasted with the pagan characters

Jonah's Flight from God

CHAPTERS 1-2

- God's Word comes to Jonah
- Jonah responds to God
- Jonah speaks with unbelievers
- The unbelievers respond
- Disaster averted
- Jonah talks to God
- God responds to Jonah

Jonah's Mission to Nineveh

CHAPTERS 3-4

- God's Word comes to Jonah
- Jonah responds to God
- Jonah speaks with unbelievers
- The unbelievers respond
- Disaster averted
- Jonah talks to God
- God responds to Jonah

MARK M. YARBROUGH



BEYOND
the Tale of a Whale

Running from God

JONAH 1:1-17

Jonah 1:1-2 NIV

The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: ² “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

Jonah 1:3 NIV

But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

Jonah 1:4-6 NIV

Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵ All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. ⁶ The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”

Jonah 1:7-8 NIV

Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸ So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

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The Bible does not say that every difficulty is the result of sin, but it does teach that every sin will bring you into difficulty.

- **Tim Keller**, *Rediscovering Jonah*

Jonah 1:9-10

He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” ¹⁰ This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)

Jonah 1:11-12 NIV

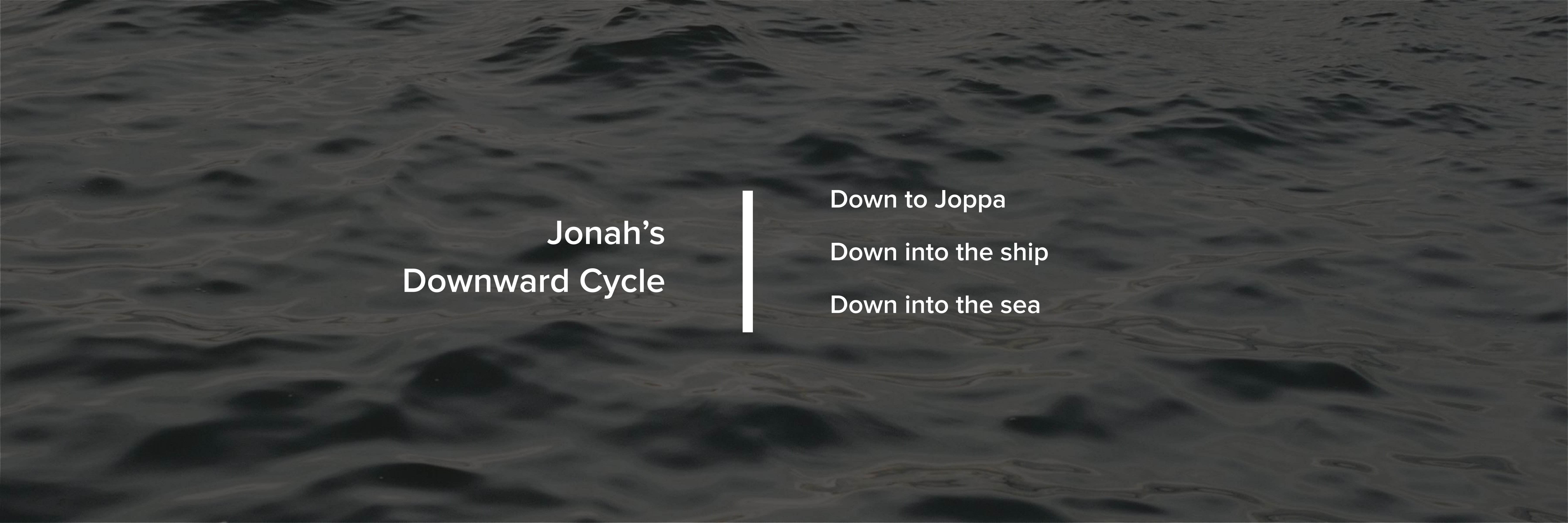
The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?” ¹² “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

Jonah 1:13-14

Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. ¹⁴ Then they cried out to the LORD, “Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, LORD, have done as you pleased.”

Jonah 1:15-16

Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. ¹⁶ At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.



Jonah's Downward Cycle

Down to Joppa

Down into the ship

Down into the sea

“”

The observant reader of the text soon notices that running from the Lord leads to a downward cycle. Disobedience leads to descent.

- **Mark Yarbrough**, *Jonah: Beyond the Tale of a Whale*

Jonah 1:15-16

Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. ¹⁶ At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

SAILORS

- Cried out to God
- Threw cargo into the sea
- Tried to save Jonah
- Worshiped God

JONAH

- Ran away from God
- Slept below deck
- Resisted saving the Ninevites
- Claimed to be a worshiper of God

Jonah 1:15-16

Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. ¹⁶ At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

The background of the image is a dark, textured surface resembling water with small, continuous ripples. The color is a deep charcoal or dark grey, with subtle variations in tone due to the light reflecting off the water's surface.

Jonah 1:17 NIV

Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

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If you accept the existence of God and the resurrection of Christ (a far greater miracle), then there is nothing particularly difficult about reading Jonah literally.

- **Tim Keller**, *Rediscovering Jonah*

Matthew 12:40-41 NIV

“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now something greater than Jonah is here.”

The background of the entire image is a dark, textured surface resembling water with small, dark ripples and waves. The color is a deep charcoal or black, with subtle variations in tone due to the lighting on the water's surface.

Jonah 1:17 NIV

Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.



The Sovereign Hand of God

The Word of the LORD came to Jonah.

The LORD sent a great wind on the sea.

The LORD identified Jonah through casting lots.

The LORD calmed the sea.

The LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah.

The background of the image is a close-up, high-contrast photograph of dark water. The surface is covered in numerous small, intricate ripples and waves, creating a textured, almost abstract pattern of light and shadow. The overall color palette is dark, ranging from deep blacks to dark greys, with some lighter highlights where the ripples catch the light.

**You can't run away from
the sovereignty of God.**