

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Jonah 1

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Jonah chapter one introduces us to one of the best-known characters in all the Bible, the prophet Jonah. Jonah is mentioned by Jesus in the gospel of Matthew 12:39-41, ***"Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, 'Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.' But He answered and said to them, 'An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.' The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here."*** Jonah's prophecy has received a lot of attention from those who do not believe in the supernatural occurrence of Jonah's being swallowed by a great fish. The reality of the testimony is that God prepared a special fish to transport the wayward prophet to the coast where he should have gone to begin with to carry out the mission he had been assigned by God.

Jonah is not a good example of a follower of God in rapid obedience. He is a testimony of the grace of God that did not let him drown in judgment for his flagrant disobedience. What is more amazing is that after Jonah had cried out to God for deliverance and God hearing his prayer and delivering him, that Jonah still had an attitude that displeased God in the end. In spite of Jonah's attitude God was faithful to help Israel. It is because of Jonah's preaching of God's message that more than a quarter of a million people were spared God's judgment, not counting one hundred and twenty thousand who did not know their right hand from their left; in other words, children. This deliverance gave the nation of Israel a great period of prosperity as the Assyrians, whose capital was Nineveh, went after other pursuits and stopped their aggression toward Israel for some time.

Prayer and Action Steps

God is so good to us despite our disobedience and many times a bad attitude. Pause and thank God for His mercy toward you. Begin living in an attitude of obedience.

Date _____ Scripture _____

- Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.
- Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.
- Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
