

JONAH

Reluctant Prophet. Relentless God.



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1 The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: 2 “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

3 But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

Simple Summary of Jonah

God said “GO”

Simple Summary of Jonah

God said “GO”

Jonah said “NO”

Simple Summary of Jonah

God said “GO”

Jonah said “NO”

God said “OH?”

Jonah 1:4-17 page 925

4 Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up.

5 All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. 6 The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”

7 Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. 8 So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

9 He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

10 This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had already told them so.)

11 The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

12 “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

13 Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. 14 Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you pleased.”

” 15 Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. 16 At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

17 Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Lesson 1

Running Away

from God

is a Futile Illusion



Jonah 1:4-17 page 925

4 Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up.

**Storms in your
life get your
attention**



Caution:

Not every storm

is a message or

warning from

God.



**A storm is a
Time to examine
Your life and
Your relationship
With God.**



Run From God? Psalm 139

Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

Psalm 139

9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

if I settle on the far side of the sea,

10 even there your hand will guide me,

your right hand will hold me fast.

Lesson 2

Running From God?

Expect pain for you

and those around

you.

#1 Issue—Who's the Boss?



People running away from God learn--

Sin takes you farther than you want to go

Keeps you longer than you want to stay

Costs you more than you want to pay

For Jonah it is.....

Down

Down

Down

Down

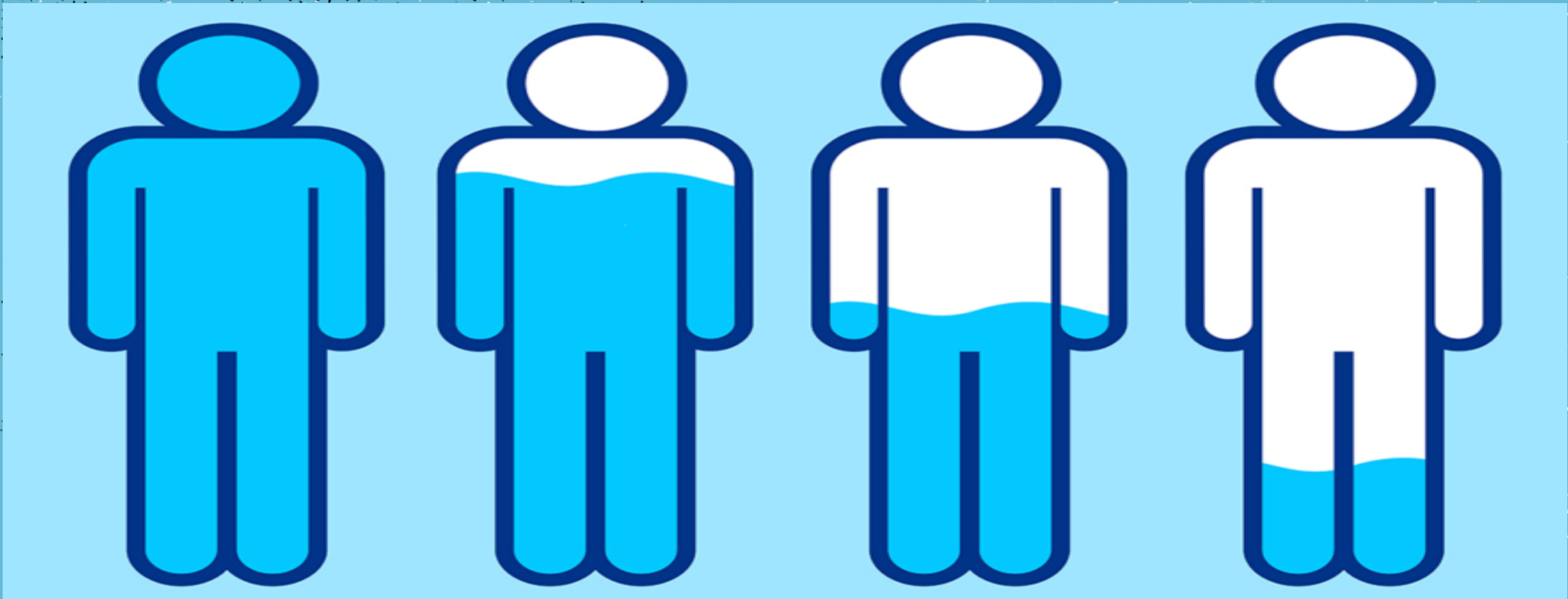
But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. 6 The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”

Growing Distance Between God and Me

Disobedience-→Less Connection


or

Less Communication-→Disobedience




Prone to Spiritual Dehydration

Becoming Lethargic, Weak with No Thirst



You cannot comprehend
the deepest love God has
for you until you realize
that he has that same love
for the person or people
you most despise.



So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

9 He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

The sailors understand---the answer/solution has to come from God.

Lesson 3

Attention All Runners:

God is at Work

Big Surprise Ahead





12 “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”



When Jonah goes into the ocean—for his own sin, but saving the lives of the sailors—the wind dies down completely and the waves instantly stop. The storm of God’s anger against his rebellion is over.



Jesus said, “I’ll go to the cross and take the brunt of God’s anger against sin, I’ll drown in that ocean, so that you won’t have to.”



Running from God

Running into God's Saving Grace

Running for God

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