

# Jonah

**TEXT:** Jonah 1; 2; 3

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 12:39-41

**KEY VERSE:** And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. — Jonah 3:1-3

Why would a prophet like Jonah, who had been called by the Lord, suddenly want to flee from his duty and from the presence of the Lord? We find that the man who runs from the Lord runs into trouble every time.

1. Jonah was a prophet of God, called to preach to the people of Nineveh. Consider the fact that Nineveh was a political enemy. How might this have affected Jonah's thinking?

2. How do we know that God was displeased with Jonah when he refused to go to Nineveh?

3. Inasmuch as Jonah was running from God, how do you suppose he could go to the lower part of the ship and sleep, apparently oblivious to the storm? What behavioral patterns of people in today's society reflect the same kind of attempt to escape from God's call?

4. Which verse in our text shows the turning point in Jonah's attitude? Explain.

5. What were Jonah's feelings in the belly of the fish regarding his own spiritual condition? How did he react on this occasion?

6. When Jonah prayed, the Lord heard his prayer. What was the result?

7. What was the message which Jonah delivered to Nineveh? What were the results?

8. The truth of this account is challenged by many. Find a New Testament Scripture which confirms the story of Jonah as an actual happening.

**Thought Provoker:** Have you ever come to a point in your life when you reacted to God's call in a manner similar to the way in which Jonah first reacted? What did you learn from this experience?