



**-- Background & Theme**

- It takes place about 800 years before the birth of Jesus.
- God is mentioned 38 times in 48 verses.
- Exodus 34:6-7 is a good summation of the theme.
- Few books have been **ATTACKED** as much as Jonah.

**-- Big Idea: The consequences of Jonah's rebellion illustrate what happens when we reject our mission from God.**

**-- v. 1 – “Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah...”**

- This was not an optional proposition. Jonah heard the very **WORD** of the Lord.
- Like Jonah, the Word of God has come to us, and like God's Word to Jonah, it comes to us with a mission.
- God's mission for Jonah is a picture of His mission for us.

**-- v. 2 – “Arise, go...”**

- God's mission for Jonah required him to get up and go out in His name (Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 13:47, Psalm 96:2-3)

**-- v. 2a – “Go to Nineveh, that great city...”**

- At the time of Jonah, Israel was in fear of the growing Assyrian power in the east. Nineveh was its impressive capitol.
- Nineveh was, at that time, one of the biggest and most **ADVANCED** cities in the world.

**-- v. 2b – “...and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.”**

-- Sadly, its people were proud and depraved, and this great city was sinking in corruption (Nahum 3:1).

-- *"...and call out against it..."* – The Good News about Jesus Christ begins with the bad news about our **SIN**

**v. 3 – Jonah rebels against the will of God.**

-- Jonah unequivocally rejects God's **MISSION** for him.

-- The consequences of Jonah's rebellion illustrate what happens when God's people reject His mission.

**-- v. 4 – *"... there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up."***

-- The account makes clear: This is an extremely intense storm, and the sailor's lives are in jeopardy.

-- Like these sailors, the **WORLD** around us is in deadly peril (James 1:6-8, Ephesians 4:14).

**-- v. 5a – *"All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god."***

-- Like these sailors, the people in peril all around us are crying out to powerless gods (Matthew 9:36-38).

**-- v. 5b – *"But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep."***

-- Like Jonah, too many Christians are **ASLEEP** in the midst of the storm (Ephesians 5:14-16).

-- While the consequences of human sin are raging on the deck, too many of Christ's ambassadors are sleeping in the hold.

**-- v. 6a – *"The captain went to him and said, 'How can you sleep?'"***

-- In other words, "How can you do nothing while we are perishing?"

-- The **SELF-ABSORPTION** of Jonah's behavior is palpable.

**-- v. 6b – *"Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish."***

-- The application of this morning's text comes from the mouths of pagan sailors.

-- Matthew 9:37-38