

Jonah's Flight

Jonah 1:1-16

by Don Falkos

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The Lord said to Jonah, "Go to the great city of Nineveh and pronounce my judgment."

Jonah ran away from the Lord. He boarded a ship and sailed for the distant port of Tarshish in the opposite direction from Nineveh.

But the Lord sent a violent storm. The sailors cried out in desperation to their gods, asking for help.

Meanwhile Jonah had gone down into the hold and had fallen into a deep sleep. The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god who may take notice of us and keep us from drowning."

The sailors cast lots to find out who had offended the gods and brought about this terrible storm. The lot fell on Jonah. So they asked him, "Are you responsible for all this? Who are you?"

Jonah answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land."

They asked, "What should we do to stop this storm?"

Jonah replied, "I'm responsible for the storm. Throw me overboard and the storm will die with me."

Instead, the sailors did their best to row back to land. But the sea grew even wilder than before; they couldn't do it. Then they cried out to the Lord, "O Lord, don't let us die for this man's sins. And don't hold us responsible for his death." They took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. The sailors were in awe. They offered a sacrifice and vowed to serve the Lord.