



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

All Suffer From Disobedience

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Jonah 1:7-10

“And each man said to his mate, ‘Come, let us cast lots so we may learn on whose account this calamity has struck us.; so they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. 8) Then 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?’ 9) And he said to them, ‘I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD God of heaven who made the sea and dry land.’ 10) Then the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, ‘How could you do this?’ for the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.” (NASB)

“IF WE COULD KNOW THE FACTS, HOW MANY COMMUNITIES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO GREAT JEOPARDY AND HOW MANY HAVE BEEN MADE TO SUFFER GREAT LOSSES BY REASON OF THE DERELICTION OR REBELLION OF GOD’S PEOPLE FAILING TO DO OR REFUSING TO DO WHAT GOD WANTED THEM TO DO? ALAS, HOW MANY!”

E. P. ALLDREDGE

How do the mariners know that someone is personally responsible for their storm? Is the casting of the lots in response to Jonah’s unwillingness to pray? Does Jonah take credit for the storm? Why are the men so frightened at Jonah’s description of his God? Do the mariners actually fear God more than Jonah, God’s own prophet?

FOCUS ON FUTURE EVENTS:

- JANUARY 17: JONAH 1:11-17 *EVEN HEATHENS DON’T WANT TO SHED INNOCENT BLOOD!*
- JANUARY 24: JONAH 2:1-7 *CONFIDENT PRAYER FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE—HEARD!*

Jonah had been given a commission by God that he was unwilling to do. Though they ruled most of the world of his day, Jonah hated the cold-blooded cruelty of the savage Assyrians and refused to have any part in giving the truth to them. He is the first and only prophet in all of Scripture to run in the opposite direction from the clear commission given to him! He is most likely headed for Tarshish in India (by “peacocks” in I Kings 10:22). The lives of everyone on his ship are threatened by a “great storm” stirred up by a fierce wind God has “hurled” upon the sea. Suddenly the ship is blasted by such a blinding force of wind and waves that the ship threatens to splinter at any moment! Hardened sailors are all crying out to their gods and unloading their cargo into the windswept waves, trying to lighten the ship as quickly as possible! The storm is so fierce that the captain abandons his wheel and heads to the lowest part of the ship. There he finds Jonah asleep and commands him to pray, “*Get up, call on your God! Perhaps The God will give us a thought that we might not perish!*” Astoundingly, to the disbelief of all aboard, not a word is heard from Jonah!

“THEIR ONLY HOPE OF SALVATION IS TO GET GOD’S PEOPLE AWAKE AND ON THEIR KNEES!” E. P. ALLDREDGE

I. IDENTIFYING THEIR PROBLEM JONAH 1:7

The sailors seemed to all be convinced that this storm was supernatural. Either the suddenness of the storm, the intense ferocity, visible wind shears, or its unusual timing alerted them that God had sent this storm to get someone’s attention. Their only recourse to identify the individual who was inviting such wrath upon them was to cast lots. They all seem to have come up with the same idea at the same time. Literally, “*they said each to one another, ‘Come and let us cast lots that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.’*” The word “evil” is the

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

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same word used in verse two as to why God was sending Jonah to Nineveh, “*for their wickedness has come up before Me.*” Jonah had joined the disobedient to God and was about to be found out! These sailors are so frantic to find out the cause of this storm and somehow escape from its fury that they are each willing to take the chance of the lot falling on them! It is also possible that they suspect Jonah because he is unwilling to pray. By means of the lot they can know who is causing the storm. Amidst the blinding wind and crushing waves, they find a way to cast lots among them, “*and the lot fell upon Jonah.*”

“THE LOT IS CAST INTO THE LAP, BUT ITS EVERY DECISION IS FROM THE LORD.” PROVERBS 16:23

II. INTERROGATING THEIR PROPHET JONAH 1:8

To the credit of the mariners, they do not just pronounce him guilty and throw him overboard. Nevertheless, they are quick to seek proof of Jonah’s cause of the storm. He is no longer allowed to remain silent and suddenly Jonah is bombarded with questions. “*Tell us now! On whose account has this evil come upon us?*” This is the same word for “*evil*” in the previous verse and they are demanding a personal confession and the real reason for the storm. He is not quick to answer, so the questions continue to flow. “*What is your occupation?*” Is the sin connected to his job? “*And where do you come from?*” Has he been to the wrong place? “*What is your country?*” Maybe the whole country is known for their cruel wickedness, like Assyria. “*From what people are you?*” The last two questions are almost synonymous and include a seeking to know his God.

“THE SAILORS WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT JONAH COULD POSSIBLY HAVE DONE TO MERIT SUCH DIVINE ATTENTION.” PAUL MACKRELL

III. INTENSIFYING THEIR FEAR JONAH 1:9-10

For the first time in the book of Jonah, the prophet finally opens his mouth. He only answers the final question, but his answer electrifies their fears. He emphasizes his country, his God and His power, “*A Hebrew I am and the LORD God of the heavens I fear, who made the sea and the dry land.*” Every country in the ancient world had their gods and the strength of the country was often considered similar to the strength of their gods. The Hebrews were well known for their God delivering them through the ten plagues upon Egypt (Exodus 7-12) and His opening the Red Sea for them while using it to drown the Egyptian Army (Ex. 14)! They had heard how He had knocked the walls of Jericho down (Joshua 6) and made the sun stand still for Joshua to defeat their enemies (Josh.10:12-14). To make sure that they understood that his God was the one supreme God, Jonah called Him “*the LORD God of the heavens . . . who made the sea and the dry land.*” At this the seamen panicked! They now knew who had caused the storm and the God infuriating the storm! They recoiled in horror and literally “*feared a great fear*” at Jonah’s sin against such a great God! They cried out in terror and required his shame with the words, “*What is this you have done?!*” This was the same exact exclamation from God when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden (Genesis 3:13)! And God’s question to Cain when he murdered his brother (Gen. 4:10)! The mariners’ fear continued to rise with the storm “*for the men knew that from the presence of the LORD he was fleeing, because he had told them.*” Evidently they had required from Jonah an explanation for his passage on their ship when he boarded, but they had no idea who his God was!

“THESE HEATHEN MARINERS WERE MORE AROUSED AND ALARMED BY THE FLAGRANT DISOBEDIENCE OF JONAH THAN THE PROPHET OF GOD WAS. WHAT A REBUKE IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN TO HIM!” CHARLES FEINBERG

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Do you accuse others in your heart for the storms that surround you, our state, or our nation?
- 2) Are you willing to continue in your sin and disobedience against God though it also effects those around you?
- 3) How are you fulfilling the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20 to “*disciple all the nations?*”
- 4) If we are not fulfilling our commission given to us by Christ, how are we different from Jonah?