

# Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet-7

**Introduction:** As we continue through Jonah chapter 1 in verses 6-12 we discover the sad truth concerning the searching of the world for the one true living God. We also see Jonah beginning to be aroused to turn back to Almighty God.

## A. The Word of the LORD Came v1,2

## B. The Prophet Rose Up To Flee v3-7

### 1. The Mighty Tempest v4

### 2. The Mariner's Fear v5

### 3. The Messenger's Sleep v5

### 4. The Master's Question v6

### 5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of "gods" v6

**v6** *"So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, **call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.**"*

The manner of "gods" simply speaks to the fact of the **inadequacy** of those who worship anything other than the one true living God.

## Paul's Preaching in Aeropagus

The Bible tells us in **Acts chapter 17:16**, *"Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, **his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry.**"*

Idolatry is defined as this, "The worship of idols, images, or anything made by hands, or which is not God." - **Webster's 1828 Dictionary**

When we find this word appear in our English Bible, one of the Hebrew words that is translated as 'idols' or 'idolatry' or 'image' is also the word transliterated; the word Teraphim (as found in **Judges 18:14**).

When we think about the definition for an idol and this matter of idolatry we would have to say that **idolatry is certainly contrary to God and His ways.**

**“God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”  
**John 4:24**

**Leviticus 26:1** “Ye shall make you no idols nor graven **image**, neither rear you up a standing **image**, neither shall ye set up any **image** of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.”

When Paul arrived in Athens, this is what he saw with his eyes, a city **full of images.**

Here was a city given to idolatry. They had so many idols that he even came across one altar that stated, “TO THE UNKNOWN GOD,” according to **Acts 17:23.**

We see here in our text (**Jonah 1:6**) this thought among these heathen mariners, the manner of the gods that exist are:

**Unknowable**

**Uncaring**

**Unreachable**

Not only do we see this prevailing thought, but we come to understand that **Jonah had lost his testimony.**

## **6. The Mystery Known v7**

1. Not every calamity in life has to do with some specific sin. (Though everything in this world is marred by the fall of man. **Romans 8:18-22**)

**John 9:2** tells us of the disciple’s wrong assumption concerning a man that was born blind. They asked the Lord Jesus concerning this state, “*Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?*”

The Lord’s answer shows us, “Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.” (**John 9:3**)

2. Some calamities **are** a result from specific sin and chastisement.

**Joshua chapter 7** - the sin of Achan

**II Samuel chapter 21** - the sin of Saul

**John chapter 5:1-14** - sin no more, the impotent man made whole

3. \_\_\_\_\_ is **required** to determine if there is something that needs correcting or acknowledgement in our lives.

For the Christian, this is not done by casting lot, or by drawing straws. This is accomplished by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit of God.

The tempest would prove to be of no effect had God not made clear to Jonah the cause of it.

The tempest would prove to be of no effect to the mariners and shipmaster had God not made clear to them the cause of it.

He also is not ineffectual to reveal to a person whether they are lost or not.

4. The casting of lots was used in the Old Testament but not particularly sanctioned in the New Testament.

The first instance is found in **Matthew 27:35**, **Mark 15:24**, **Luke 23:34**, and **John 19:24** all dealing with the parting of Jesus' garments by lot.

The second instance is found in **Acts chapter 1:26** - where we find that Matthias is chosen to replace Judas.

"The use of the lot by the world today certainly has no virtue nor justification. Gambling and all its related games are promoted by greed and produces the worst kind of evils. To use our text to justify such practices is to manifest a perverted mind bent on doing evil. The honest mind will see our text for what it is—simply a record of what pagan sailors did and how God controlled it to expose Jonah's disobedience." John G. Butler

## **C. The Cause Of This Evil v8-12**

### **1. The Accusations v8**

**v8** *“Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? what is thy country? and of what people art thou?”*

We could ask the same question of ourselves today, being part of Sharon Baptist Church, **“What is your \_\_\_\_\_?”**

“The world of sin inquires of the Church, “What is thine occupation?” A religion that cannot give a valid reason for existence will and ought to die.

- The Biblical Illustrator: The Minor Prophets”

John Philips in his commentary put the conversation as going something like this:

“What is your occupation, stranger?

I am a preacher, a prophet of God.

Where did you come from?

From the presence of the Lord. I am running away from God.

What is your country?

I am from the promised land.

Who are your people?

The people of God!”

## **2. The Answers v9**

**v9** *“And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.”*

We see in this response that Jonah, stated properly who he was.

The name ‘Hebrew’ “... was the name by which Israel was known to foreigners.” - Albert Barnes

This usage of the term ‘Hebrew’ is found first in **Genesis 14:13**, where Abraham was dwelling in the plain of Mamre the Amorite.

If we were to ask you this morning who are you?

The world’s question to us ought to be answered **that we are Christians, followers of Jesus Christ.**

## **3. The Alarm v10,11**

The fear found in **verse 10** is different from what is expressed in **verse 5**.

What is different about this verse and the fear that the mariners now experienced?

We all are familiar with the verse in **Numbers 32:23** *“But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and **be sure your sin will find you out.**”*