

# ENTRUSTING TRUTH



## Jonah 1:1-16

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Read through the chapter at least once a day. Throw yourself into the book. Soak in it. Let yourself sink into its details...

This is a short book with really short chapters, so you have a great opportunity to read this week's chapter several times a day. It will not take very long. You should be able to read it in a few minutes. If you are studying on the Word document offered on Redeemer's website, make your notes in the right column. You can also highlight words or bold them to note repetitions. Or if you do not want to use the Word version, mark up your Bible, Xerox a copy of the book and mark that up.

Like we said in Philippians, the more often you read the book during the week, the more you will get out of it. Please do not put this off to Saturday night. If you read it each day, your subconscious will work on the text during the day. You will not believe the difference.

If you outlined the book, focus on the first major section of your outline (assuming you have four sections to your outline). If you did not outline or chart the book, focus on 1:1 – 16. You may notice that I put verse 17 with the next section in this book. Remember that we are not bound by the chapter and verse divisions as we look at a book. It seems to me that the content breaks better if 17 is included with chapter two.

### Today's Assignment:

Repetition is one of the best ways to note what the author is saying. Read Jonah 1 several times today. Highlight or underline repeated words in your Bible or your copy of Jonah.

*See Marked up chart below for highlighted repetitions.*

*3x fleeing from the presence of the Lord.*

*2x the sea was increasingly stormy.*

*A lot of purpose "so," "so that," "in order to."*

*A lot of contrast. Contrast between what Jonah was supposed to do and what he did, between the sailors and Jonah, between the Captain and Jonah.*

### Tuesday

Today as you read, look for the structural markers in the text. A structural marker is a word that indicates the intent of the author. For example, you may have heard it said, "If you see a 'therefore' in the Bible you have

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to see what it is there for.” That is because “therefore” is a **structural marker**. It will usually mean that whatever comes before the “therefore” causes or results in what comes after the “therefore”. “Therefore” is not the only word that gives us clues like this. Here are some words you may see in Jonah 1 and what they may indicate for you:

## Words

for, because, on account of

but, however, yet

so

in order to, so that, to

then, next, after that, when

Underline or highlight these words as you read to day and make a note of what they tell you about what is going on in the text.

## May indicate

the reason some thing was done

contrast

result or logical conclusion of what came before

purpose, why something is being done

temporal, sequence of events

*See chart the structural connectors are highlighted in yellow.*

*There are many temporal connectors which indicate sequence. So this is presented as a story with sequence.*

*“But” is repeated; specifically, “But Jonah.” Jonah is not acting as one would expect in light of the circumstances – he is acting contrary to what one would expect.*

## Wednesday

Read Jonah 1 again today reviewing what you have observed so far this week.

We mentioned in Philippians that verbs are really important to understanding the flow of the story. Note the verbs that are being used. Note also if they are indicating an action, a state of being, a command, or something else.

<b>Verse</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Actor</b>	<b>Implication</b>
2	<i>Arise</i>	<i>God</i>	<i>Command</i>
2	<i>Go</i>	<i>God</i>	<i>Command</i>
3	<i>Rose up</i>	<i>Jonah</i>	<i>Action</i>
3	<i>Went down</i>	<i>Jonah</i>	<i>Action</i>
3	<i>Found</i>	<i>Jonah</i>	<i>Action</i>
3	<i>Paid</i>	<i>Jonah</i>	<i>Action</i>
3	<i>Went Down</i>	<i>Jonah</i>	<i>Action</i>
4	<i>Hurled</i>	<i>Lord</i>	<i>Action</i>
5	<i>Became</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>State</i>
5	<i>Cried</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>Action</i>
5	<i>Threw</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>Action</i>
5	<i>to lighten</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>Action</i>

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5	<i>Had gone</i>	<i>Jonah</i>	<i>Action</i>
5	<i>Lain</i>	<i>Jonah</i>	<i>Action</i>
5	<i>Fallen</i>	<i>Jonah</i>	<i>Action</i>
6	<i>Approached</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>Action</i>
6	<i>Get up</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>Command</i>
6	<i>Call</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>Command</i>
6	<i>Will be Concerned</i>	<i>Captain</i>	<i>State</i>
7	<i>Cast</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>Action</i>
10	<i>became</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>State</i>
11	<i>Should do</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>Command</i>
12	<i>Pick up</i>	<i>Jonah</i>	<i>Command</i>
12	<i>Throw</i>	<i>Jonah</i>	<i>Command</i>
12	<i>Has come</i>	<i>Jonah</i>	<i>Action</i>
13	<i>Rowed</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>Action</i>
13	<i>to return</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>Action</i>
14	<i>called</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>Action</i>
14	<i>perish</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>State</i>
14	<i>put</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>Action</i>
14	<i>have done</i>	<i>Sailors about Lord</i>	<i>Action</i>
15	<i>Picked up</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>Action</i>
15	<i>Threw</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>Action</i>
15	<i>Stopped</i>	<i>Sea</i>	<i>Action</i>
16	<i>Feared</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>State</i>
16	<i>Offered</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>Action</i>
16	<i>Made</i>	<i>Sailors</i>	<i>Action</i>

Based on what you have seen thus far how what have you learned about Jonah as a person?

*He has a close relationship with the Lord. He hears from God. He does not fear God as much as he should. He has a false understanding of God in that he thinks he can run away from him. This is key – our perception of God right or wrong will determine our actions.*

What have you learned about the Lord?

*He is in control of this situation. He has control over the environment in which Jonah finds himself. His will trumps Jonah's. He uses Jonah's disobedience to reach the sailors and the captain.*

What have you learned about the sailors and the captain of the boat?

*He is searching for answers. He is looking for the mercy and grace from which Jonah is running.*

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## Thursday

Read the chapter several times again today.

You may have noticed, as you were looking at the structural markers, that there are several contrasts and comparisons both explicit and implied in this section of Jonah. What are they?

*Jonah and the Sailors*

*Jonah and the Captain*

*Jonah and the Lord*

For each of the contrasts or comparisons what are the key differences or similarities between the contrasting or compared entities?

*Jonah running from the Lord's mercy and compassion, the Captain and the Sailors calling on the mercy and compassion of the Lord.*

*Jonah withholding compassion by refusing to go to Nineveh and the Lord wishing to show compassion by warning Nineveh.*

*Jonah running from and withholding compassion, the captain seeking the compassion and mercy of the Lord.*

What do these contrasts or comparisons add to the narrative?

*Tension it sets up irony; everyone in the narrative is depending on what Jonah is trying to avoid dispensing to Nineveh*

There are several actors in this section. What do you learn here about:

- God – *He is in control of this situation*
- Jonah – *While he knows God, he is mistaken about God's abilities.*
- The Sailors – *They were more compassionate than Jonah. He was their enemy because he brought danger upon them by his disobedience. Yet they were unwilling to cast him away and did all they could to save him.*
- The Captain – *He was seeking mercy and compassion that Jonah was running from.*

## Friday

One of the exercises we did in Philippians was to summarize each section with a short, five word or less, statement. As you write your summary statement, remember that you are not trying to get the “right”

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answer—instead, you are trying to capture your understanding of the section in a few words that you can remember. After you have the phrase, is there a verse that sums that up for you? If so write that down and memorize it?

## *God uses and directs disobedience – 1:16*

If there are questions that you have about this section make a note of them. Bring them up in Sunday school.

It has been said that interpretation without application is pointless. We do not study to increase our head knowledge but rather we study to get to know Christ. In James 1:22 we are exhorted to be doers of the Word not merely hearers. What has challenged you from this passage?

*There have been times that I have been concerned that I was not understanding or following God's will. This book tells me that it is harder to get out of His will than I believe it to be. If I am seeking Him I have the hope that He will reveal His heart and will to me.*

Is there something here that challenges your thinking about God?

## *Not in this section*

Write out in a few sentences a specific thing you can do to build on this. Perhaps this is something as simple as a memorizing a key verse or sharing your insight with another.

*The passage that comes to mind here is Psalm 46:10 (NASB95)*

*10 "Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." I can rest in the knowledge that if I am seeking Him, He will direct me.*

# Jonah


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1:1	The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying,	
1:2	“Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”	Reason – Substantiation – the reason that Jonah was sent to Nineveh was the wickedness of the city.  In what sense had the wickedness come up before the Lord?
1:3	<p>But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.</p> <p>So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.</p>	 <p>Note the immediate contrast with God’s desire... From the map Jonah goes in the opposite direction that which he was commanded Note the Repetition of “from the presence of the Lord” Jonah does not want to be in the Lord’s presence – why not? Note the verb Sequence – Went down, found, paid, went down... He expended effort and money to do opposite to what the Lord wanted him to do</p>
1:4	The Lord hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to break up.	Note the actor here is the Lord – verb is hurled – action the sense is violent action Causation – the cause is the wind the effect is the storm and the ship about to break up... The Lord has control over the wind and consequently the ship.
1:5	Then the sailors became afraid and every man cried to his god, and they threw the cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them.	Further Causation as a result of the ship’s danger the sailors responded appropriately note the sequence became afraid, cried, threw Purpose to lighten the ship. This has the ring of truth to it. It is what one would expect sailors to do.

	<p><b>But</b> Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down and fallen sound asleep.</p>	<p>Contrast with the sailors actions:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Jonah</td> <td>Sailors</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gone Below</td> <td>Became Afraid</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lain Down</td> <td>Cried to god</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fallen sound Asleep</td> <td>Threw Cargo Overboard</td> </tr> </table> <p>Jonah was not concerned with the storm.</p>	Jonah	Sailors	Gone Below	Became Afraid	Lain Down	Cried to god	Fallen sound Asleep	Threw Cargo Overboard
Jonah	Sailors									
Gone Below	Became Afraid									
Lain Down	Cried to god									
Fallen sound Asleep	Threw Cargo Overboard									
1:6	<p><b>So</b> the captain approached him and said, “How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps your god will be concerned about us <b>so that</b> we will not perish.”</p>	<p>Causation – as a result of what the contrast between his men and Jonah he came to him with a question. Captain marveled that he was asleep..</p> <p>Implied Conditional If you call then he might</p>								

Note that the caption is calling on the very attribute of God that Jonah is running from. Side comment. The prophecy against Nineveh was a demonstration of God’s compassion. He was warning them to repent. Which, as we see later in the text, they did.

1:7	<p>Each man said to his mate, “Come, let us cast lots <b>so</b> we may learn on whose account this calamity has struck us.” <b>So</b> they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.</p>	
1:8	<p><b>Then</b> they said to him, “Tell us, now! On whose account has this calamity struck us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”</p>	
1:9	<p>He said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land.”</p>	
1:10	<p><b>Then</b> the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, “How could you do this?” <b>For</b> the men knew that he was <b>fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because</b> he had told them.</p>	<p>Note fleeing from presence of the Lord is repeated again.</p>

Note that Jonah had told them what he was doing. This set them up for their response to the Lord when what he told them to do worked.

1:11	<p><b>So</b> they said to him, “What should we do to you <b>that</b> the sea may become calm for us?”—<b>for the sea was becoming increasingly stormy.</b></p>	
1:12	<p>He said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea. <b>Then</b> the sea will become calm for you, <b>for</b> I know that on account of me this great storm has come upon you.”</p>	<p>It is interesting that Jonah knows what to do to solve the problem. It is almost like he expected this to happen...</p>
1:13	<p><b>However,</b> the men rowed desperately to return to land <b>but</b> they could not, <b>for the sea was becoming even stormier against them.</b></p>	<p>Contrast – Note here the contrast between the sailors and Jonah. They had compassion on Jonah and wished to save him and they were not servants of God while Jonah who was a servant and under orders to warn Nineveh was running away from that responsibility</p>

1:14	Then they called on the Lord and said, “We earnestly pray, O Lord, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life and do not put innocent blood on us; for You, O Lord, have done as You have pleased.”	Causation – Cause the storm increases = effect they resolve to do what Jonah asks – but they do not want to. The contrast between their hearts and Jonah’s is highlighted yet again. This is key – as a result of Jonah’s running from the Lord the sailors recognize the sovereignty of God.
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Note that they are calling out to God – They are calling on the Lord’s compassion and this is what Jonah is running from – it also parallels the reaction of the King and people of Nineveh below...

1:15	So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.	Parallels to Christ on the Sea of Galilee
1:16	Then the men feared the Lord greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.	Note the evangelistic nature of this story. Even in running from God Jonah had a ministry to his shipmates. These men feared the Lord that Jonah did not fear running away from.

Note the comparison to Matthew 8:24-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

1:17	And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.	
2:1	Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the stomach of the fish,	
2:2	and he said, “I called out of my distress to the Lord, And He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol; You heard my voice.	
2:3	“For You had cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the current engulfed me. All Your breakers and billows passed over me.	
2:4	“So I said, ‘I have been expelled from Your sight. Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.’	
2:5	“Water encompassed me to the point of death. The great deep engulfed me, Weeds were wrapped around my head.	
2:6	“I descended to the roots of the mountains. The earth with its bars was around me forever, But You have brought up my life from the pit, O Lord my God.	
2:7	“While I was fainting away, I remembered the Lord, And my prayer came to You, Into Your holy temple.	
2:8	“Those who regard vain idols Forsake their faithfulness,	
2:9	But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the Lord.”	