

the God of Wind, Waves and Whales (Jonah 1-2)

**T:** I've never found comfort in the idea that, in loss, tragedy, pain, or grief "it wasn't God's plan." We don't need a God who isn't strong enough to turn the tide, stop the storm, or calm the quake.

We love God's omniscience as long as we can wield it for our pleasure. But when it means our pain... Faith is easy when all is well, but in the midst of darkness, when we need it most: at God's mercy to give. *"Pain is God's megaphone to rouse a deaf & dying world."* –CSL

PRAYER: God, grant us the mercy—not to avoid storms, but—to trust You & Your work through them.

Introduction: Jonah is a screw up! "Pitiful Prophet", BUT like many, records his faults: God's glory, not his

1.1-3 Jonah - prophet from Gath-Hepher (see map), "great" Nineveh: bad, Israel enemy, evil, Tarshish  
v3 "but" "down" "away from the Lord" If anyone should know better: prophet! Sin/fear = blinds/dulls us

4-6 ¿Who hurled the great wind, mighty tempest? GOD!

effects of fear, hearing the voice of God: Jonah runs; God speaks through nature: pagans pray!

that tempest wasn't sent for the pagans, but for God's prodigal son Jonah

MH: though it be a mighty tempest, it is a great mercy to be called back home when we go astray  
dumped the cargo: so willing to trade their cargo for their lives

THIS is how we should hear Jesus: "leave all follow Me". glad to sink what would've sunk them

*"Let goods & kindred go... His kingdom is forever"* Incalculable gain!!!

meanwhile, where's the preacher of incalculable glory? "asleep": when God's men depart from Him

Step1 in Jonah's recovery: Butt chewing from Capt.-What-the-Heck (God's mercy) "What you doing?"

[O GOD BREAK US of our *private personal relationship*: "As long as i'm secure, you can go to hell."]

7-10 Seek Lord through hard times; He will keep you through it, but He brought you to it! Ps139.23

Jonah's answers only increases their fear. Not dealing w/false pagan deity, but God of heaven & earth

11-16 Better for one man to die than a whole nation: Jonah & Jesus offer their lives for others

Jonah's confession brings "exceeding fear": "If God does this to His prophets..."

tried harder, but good works powerless against God's righteous wrath: SUBMIT to His will: death of S  
immediate calm RESULT > more intense fear (like disciples w/Jesus): in Presence/Power of deity!

17 like J's grave, God had prepared fish to swallow his son: NOT to devour, but to rescue/transport Him

2.1-4 PROSE: time to think pain/anxiety through (writing = healing; journal!)

We tend to pray in distress. Wonder how often God takes us down to bring us up in prayer

"**You** cast me..." Not sailors, GOD! Jonah knew it was not just storm/fish: "Your waves/billows"

v4 "YET" In the pit, the preacher finally preaches... almost always first to ourselves

5-7 v6 Death all-around YET God = hope, rescue, salvation, v7: "remembered the Lord" Recall 4 faith!

8-9 warns against idolatry (worship of false "safe" gods); TRUE God deserves our all even/esp in storms!

10 Don't worry: God speaks the language of the dark; He knows how to command it & it must listen!

like Jesus, Jonah delivered from death to proclaim salvation by grace to the Gentiles! Who better?!

**benediction** Ps50.1-15