



## Old Testament Outlines: Jonah by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

### Jonah = "Dove"

### [God Is Peaceful] Blueprint for Redemption

#### I. Sent **Jonah 1:1-16**

##### A. Spiritual Procedure **1:1-2**

1. Great message **1:1**
2. Get up, Go & Goal **1:2**

##### B. Skedaddle Plan **1:3-16**

1. Opposite direction--to Tarshish **1:3**
2. Stormy weather slows sinful flight **1:4**
3. Scared sailors sought source **1:5-16**
  - a. Each had his god and expected Jonah to, also **1:5**
  - b. Captain didn't want any god left out **1:6** **Cf Mark 4:35-41**
  - c. Casting lots to decide fate **1:7**
  - d. Why was Jonah singled out? **1:8-10**
  - e. Desperate question - decisive reply **1:11-12**
  - f. Desperate attempt to avoid any death **1:13**
  - g. "Converted" to God **1:14-16**

#### II. Bent **Jonah 1:17-2:10**

##### A. No "Fish Tale" Here **1:17**

1. "Great fish" or Jesus' word "sea creature" preclude any fish NOT able to do the job! **Matthew 12:38-42; Luke 11:29-32**
2. Nothing says God prepared this fish *at this moment*, but it may have been something from the Creation **Genesis 1:20-23**  
**Hebrew "had prepared"** means "*appointed, determined.*"

##### B. Deep Prayer **2:1-9**

1. No "Chicken of the Sea" was Jonah **2:1**
2. Prayer from the "gullet" **2:2-9**
  - a. He knew which "god" would answer **2:2; Psalm 18:5-6; 120:1**

- b. He knew which "god" caused the stormy solution **2:3;**  
**Psalm 18:4; 42:7**
  - c. He knew to what depths he had gone away from God **2:4-6a;**  
**Psalm 31:22; Lamentations 3:54; Psalm 18:4; 116:3; 20:1**
  - d. He knew the LORD God only could save him **2:6b-9;**  
**Psalm 30:3; 143; 3; 18:6; 31:6; 50:14;**  
**116:17 (Leviticus 7:12-13; 22:29); 3:8**
3. Any unknown spot of dry land was satisfactory to Jonah **2:10**

### III. Went **Jonah 3:1-10**

- A.** This was God's "final answer" **3:1-4**
  - 1. Only the messenger was changed from **1:1-2**
  - 2. Ninevah was same size challenge as before **1:3**
  - 3. Jonah's message was only 5 Hebrew words long **1:4**  
**Cf Matthew 3:2; 4:17; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5;**  
**Mark 16:15-16**
- B.** This was Ninevah's instant reply **3:5-10**
  - 1. "Grassroots repentance" can influence a king **3:5-8**
  - 2. The king simply reflected the people's concern **3:9**
  - 3. God did NOT "change" when He "relented" -- He simply chose to follow the alternative He Himself established when they repented! This is NOT a flaw in God's omnipotence, but perfection in His grace and mercy! **Cf Luke 6:27-36**

### IV. Spent **Jonah 4:1-11**

- A.** Disgusted At Success??? **4:1-4**
  - 1. Jonah didn't handle this gracefully **4:1** **Cf Luke 15:25-32;**  
**John 8:1-11; Luke 7:36-50**
  - 2. Jonah fled because he didn't believe God would destroy Ninevah  
**4:2 ("Exodus 34:6-7")**
  - 3. Jonah would rather die than see Assyrians saved **4:3**
  - 4. God's question cuts to the core of Jonah's attitude **4:4**
- B.** What A "Gourdhead" **4:5-11**
  - 1. Jonah's shelter of sectarian "wait and see" was disgraceful **4:5**
  - 2. God's "gourd" (Hebrew unknown for sure) **4:6-11**
    - a. God's grace produced gratitude **4:6**
    - b. God's "worm" ruined Jonah's comfort **4:7-8**
    - c. God's question "wormed" out the prophet's response **4:9-10**
    - d. God's parallel with Ninevah left Jonah with nothing else to say, hence the book ends **4:11; Cf Luke 15:31-32**

## Fishing In Jonah:

- **Jonah** was the Israelite prophet for the time who was sent to Gentiles, proving that though the Law of Moses was for Israel, the door was always open for Gentiles to become “proselytes” by obeying God’s inspired word (**Exodus 12:48-49; Numbers 15:13-16,29; Acts 2:6-12**, esp. **v. 10**).
- Jesus likened His resurrection from the dead after 3 days to Jonah’s experience (**Matthew 12: 38-42; Luke 11:29-32**). If **Jonah** is a “fish tale” then Jesus’ bodily resurrection is, also! But if Jesus was raised from the grave (as by all evidence He undoubtedly was), then one must necessarily believe the entire **book of Jonah**. If not, why not?
- Lived during the reign of the northern kingdom of Israel’s king, **Jeroboam** [II] (**2 Kings 14:23-29**) and was contemporary with **Hosea** (**1:1**) and **Amos** (**1:1**). All that is stated about his background is found in **2 Kings 14:25**. His hometown of Gath Hopher is shown as 4 miles NE of what was later known as Nazareth.
- **Ninevah** was the capital of Assyria, having been begun by Cush (**Genesis 10:6-14**, esp. **v. 6**). The Assyrian kingdom was to become one of the most vicious pagan empires, noted because of excessive cruelty and torture. From Jonah’s day, Ninevah could have been different!
- **Hebrew “Sheol”** refers to “unseen realm” and is parallel to **Greek “Hades”** in the New Testament (**Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:22-28**, esp. **v.27**). It is the place of departed spirits (**Isaiah 14:9**), underground (**Amos 9:2**), exposed to God (**Proverbs 15:11**), but where one may be closed off from God or the living (**Psalms 88:3-5, 13-18; 6:5**), thus, certainly a place for the wicked (**Psalms 9:17**).
- **Many seem to have the religion of the sailors:**
  - (1) One god is as good as another god, **1:5**;
  - (2) Only pray to god when trouble arises, **1:5**;
  - (3) Make sure to have “community” worship/prayer times, **1:5-6**;
  - (4) Work hard to avoid doing what God says do, **1:12-13**.
- **Some Christians have the religion of fleeing Jonah:**
  - (1) Run from God by whatever means available, **1:3**;
  - (2) Be at the mercy of “luck” rather than God, **1:4-7**;
  - (3) Sleep well while admitting failure to do God’s duty, **1:6,8-10**;
  - (4) Have to be stirred by “the world” to remember God, **1:6**;
  - (5) Have second thoughts about serving God in the smelliest of circumstances, **1:17-2:10**;
  - (6) And don’t believe God will actually damn anyone **4:2**!

- No one can “run away from” God, it’s been tried and always fails.  
**Cf Genesis 3:8-13; Psalm 139:7-18; Hebrews 4:12-13**
- Following “Tuesday’s Twin Tower Terrorism” on September 11, 2001, the “groundswell” of repentance within the USA has virtually been non-existent! Ninevah was spared their judgment and by their example will judge impenitent mankind on Judgment Day, but will the USA learn its lesson? Cf **Luke 11:29-32; 13:1-5**. **NO NATION OR EMPIRE IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND LASTED FOR LONG OR PROSPERED THAT SHUT JEHOVAH GOD OUT OF THEIR SOCIETY!!!**