

# Adult SS - Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet-5

**Introduction:** Jonah made his choice to depart from the Lord. Providence seemed to be in Jonah's favor, but shortly Jonah would discover differently. The Lord in loving kindness reaches out to Jonah by causing a tempest in the sea. As we continue through chapter 1 we are given the reactions of all the parties involved. In the midst of the storm, what do you do?

**Text: Jonah 1:3-12**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ v5**

**Verse 5** *"Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep."*

• They Were \_\_\_\_\_

"If these sailors were Phoenicians, then the storm must have been terrible indeed. The Phoenicians were legendary for their seamanship and navigating skills." - Faithlife Study Bible

**Fear very often in the Bible is put in \_\_\_\_\_ with faith as it concerns the Christian.**

**A Christian's reaction in the midst of fear reveal their faith.**

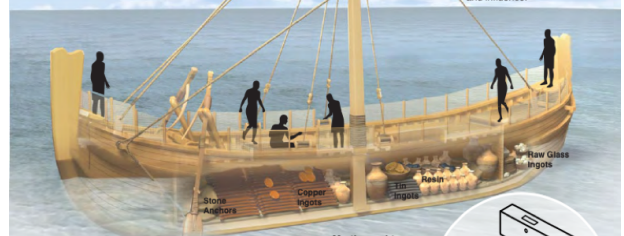
**Mark 4:35–40** <sup>35</sup> *And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.* <sup>36</sup> *And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.* <sup>37</sup> *And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.* <sup>38</sup> *And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?* <sup>39</sup> *And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.* <sup>40</sup> *And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?*

## Ancient Phoenician Ship

The Phoenicians were the greatest traders of the ancient world. They bartered goods throughout the Mediterranean, traveling as far as Spain and the West African coast— incredible distances for small ships with rudimentary maps and no more than the stars to guide them.



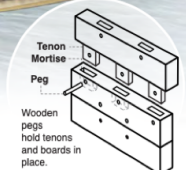
The three greatest Phoenician cities were Sidon, Byblos, and Tyre. The Bible often presents Tyre as an example of wealth and influence.



A Phoenician shipwreck from the 14th century BC was discovered off the coast of Turkey. It was carrying 10 tons of copper, one ton of tin, nearly a ton of terebinth resin (for incense) in 150 jars, a large quantity of raw glass, and many other precious goods.

### Mortise-and-tenon construction

Builders would chisel matching square holes (mortises) into the edges of the boards and insert square lengths of oak (tenons).



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Notice the probing question directed toward those that have the Lord Jesus with them:

*“Why are ye so fearful....”*

*“How is it that ye have no faith?”*

In prior chapters in the book of Mark:

- The Lord had cast out a demon. **Mark 1:21**
- The Lord had healed Simon Peter’s wife. **Mark 1:30**
- The Lord healed a Leper. **Mark 1:40**
- The Lord had healed the paralytic man borne by four. **Mark 2:3**
- The Lord knew the internal thoughts of man without them speaking. **Mark 2:6,7**
- The Lord had healed many of sickness and disease. **Mark 3:10**

And so, this question we find in verse 40 is purposeful. How is it that ye have no faith? (Thinking about all that had taken place prior to us).

These mariners, being heathen, had every reason to be fearful. They reacted as only they could.

But for the Christian, we have different choices before us. Our perspective on the events of this world ought to be a little bit different.

We are reminded of two cardinal truths for the Christian:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ holds us in His hand. **John 10:27-29**
2. The Lord Jesus Christ is working in our lives to bring about good (we are being conformed to the image of Christ). And likewise, our perspective of such difficulties is different because of our God’s sovereignty and our ultimate end as a child of God. **Romans 8:28**

If Jonah were to be asked in the beginning moments of this tempest, is this a good thing? What would the answer be?

**Hebrews 12:11** states, “*Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*”

If the mariners were asked in the beginning about this tempest, is this a good thing? What would the answer be? (Compare **Jonah 1:5-7** and then **vs. 16**. The mariners had an entirely new perspective.)

Notice secondly in your notes that **not only were they afraid**, but

- **They cried every man to his god**

“At this time, individuals often had their own personal god that they worshiped above all others.” - Faithlife Study Bible

In a way, this an indictment to us as followers of the Lord, that these prayed instantly every man to his god. You and I are to be instant in prayer.

Instead of the prophet Jonah praying, we see these heathen mariners were instant in prayer!

Unfortunately, these men prayed to themselves (**Luke 18:11**), or even worse they prayed unto devils (**Deuteronomy 32:16,17; Revelation 9:20**).

But you and I as a Christian should be \_\_\_\_\_ in prayer. This should have been what was seen of the prophet Jonah.

How often it is that when we find ourselves in precarious situations and we act as the heathens did **after they prayed**. (We put the cart before the horse.)

Notice with me again the verse, “*Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, **and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them.***”

We begin to do all we can to correct the situation without any respect to our wonderful Savior. We begin to cast all the “*wares out of the boat*” so to speak.

**We fail to be instant in prayer to the one true Living God.**