



Thank you for downloading  
**CQ Rewind - Summary Only** Version!

Each week, the **Summary Only** version provides you with approximately 4 pages of brief excerpts from the program, along with Scripture citations.

If you would like to receive the  
**CQ Rewind FULL EDITION** at no charge, simply sign up at  
[www.ChristianQuestions.net](http://www.ChristianQuestions.net).

The **FULL EDITION** of approximately 10-12 pages includes comprehensive excerpts from the program, fully quoted Scriptures, graphics, illustrations, and even extra study points that time prevented us from covering during the live program.

## So What's the Story With Jonah?

**Jonah 2:8:** (NASB) *Those who regard vain idols forsake their faithfulness...*

Everybody knows the story of Jonah and the whale, perhaps because of the drama of the account - you know, being swallowed by a fish and then being spit back up onto shore three days later. What everybody doesn't seem to pay attention to is the *rest* of the story and the drama and lessons it shows.

### What do we know of the history of Jonah and Nineveh?

Jonah lived during the reign of King Jeroboam II. He could have been contemporary with Amos and Hosea or slightly earlier, since they both lived toward the end of the Jeroboam's reign. It was an interesting time for Israel. Wars with Damascus (Syria) weakened the nation. And their Assyrian Empire, of which Nineveh was the capital, was on the rise.

Jonah is mentioned only one place outside the book of Jonah: 2 Kings 14:25

What do we know about Jonah:

- He was a recognized servant of God;
- He had spoken prophecies that had already come true;
- As a prophet, he would have been highly respected in Israel;
- As a prophet, he may have been widely known and esteemed in other nations as well.

### Biblical Evolution - History of Nineveh and Jonah, [University Lecture](#)

- *Nineveh was the capital of the hated Assyrian empire, a nation that laid siege to Jerusalem and exacted tribute from Judah for many years...*

So, it is in the context of these circumstances that we begin our story. Jonah 1:1-2: This was a simple command, but not an easy one.

### The story of Jonah - God commands Jonah, [Mary Margaret on youtube.com](#)

So, what would our reaction be if God had delivered such a responsibility to us? Here are some possibilities:



*Wow - our enemy has God mad! Awesome!*

*If I go "cry against" them, they could turn on ME!*

*If I go "cry against" them, they just might listen! Then what?*

*If they repent and I prophesied their destruction, then I could be seen as a false prophet!*

### What would make someone run away from God?

Jonah 1:3: Jonah went the exact opposite direction!

### The story of Jonah - Jonah decides to run, [Mary Margaret on youtube.com](#)

Compare **Jonah's** reaction with another individual given a similar command by God, **Ananias**. Ananias was the first Christian to meet the Apostle Paul after Paul's fierce persecution of Christians as Saul.

- Both told to "get up"

**(Jonah)** Jonah 1:2: (NASB) *Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.*

**(Ananias)** Acts 9:11: (NASB) *And the Lord said to him, Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying,*

- Both are given a specific message to deliver

**(Jonah)** Jonah 1:2: (NASB) *Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.*

**Paul's dream about Ananias:** **(Ananias)** Acts 9:12: (NASB) *and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight.*



Jonah, as depicted by Michelangelo in the Sistine Chapel.



**What Ananias is told: (Ananias) Acts 9:15-16:** (NASB) <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; <sup>16</sup>for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake.

- Both were going to a confirmed enemy

**(Ananias) Acts 9:1-2:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, <sup>2</sup>and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

- Both showed personal doubt

**(Jonah) Jonah 1:3:** (NASB) But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

**(Ananias) Acts 9:13-14:** (NASB) <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup>and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.



"Jonah and the Whale," Louis Armstrong

**Running from God...this is not a good idea and certainly not a new idea: Genesis 3:8:** Sometimes we are in a position where we feel we are not capable of doing what God wants us to do, and that can get us into trouble.

**What are the consequences when someone runs away from God?**

Jonah 1:4-6



**Observations regarding Jonah's disobedience:**

1. Hiding in sleep - ignoring the problem never makes it go away! Psalms 32:3-4 Jonah 1:7-12
2. The voice of responsibility had to awaken his strength towards God. Psalms 32:5 Jonah 1:13-17
3. The consequence of Jonah's disobedience - notice it wasn't removed just because he "confessed." Confession is the beginning of a process. James 5:16

**What do you do now that your running from God has you trapped?**

Jonah 2:1-3

➔ Do we acknowledge the depth of our weakness, or do we just "row harder"?

Mark 9:23-24: We don't necessarily take the steps required to help our own unbelief.

Jonah 2:4-6: Sometimes we get what we ask for and it wasn't the way we wanted it. Jonah wanted to hide from God, and now here he has been "expelled from Your sight."

➔ Are we held captive by our inability to truly give our problems to God?

1 Peter 5:5-7 Jonah 2:7-10

➔ Do we struggle to hold onto our way and God's way at the same time?

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

**What do we do when given another chance?**

Jonah 3:1-4

*(Source: Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)* At the time of the greatest prosperity of Nineveh as described by Jonah, the city was surrounded by a circuit wall almost 13 kilometers (eight miles) long. This "great city" would have had an area sufficient to contain a population of 120,000, as indicated by Jonah 4:11 and 3:2.

God repeated the same original command: "Arise, go to Nineveh..."



This time, in spite of this being a big city with natural enemies, and the instructions going contrary to Jonah's own will, he threw his heart into his work. He was as good as the words of his prayer from the fish's belly. The most important thing is to move forward and do the will of God!

This teaches such a lesson: Micah 6:6-8: The answer is simple. God is interested in our hearts, not our things. This is what we are required to do, even if the path isn't comfortable or what we want.

So Jonah moves forward in heralding the warning and holds nothing back! Jonah 3:5: The entire city of people quickly repented! Jonah 3:9-10:

- Never in all of the recorded history of the prophets of God had there been such a total and immediate conversion of sinful people to God's ways.
- This repentance was without a guarantee of forgiveness!
- God forgave them!

Luke 15:4-7: All should now be right - Jonah follows God's will and is massively successful! It's all good, right...?

### What do we do when our character flaws are revealed?

Jonah 4:1-2: What happened?!? How could such a great prophet with such a great success after such a great rescue from certain death have such great anger?

#### Heart Disease symptoms, *Our Daily Bread Ministries*

- *Hardening of the arteries is a condition that can lead to heart attacks... but a more serious condition than that is the hardening of the heart and it cannot be prevented by any wonder drug.*

Jonah seemed to have that condition of a hardness of heart. Jonah 4:3: Pretty dramatic contrast from his desire to live while he was in the belly of the fish! What happened to casting off lying vanities? Can we be used of the Lord and still be so off base like Jonah?

Jonah 4:4-5: God gently questions Jonah. But Jonah doesn't answer; he just leaves the city to go and watch to see if God would really spare them.

### *God's capacity to forgive far exceeds our ability to sin.*

At the end of the chapter, God prepares things for Jonah's learning - a plant, a worm to eat the plant and an east wind. Jonah again wishes to die. (See Bonus Material in the Full Edition of the Rewind for more on this!)

#### Lessons from Jonah - God knew what was best, *Pastor Greg Langley*

- *I don't understand how anybody could read that passage and teach that God only provides help, wealth and prosperity for His people.*
- *These were things that Jonah did not want, yet God knew what was best for him even when He sent along things that looked like adversity.*

Here is how the account (abruptly) ends: Jonah 4:9-11: So did Jonah finally learn his biggest lesson? God gave *him* another chance at life, rescued him after he ran away because he no longer wanted to serve God well. But yet *he* was found, punished, repented and did what was required, so he was allowed to live. The question to Jonah was: Can't you also have compassion on these people who have also repented just like you? We hope that he did finally learn this lesson.

Here is another prophet, Jeremiah, with similar frustrations - how does he handle them? Jeremiah 20:7-9: We need to get into the mindset of Jeremiah, who realized that the word of God is more important than the consequences of life.

*So what's with the story with Jonah?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*