

# JONAH 1

## The Reluctant Prophet

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A Study prepared by Mark Paynter

The study that follows is divided into three readings with a set of questions following each reading. To get the most out of your study please read the text through several times and then reread the selected passage again several times before attempting to answer the questions. Answer each set of questions from the passage.

### Read Jonah 1

Then ask:

What two things does Jonah 1:1 note about Jonah? What was the word that Jonah received from the Lord in Jonah 1:2? What was Jonah instructed to do? What do we learn about Jonah's response in Jonah 1:3? Why did Jonah respond in this manner? What did the Lord do in Jonah 1:4? What do we learn about the Lord, his purpose and his will?

Contrast the action the Mariners took in the storm to that of Jonah's in Jonah 1:5? What do we learn about the attitude of the Mariners and Jonah from this verse? What did the captain of the ship instruct Jonah in Jonah 1:6?

What did the Mariners do to determine who was responsible for the circumstances that they found themselves in (Jonah 1:7)? Why do you think this methodology worked for them in this instance? What series of questions did they ask Jonah in Jonah 1:8? How did Jonah reply in Jonah 1:9? How did the mariners respond to Jonah in Jonah 1:10? What did they realize and acknowledge in Jonah 1:10? Does their response in verse ten indicate a change in their attitude to their gods from verse five? Give a reason for your answer?

What question did the mariners ask Jonah in Jonah 1:11? Why do you think they addressed this question to Jonah? What did Jonah reply in Jonah 1:12? What does this response indicate about Jonah's understanding of God's control of circumstances including the weather? Did the mariners immediately follow Jonah's advice? Why do you think this was? Who did they cry out to in Jonah 1:14, what did they pray out for? What did the Mariners do in Jonah 1:15? How does the Mariner's action in Jonah 1:14-15 differ from what how they behaved in Jonah 1:4? How do you account for this change?

What happened in Jonah 1:17? How the Lord influence the great fish? Is there any indication that the great fish was a whale?

Considering the wider passage, can you think of a one sentence heading for this account? Do you think that the account actually happened or is it a fictional account? What was Jesus attitude to the story of Jonah? Why is the story of Jonah included in the Bible? What do we learn about the Lord himself; as well as his relationship to those he calls to serve him? What do we learn about the Lord's ability to control and use nature in order to work out his will and purpose?