# **Jonah 1 New American Standard Bible (NASB)**

1. Look for action/reaction…. Plot/counterplot …. Cause and effect… (see ‘appointments’ 1:4, 1:17, 2:10 3:10!!!! 4:6, 4:7) ‘God is on the move’ (lyrics)

God has the last say!

1. our prayers, 2:2 (2x), 2:4, 2:7

and our God-inspired actions do have results 3:5, 3:10

Ideas have consequences. (we want mercy for us, but judgment vengeance for them!)

Theology, prejudice have consequences – 4:2

1. Death wish? 1:12, 2:5, 4:3, 4:8, 4:9 God has the last say!

Miserable (dying to self!! The ‘cross’ (where my will crosses God’s will) )

‘when the pain of change is less than the pain/consequences of my poor choices it makes sense to change!’

### **Jonah’s Disobedience**

**1**The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai saying,

Isn’t it amazing (noticeable, ‘other than’) how God speaks and plants ideas in your mind, in your consciousness?

In your ‘knower’ …or visions/sights if a ‘seer’

The challenge: was that my idea, the devil’s, the pizza?

Is that really You God (book by Loren Cunningham)

Why did it come to Jonah? Was it also coming to others and they didn’t respond either? They weren’t hearing? Couldn’t be trusted? (pearls before swine)

See v. 9, perhaps he was the only one listening, on this level.

Go to your Bible and put a line through Jonah as the title of the book.

Write your name instead!

**2**“Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.”

Cities, families, nations, neighborhoods, have accounts just like individuals.

What is the ‘testimony’ of your city? Wicked? (the broadway show, wicked ale, wicked good’ – redefining the definitions (confusion, warfare)

Not even on God’s map? Not too bad?

What if the measure we use is ‘is it heaven on earth, yet?’

Is there one who stands in the gap?

Are you praying for His Kingdom to come to your city? … taking action?

Jer. 29:7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

**3**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.***

Were there huts in Joppa? If so, did Jonah go to ‘Joppa the hut’? (StarWars joke)

See also v. 10 – one thing I fear, is **losing His Presence,** without Him I am nothing, nada, zero, lost, lonely, hopeless – with him I am somebody, something, 1+, found, not alone, hopeful – purposeful, significant, meaningful

**4**The Lord hurled a great wind on the sea and there was a great storm on the sea so that the ship was about to [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22536a)]break up.

Just how fast of a fastball does YHVH throw?

Would you like to bat against him?

How would Jacob do? (wrestled with the angel) How would you do?

How ARE you doing? Is He fixing a fix to fix you? Or are you pitching (making a pitch, salesmen/ambassadors, with him? (in alignment, His hands and feet to your city/family/friends/coworkers)

See ‘appointments’ 1:17, 3:6, 3:7

*Heb. 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: (judgment unto redemption vs. unto condemnation)*

**5**Then the sailors became afraid and every man cried to his god, and they threw the [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22537b)]cargo which was in the ship into the sea to lighten *it* [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22537c)]for them. But Jonah had gone below into the hold of the ship, lain down and fallen sound asleep.

Sound familiar? But for a different reason/situation (Jesus was in the Father’s plan).

CRISIS is what God uses to instill the fear of the Lord in those not already walking in the fear of the Lord (respect, honor – v. 9).

**6**So the captain approached him and said, “How is it that you are sleeping? Get up, call on your god. Perhaps *your* god will be **concerned about us** so that we will not perish.”

Now sound familiar? Sleeping saints. Are you concerned about your city, the lost?

Walking dead!

*Rev. 3:1 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.*

**7**Each man said to his mate, “Come, let us cast lots so we may [[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22539d)]learn on whose **account** this calamity *has struck* us.” So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. **8**Then they said to him, “Tell us, now! On whose **account** *has* this calamity *struck* us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

Let the interrogation begin….all about ‘accounts’ (give an account)…(see v. 12, 14 - account)

Even the heathen know about cause/effect (Job, too, incorrectly?)

*Rom 14:10* *You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+14&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28291a)*]? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat.****11****It is written:*

*“‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord,  
‘every knee will bow before me;  
    every tongue will acknowledge God.’”[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+14&version=NIV#fen-NIV-28292b)*]*

***12****So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.*

*II Cor. 5:9 So we make it our goal to please him,whether we are at home in the body or away from it.****10****For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

*Matt. 12:36 But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.****37****For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”*

**9**He said to them, “I am a Hebrew, and I fear the Lord God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land.”

A pretty good testimony! Of who He was, why not known until now?

Actions speak louder than words! The world judges the church, rightly!

See v. 10 – how could you do this?

**10**Then the men became extremely frightened and they said to him, “[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22542e)]How could you do this?” For the men knew that he was ***fleeing from the presence of the Lord***, because he had told them. **11**So they said to him, “What should we do to you that the sea may become calm [[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22543f)]for us?”—for the sea was becoming increasingly stormy. **12**He said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea. Then the sea will become calm [[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22544g)]for you, for I know that on account of me this great storm *has come* upon you.” **13However,** the men [[h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22545h)]rowed *desperately* to return to land but they could not, for the sea was becoming *even* stormier against them.

Sailors may have been wicked in other ways, idol worshippers, but knew how to live their convictions (lived like there was no god, are we in practice unbelievers?

**14**Then they called on the Lord and said, “We earnestly pray, O Lord, do not let us perish on **account** of this man’s life and do not put innocent blood on us; for You, O Lord, have done as You have pleased.”

**15**So they picked up Jonah, threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging. **16**Then the men feared the Lord greatly, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

Okay, God uses it to ‘evangelize’ the sailors rather than Nineveh! Jonah’s theology, and no doubt he feared the Lord in many ways…. The call to Nineveh ‘stretched’ him.

The sailors had a deposit of the fear of the Lord, would not kill His servant…now they feared HIM, and GREATLY. In a new deeper, stronger way.

**17**[[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1&version=NASB" \l "fen-NASB-22549i" \o "See footnote i)]And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

Jesus believed this story?

*Matthew 12:40 For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.*

***41****“The people of Nineveh will stand up against this generation on judgment day and condemn it, for they repented of their sins at the preaching of Jonah. Now someone greater than Jonah is here—but you refuse to repent**For as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.*

### **Jonah’s Prayer**

**2**[[j](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1-4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22550j)]Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the stomach of the fish,**2**and he said,

“I called out of my distress to the Lord,  
And He answered me.  
I cried for help from the [[k](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1-4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22551k)]depth of Sheol;  
You heard my voice.

A psalm? Sure sounds like one.

Interchange. Interaction. Action and response. A divine setup?

Answered prayer. Encouragement from YHVH Jirah, I AM all you need when you need it.

Called/answered. Cried/heard. God is listening, He does answer.

See Ps. 116 in its entirety, calling, answers, love, death, vow.

**3**“For You had cast me into the deep,  
Into the heart of the seas,  
And the current [[l](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1-4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22552l)]engulfed me.  
All Your breakers and billows passed over me.

Ps. 42:7 Deep calls to deep at the sound of Your waterfalls; All Your breakers and Your waves have rolled over me.

Charles Spurgeon, Treasury of David:

 Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts. Thy severe dealings with me seem to excite all creation to attack me; heaven, and earth, and hell, call to each other, stirring each other up in dreadful conspiracy against my peace. As in a waterspout, the deeps above and below clasp hands, so it seemed to David that heaven and earth united to create a tempest around him. His woes were incessant and overwhelming. Billow followed billow, one sea echoed the roaring of another; bodily pain aroused mental fear, Satanic suggestions chimed in with mistrustful forebodings, outward tribulation thundered in awful harmony with inward anguish: his soul seemed drowned as in a universal deluge of trouble, over whose waves the providence of the Lord moved as a watery pillar, in dreadful majesty inspiring the utmost terror. As for the afflicted one he was like a lonely bark around which the fury of a storm is bursting, or a mariner floating on a mast, **almost every moment submerged. All thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.** David thought that every trouble in the world had met in him, but he exaggerated, for all the breaking waves of Jehovah have passed over none but the Lord Jesus; there are griefs to which he makes his children strangers for his love's sake. Sorrow naturally states its case forcibly; the mercy is that the Lord after all hath not dealt with us according to our fears. Yet what a plight to be in! Atlantic rollers sweeping in ceaseless succession over one's head, waterspouts coming nearer and nearer, and **all the ocean in uproar around the weary swimmer; most of the heirs of heaven can realise the description, for they have experienced the like.** This is a deep experience unknown to babes in grace, but common enough to such as do business on great waters of affliction: to such **it is some comfort to remember that the waves and billows are the Lord's**, "thy waves and thy billows," says David, they are all sent, and directed by him, and achieve his designs, and the child of God knowing this, is the more resigned.

**4**“So I said, ‘I have been expelled from [[m](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1-4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22553m)]Your sight.  
Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.’

He was alone in the belly of the whale – who was He talking to (thinking in his mind).

God! And Himself – made a confession, a declaration – point of turning? Shifting?

**5**“Water encompassed me to the [[n](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1-4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22554n)]point of death.  
The great deep [[o](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1-4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22554o)]engulfed me,  
Weeds were wrapped around my head.  
**6**“I descended to the roots of the mountains.  
The earth with its bars *was* around me forever,  
But You have brought up my life from [[p](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1-4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22555p)]the pit, O Lord my God.

Water, weeds, bars – death! BUT GOD

**7**“While [[q](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1-4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22556q)]I was fainting away,  
I remembered the Lord,  
And my prayer came to You,  
Into Your holy temple.

…remembering (coming back to square one, to foundations), again the point of turning, shifting, change …God hears and answers prayer!

**8**“Those who regard [[r](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1-4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22557r)]vain idols  
Forsake their faithfulness,  
**9**But I will sacrifice to You  
With the voice of thanksgiving.  
That which I have vowed I will pay.  
Salvation is from the Lord.”

Additional confession/declaration/commitment-sacrifice-vows

Salvation = victory, success, winning, God’s sozo

Sozo is the New Testament Greek word often translated as "SAVES"; which in its fullest form also means HEALS, RESTORES, DELIVERS and MAKES WHOLE.

**10**Then the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.

God’s response, re-action, His adjustment in Jonah’s life to get him back on track.

(God was willing, He had always wanted a man to go to Nineveh. God shouldn’t have had to do this if Jonah had stayed on course. BUT GOD)

The simplicity of prayer, and answered prayer.

Getting back on track, re-aligned. Alive again and living in the plan and purposes of God.

**3**Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying,**2**“Arise, go to Nineveh the great city and proclaim to it the proclamation which I am going to tell you.”

God is gracious, gives second chances. Details were not provided.

**3**So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was [[s](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1-4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22562s)]an exceedingly great city, a three days’ walk.

Simple obedience. Faith – a big city, hard work, a long walk.

**4**Then Jonah began to go through the city one day’s walk; and he cried out and said, “Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”

Details must have been provided.

….or, Acts 25:28 “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us"

**5**Then the people of Nineveh believed in God; and they called a fast and put on sackcloth from the greatest to the least of them.

**6**When the word reached the king of Nineveh, he arose from his throne, laid aside his robe from him, covered *himself* with sackcloth and sat on the [[t](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1-4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22565t)]ashes.**7**He issued a proclamation and it said, “In Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let man, beast, herd, or flock taste a thing. **Do not let them eat or drink water**. **8**But both man and beast must be covered with sackcloth; and let [[u](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1-4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22567u)]men call on God **earnestly** that each may turn from his wicked way and from the violence which is in [[v](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1-4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22567v)]his hands.

….violence Noah … both man and beast

**9*Who knows, God may turn and relent and withdraw His burning anger so that we will not perish.”***

Esther 4 … who knows?

**10**When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then ***God relented*** concerning the calamity which He had declared He would [[w](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+1-4&version=NASB#fen-NASB-22569w)]bring upon them. And He did not do *it*.

…action/ reaction

### **Jonah’s Anger at the Lord’s Compassion**

**4**But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. **2**He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. **3**Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

Die to self! Wanted to be proved right, rather than be in relationship?

**4**But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

**5**Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. **6**Then the Lord ***God provided*** a leafy plant[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jonah+4&version=NIV#fen-NIV-22575a)] and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. **7**But at dawn the next day ***God provided*** a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. **8**When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die,and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.”

**9**But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

…another opp to die!

**10**But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. **11**And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are ***more than a hundred and twenty thousand*** people who ***cannot tell their right hand from their left—***and *also many animals*?”

…do you know the population of your city, your county?

…they are clueless // and so are we! (mission field)