



PRECEPT
UPON
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English Standard Version

*Where Are
You Going?*

A STUDY OF JONAH

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®
English Standard Version
KINGS AND PROPHETS SERIES
Course 5
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
A STUDY OF JONAH

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—English Standard Version

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013

Hebrew Word Study Tools

(The following is a list of helpful Hebrew Word Study Tools:)

HARRIS, R. LAIRD; ARCHER, GLEASON L. JR.; WALTKE, BRUCE K.

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1980

ZODHIATES, SPIROS

The Complete Word Study Old Testament

Chattanooga, Tennessee: AMG Publishers, 1994

BAKER, WARREN; CARPENTER, EUGENE

The Complete Word Study Dictionary, Old Testament

Chattanooga, Tennessee: AMG Publishers, 2003

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

KEIL, C. F.; DELITZSCH, F.

Commentary on the Old Testament

Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers Inc., 1996

SMITH, B. K.; PAGE, F. S.

The New American Commentary, Vol. 19B

Nashville, Tennessee: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995

WALVOORD, JOHN F., ZUCK, ROY B., EDS.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures

Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1983-c1985



LESSON ONE

Chapters One and Two

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES Cross-references
Word studies
The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of Jonah 1–2
“Jonah’s Journey” map

Was there ever a time when you wanted to run away from the will of the Lord, even die, because it seemed easier, *your* way out? Many have been there at one time or another.

What’s the answer? What are we to do? And what if we don’t?

The book of Jonah has answers. It’s far more than a whale of a story!

DAY ONE

1. The book of Jonah is just four chapters long; it can be read in minutes. If it were a New Testament epistle, we would suggest you sit down and read it to familiarize yourself with the content. However, because its historical content took place over a period of time, we think it’s better for you to study it event by event. Therefore, may we ask you to restrain yourself and experience the venture chapter by chapter.

Read the first chapter of Jonah and stop. Then go to the Lord in prayer and ask Him to show you His purpose in including this account in His book, the Bible. What has He ordered written and preserved all these millennia for the world, particularly for the nation of Israel, and for the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ? Seek His face in this matter every time you begin your study.

2. There are Observation Worksheets on Jonah in the Appendix so you can freely mark the text. Read Jonah 1 again. This time mark references to *Jonah* including pronouns in a color of your choice. When you finish, list everything you learn about Jonah that answers one of the 5 Ws and H: who, what, when, where, why, and how. If you come to references to time—anything that tells you “when”—mark it in a distinctive way. Many of us mark it with a green clock like this:





3. As you observed the text, you read where Jonah was, where he went, and why, but can you find them on a map? Geography is important when you study the Bible; it tells you “where.” Double underline each geographical location in chapter 1 in green. There’s a map in the Appendix. Follow Jonah’s adventure by drawing arrows from one location to another. This will give you a better perspective on the events in this chapter.
4. Read Jonah chapter 1 again, but not beyond! This time mark every reference to the *LORD*. List what you learn from this chapter about God. It’s rich.
5. Two final questions and we will call it a good day’s work:
 - a. Do you believe what you’ve observed about Jonah? Do your observations give you any problems? Raise any doubts? Write out your thoughts—be honest (you can be with God)!
 - b. Do you believe what you’ve just learned about God? Does it give you any problems? If so, what? If not, why?

May we suggest you bring today’s lesson to a close by meditating on Psalms 95 and 96, and memorizing Psalm 95:3-7a. To memorize a passage simply read it aloud three times in a row, three different times a day. Soon it will be yours.



DAY
TWO

1. Let's begin our study by returning to our observations of Jonah. There's a lot of information here that God wants us to know. By the way, begin with prayer...it makes such a difference.

Read chapter 1 again. If you read it aloud, you'll soon have it memorized. As you read, note who besides Jonah plays a significant role in this account. Mark every reference to this group of men including the captain. Then list what you learn about them.

2. Now read the chapter again. What words or phrases repeated in this chapter are significant? These are called key words. Key words and phrases are repeated in order to communicate the author's main point and reason for writing. Key words unlock meanings. They help us interpret the text.

When you mark a key word, do so in a distinctive color, series of colors, or with a symbol. Keep it simple—marking is not intended to be a burden; rather, it's a way of quickly spotting important words and phrases. By the way, make sure you mark synonyms and pronouns in the same way.

You might consider making a bookmark for your Jonah study, putting your key words (with the way you're going to mark them) on it.

Some people prefer to directly mark their Bibles. We encourage you to consider investing in *The New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)*. You will benefit greatly from making it your primary study Bible!

Kay's book, *How to Study Your Bible*, has helped over half a million people (in English alone) to study the Bible inductively.

Now, diligent one, see what you can discover on your own. List key words and phrases you see in this chapter.



c. Daniel 9:11-14

d. Amos 3:6-7 (If you have studied Amos with us, you'll find this section to be familiar territory that will confirm and encourage you in the discipline of inductive Bible study.)

6. Finally, is there anything practical we can learn about disaster? Will it change how you respond to it?

Wonderful job! You are off to such a good start.

DAY
THREE

1. When you marked your references to *Jonah* and then listed what you observed, according to Jonah 1:3,

a. where did Jonah go with respect to the Lord?

b. How many times is this phrase repeated in this chapter?

c. Do you think it is a key phrase? Why?



2. The Word of God makes it clear that God is omnipresent; as Psalm 139 says, there is no hiding from Him. Therefore the statement that Jonah went “from the presence of the LORD” is interesting, isn’t it? What does it mean? Is it possible for someone to do this today? If so, how?

Look up the following passages and see what you learn about moving from the presence of the Lord. While there are far more references to the presence of the Lord in the Bible if you care to look for them, we believe these will be sufficient to understand what this phrase means with respect to Jonah.

- a. Genesis 3:1-18. Note what the man and woman do, why they do it, and how God responds.

- b. Genesis 4:1-16. Observe Cain’s actions and attitude carefully.

- c. 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10 (Note how this differs from the other two passages.)

- d. From all you have seen, what do you think it means when it says Jonah went from the presence of the Lord? How was this done? Is there any application in this for us?



c. 1 Samuel 14:24-45

d. Nehemiah 10:34

e. Proverbs 16:33

f. Acts 1:26

6. Who controlled the lots cast by the mariners? Explain your answer.

Don't you just stand in awe of all you have learned these past three days? You've learned what it means to move from the presence of the Lord; you've seen God's unwillingness to let Jonah depart in disobedience; and you've observed what He worked in the lives of the mariners! Is this the God you know? Does He change—or is the God of both Testaments the God you love and serve today?

Put your pen down, read Jonah 1 again, and let it go deep into your soul.

The Latin phrase, "Coram Deo," means "before the face of God." Living life "Coram Deo" means we live our lives in light of the truth that we are in the presence of a Holy, Sovereign God!! Thus we live under His authority, in constant awareness of His character, and in obedience to His Word. O precious one, what a privilege we have! Don't take it lightly! Don't believe the enemy's lies. When you sin, when you disobey, God is not finished with you, as you are about to see. He longs for you to return.



DAY
FOUR

1. Today we move into Jonah chapter 2, a touching chapter as you will see. In the Hebrew Bible, verse 1 of chapter 2 is really verse 2, as they divide chapter 1 right after 1:16. Therefore begin reading with 1:17, which will put you into context.

Continue to mark the references to *Jonah* and to the *LORD*. Watch for additional key words. Mark references to time and sequences. Double underline geographical locations.

2. Now, what is Jonah chapter 2 about? Describe it in one brief sentence.

3. List what you learn about Jonah and the Lord from this chapter.

| Jonah | The Lord |
|-------|----------|
| | |

4. When you looked for key words, did you mark references to *prayer*? If not, stop and do so now, but begin in chapter 1. Mark synonyms for *prayer* such as *calling* on God and *crying* to Him. When you finish, list everything you learn



from marking *prayer* in Jonah 1 and 2. Note *who* prays, *what* they pray, *when* they pray, *where* they pray, and *why* they pray.

5. Let's take a few minutes and examine some scriptures dealing with calling upon the Lord and crying out to Him in prayer. Look up the following passages and record your insights, asking the 5 Ws and H. Take special note of what God does when we cry out to Him and what we receive when He hears.

- a. Exodus 2:23-25; Deuteronomy 26:6-11

- b. 2 Samuel 22:1-7, 17-25

- c. Psalm 57:1-5



d. Psalm 116:1-13

e. Psalm 145:18-19

f. Romans 8:15-17

6. Are there times when you cry out to the Lord and He does not answer you? Why would this happen? Is there anything we can do to change this?

a. Micah 3:4

b. Habakkuk 1:2-5 (Are God's purpose and timing significant?)

c. Psalm 66:18



d. Isaiah 59:1-2

e. 1 John 1:9 (How do you return to God when you have disobeyed Him?)

7. Let's stop for a little personal application. How well do you know the God to whom you pray? How important is prayer in your life? Is it an essential part of your relationship with God? The answers to these questions are so important. Why don't you come before God and ask Him to examine your relationship with Him and your prayer life? If you journal, you may want to record what He shows you.

Whether this is your first Precept course or you are a seasoned student, aren't you grateful to the Lord that you can learn how to discover His truth for yourself?

We commend you for your diligence in studying to show yourself approved unto God—a workman who will not be ashamed because you are determined to handle His Word in a worthy manner, accurately.



4. Finally, what do you think about what you've read in the first two chapters of Jonah? Is this a *true* story? Was there really a man by the name of Jonah? If so, was Jonah really swallowed by a great fish, or is this too much to swallow intellectually?

We believe your answer will come by looking at additional statements the Word of God makes about Jonah. Scripture is the best commentary on Scripture. Look up these references and note what you learn from observing the text.

a. 2 Kings 14:25

b. Matthew 12:39-41

c. Matthew 16:4

d. Luke 11:29-32

Skeptics and even some Bible scholars and students doubt the historical authenticity of Jonah. Is the story possible? Did it actually happen or is it simply a parable or myth? Is its message clear or is it an allegory with hidden meanings? Can God really appoint a big fish to be right by the boat when the



When you study the Bible Precept upon Precept, you will sometimes find yourself face-to-face with events that don't seem possible. But if you believe the Bible is God's sovereignly inspired and guarded Word, then you accept it by faith. Faith is the evidence of things not seen. It is realizing God is God and taking God at His Word, even when others scoff. Who would you rather believe, God or man—man whose average life span is threescore and ten and whose knowledge is limited by his experience?

Think about this!

7. Feel free to consult commentaries, but don't go beyond Jonah 2. We have another week to explore the last two surprising chapters and their needful lessons.

Well done, diligent one. Tell others the benefits you're receiving from studying God's Word inductively. It's not hard; it simply takes time, but can you spend your time in a better way? After all, if God gave us sixty-six books in the Bible, He deems each essential or He would not have included it. It is our responsibility, then, to study each book for ourselves so that we have the whole counsel of God.

8. Finally, what truths can you apply to your life from this week's lesson? What are you thankful for? Has God ever rescued you after you sinned? What do you need to say to Him? How important is a thankful heart before a Holy God?



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Where Are You Going?
Lesson 1, Chapters 1–2



2 CHRONICLES 6

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THEN Solomon said, “The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.

2 “But I have built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever.”

3 Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood.

4 And he said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to David my father, saying,

5 ‘Since the day that I brought my people out of the land of Egypt, I chose no city out of all the tribes of Israel in which to build a house, that my name might be there, and I chose no man as prince over my people Israel;

6 but I have chosen Jerusalem that my name may be there, and I have chosen David to be over my people Israel.’

7 “Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

8 “But the LORD said to David my father, ‘Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart.

9 ‘Nevertheless, it is not you who shall build the house, but your son who shall be born to you shall build the house for my name.’

10 “Now the LORD has fulfilled his promise that he made. For I have risen in the place of David my father and sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and I have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel.

11 “And there I have set the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD that he made with the people of Israel.”



- 12 Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel and spread out his hands.
- 13 Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the court, and he stood on it. Then he knelt on his knees in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven,
- 14 and said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven or on earth, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart,
- 15 who have kept with your servant David my father what you declared to him. You spoke with your mouth, and with your hand have fulfilled it this day.
- 16 “Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant David my father what you have promised him, saying, ‘You shall not lack a man to sit before me on the throne of Israel, if only your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk in my law as you have walked before me.’
- 17 “Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you have spoken to your servant David.
- 18 “But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built!
- 19 “Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you,
- 20 that your eyes may be open day and night toward this house, the place where you have promised to set your name, that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place.
- 21 “And listen to the pleas of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen from heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.



- 22 “If a man sins against his neighbor and is made to take an oath and
comes and swears his oath before your altar in this house,
23 then hear from heaven and act and judge your servants, repaying the
guilty by bringing his conduct on his own head, and vindicating the
righteous by rewarding him according to his righteousness.
- 24 “If your people Israel are defeated before the enemy because they have
sinned against you, and they turn again and acknowledge your name
and pray and plead with you in this house,
25 then hear from heaven and forgive the sin of your people Israel and
bring them again to the land that you gave to them and to their fathers.
- 26 “When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned
against you, if they pray toward this place and acknowledge your name
and turn from their sin, when you afflict them,
27 then hear in heaven and forgive the sin of your servants, your people
Israel, when you teach them the good way in which they should walk,
and grant rain upon your land, which you have given to your people as
an inheritance.
- 28 “If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence or blight or mildew
or locust or caterpillar, if their enemies besiege them in the land at their
gates, whatever plague, whatever sickness there is,
29 whatever prayer, whatever plea is made by any man or by all your
people Israel, each knowing his own affliction and his own sorrow and
stretching out his hands toward this house,
30 then hear from heaven your dwelling place and forgive and render to
each whose heart you know, according to all his ways, for you, you
only, know the hearts of the children of mankind,
31 that they may fear you and walk in your ways all the days that they live
in the land that you gave to our fathers.
- 32 “Likewise, when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes
from a far country for the sake of your great name and your mighty
hand and your outstretched arm, when he comes and prays toward this
house,



- 33 hear from heaven your dwelling place and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to you, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and that they may know that this house that I have built is called by your name.
- 34 “If your people go out to battle against their enemies, by whatever way you shall send them, and they pray to you toward this city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name,
- 35 then hear from heaven their prayer and their plea, and maintain their cause.
- 36 “If they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to a land far or near,
- 37 yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captivity, saying, ‘We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly,’
- 38 if they repent with all their mind and with all their heart in the land of their captivity to which they were carried captive, and pray toward their land, which you gave to their fathers, the city that you have chosen and the house that I have built for your name,
- 39 then hear from heaven your dwelling place their prayer and their pleas, and maintain their cause and forgive your people who have sinned against you.
- 40 “Now, O my God, let your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the prayer of this place.
- 41 “And now arise, O LORD God, and go to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.
Let your priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation,
and let your saints rejoice in your goodness.
- 42 “O LORD God, do not turn away the face of your anointed one!
Remember your steadfast love for David your servant.”



JONAH 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- NOW the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,
- 2 “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me.”
 - 3 But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.
 - 4 But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up.
 - 5 Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep.
 - 6 So the captain came and said to him, “What do you mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps the god will give a thought to us, that we may not perish.”
 - 7 And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.
 - 8 Then they said to him, “Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?”
 - 9 And he said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”
 - 10 Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.



- 11 Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea grew more and more tempestuous.
- 12 He said to them, “Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you.”
- 13 Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them.
- 14 Therefore they called out to the LORD, “O LORD, let us not perish for this man’s life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you.”
- 15 So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.
- 16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.
- 17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.



JONAH 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THEN Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish,
saying,

- “I called out to the LORD, out of my distress,
and he answered me;
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
and you heard my voice.
- 3 “For you cast me into the deep,
into the heart of the seas,
and the flood surrounded me;
all your waves and your billows
passed over me.
- 4 “Then I said, ‘I am driven away
from your sight;
yet I shall again look
upon your holy temple.’
- 5 “The waters closed in over me to take my life;
the deep surrounded me;
weeds were wrapped about my head
- 6 at the roots of the mountains.
I went down to the land
whose bars closed upon me forever;
yet you brought up my life from the pit,
O LORD my God.



- 7 “When my life was fainting away,
I remembered the LORD,
and my prayer came to you,
into your holy temple.
- 8 “Those who pay regard to vain idols
forsake their hope of steadfast love.
- 9 “But I with the voice of thanksgiving
will sacrifice to you;
what I have vowed I will pay.
Salvation belongs to the LORD!”
- 10 And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry
land.



Jonah's Journey



