



WEEK TWO

THE GRACE OF BEING STORM-TOSSED

JANUARY 31 2021

JONAH 1:4–16

PASTOR PHIL WARD

SERMON OUTLINE

NOTES

I. GOD'S PROVIDENCE FOR OUR GOOD (JONAH 1:4–6)

- A. God acts in a decisive and attention-getting way (Jonah 1:4)
- B. Ultimately, nothing can override God's sovereignty and that is a sobering thought (Jonah 1:5–6; Job 42:2)
 1. No idols can challenge God's sovereignty (Jonah 1:5)
 2. No amount of self-sufficiency can challenge God's sovereignty (Jonah 1:5)
 3. When we are storm-tossed we try anything to get out from it (Jonah 1:6), but the storm is God's grace for our good (Hebrews 12:6–11; Romans 8:28)
- C. Storms come to awaken us from the sleepy delusion that our sin will not be found out (Jonah 1:6; Romans 13:11–1)

II. JONAH'S REBELLION IS FOUND OUT (JONAH 1:7–10)

- A. God's providence, once again, over all things (Jonah 1:7; Proverbs 16:33)
- B. Jonah is interrogated and is forced to reveal his rebellion (Jonah 1:8–9)
 1. The mariners ask a series of identity questions (Jonah 1:8)
 2. Jonah professes his identity, but that is called into question by his actual behavior (Jonah 1:9–10; Titus 1:16)
- C. Who do we fear, and why? (Jonah 1:10)

III. GOD'S WRATH APPEASED, HIS GRACE DISPLAYED (JONAH 1:11–6)

- A. What must be done to satisfy God's wrath? (Jonah 1:11–12)
 1. The fierceness of God's wrath shows the seriousness of rebellion (Jonah 1:11)
 2. God's wrath must be poured out upon sin and sinners (Jonah 1:12)
- B. The mariners reject the prescribed solution (Jonah 1:13)
- C. The mariners finally surrender (Jonah 1:14–16)
 1. They call in prayer to God (Romans 10:9)
 2. They trust the word spoken to them (Romans 10:17)
 3. They believe that the death of Jonah is sufficient (Romans 5:8–9)
 4. They turn (repent) from self-reliance to Godward obedience (John 3:16–36)

JONAH 1:4-16

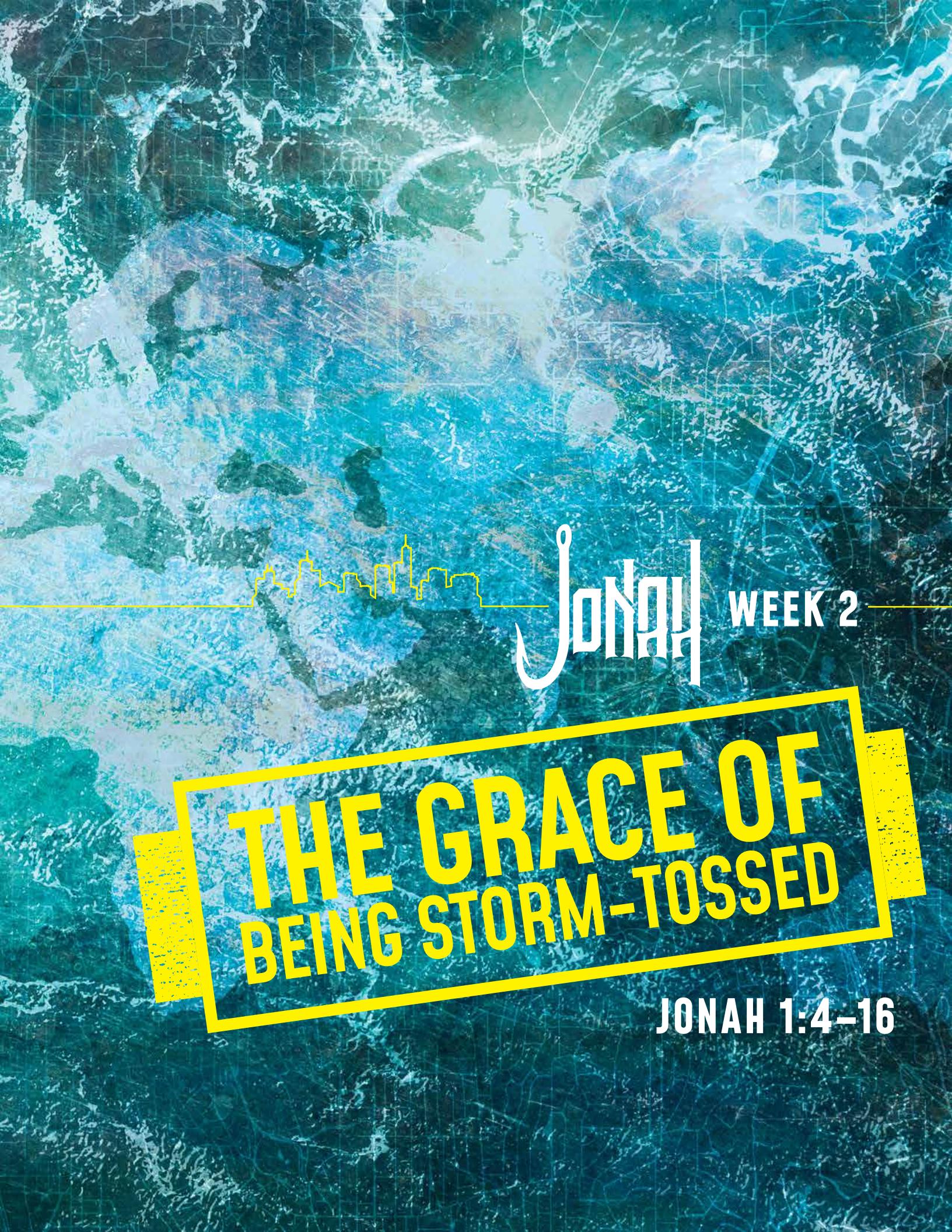
But the Lord hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. 5 Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down 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.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. Think back to a time that you were "storm-tossed". What was your first reaction to your suffering? Did you try to figure out a way to stop it? Did you rely on yourself or someone other than God to get you out of the situation you were in?
2. What does the severity of the storm in the book of Jonah show us about God's desire to awaken His people? To what length will God go to awaken His children? Has God ever gone to great lengths to awaken you?
3. What did Jonah's works reveal about his character? How did Jonah's actions measure up to his own description of his identity?
4. How did the sailors initially react to the reality of God's wrath being poured out on sin and sinners? What does their reaction reveal about humanity's attitude towards God's wrath?
5. What does the sailors' final surrender and Godward obedience show us about the saving grace of God in the gospel? What does their example teach us about following Jesus?



**THE GRACE OF
BEING STORM-TOSSED**

JONAH WEEK 2

JONAH 1:4–16

READING THE STORY

Making observations is the first step in becoming familiar with a passage and to help understand what is being said. In a notebook (or separate piece of paper), make the following observations about this passage...

- List any **People/Places**—

- List any important **verbs** (actions), **repeated words/phrases**, or other **theological/special terms**—

OBSERVATIONS

- 1 How does Jonah describe his God? What is different about his God from the mariners' gods?

- 2 What do you think is meant by "the presence of Yahweh" [1:10]?

- 3 How are the actions of the mariners different from the actions of Jonah?

SUMMARY SENTENCE

In your own words, summarize this passage in 1–2 sentences—

JONAH'S WORLD

Each cried out to his god...arise, call out to your God (1:6)

The Gentile mariners would have cried out to the deities they believed controlled the sky and sea.

Let us cast lots (1:7) A common way of seeking divine direction (and decision making) in the Ancient Near East.

I fear Yahweh, the God of heaven, who made the sea...dry land (1:9)

In contrast to the false gods of the Gentiles (1:6), Yahweh is no mere “sea god,” but the sole sovereign and creator of sea and land.

Pick me up and hurl me into the sea (1:12) Jonah's unusual actions display a sense of desperation, and maybe even depression. The mariners, however, show great compassion for this man who put them in danger. Instead of throwing him into the sea, they work to row harder towards safety. This is another instance in the book where the “pagan-Gentiles” display a god-like attitude towards Jonah while Jonah wouldn't show the same towards the Ninevites.

The men feared Yahweh exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to Yahweh and made vows (1:16) Sacrifices weren't only done by fire, but could also be done through offering foods (like grains) or expensive materials (like silver) to the gods.

WORLDS COLLIDE

OTHERS MATTER

Jonah is now fully committed to his rebellion against God, as he traveled in the opposite direction of Nineveh. Early on a contrast is developed, where Jonah—the man who “*is a Hebrew and fears Yahweh, the God of heaven who made the sea and dry land*” [1:9]—is the only character in the story who refused to show grace to others. He doesn’t care about anyone, quite possibly even himself. In 1:5, we’re introduced to the mariners, gentile seamen who were confronted with a terrifying storm. Throwing Jonah, a man of a different race who they don’t know, into its water is said to bring relief. However, they refused to kill their guest, and tried to return to shore, all for a man they had no reason to risk their lives for.

One thing that ought to separate the followers of Jesus from the world is our ability to love others—even our enemies. In Romans 5:8, Paul writes, “*God showed His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*” And while everyone might look to what Christ did as an unachievable event (and it is, as the focal point of the gospel), the type of sacrifice is what’s demanded of those who identify as Christians. In John 15:12–14, Jesus said, “*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.*” Jonah refused to demonstrate love for anyone else, especially those who were not Hebrews. But this is not the ethic of the Christian. Through the power of the Spirit, we, too, can love the way Jesus did.

GOING TO NINEVEH

It's hard to be willing to look at ourselves and evaluate the things that we know are character flaws. Still, it's even more difficult to evaluate the things that we're not aware of. Are you willing to ask God to reveal those types of things to you?

RESPONDING QUESTIONS

- 1 Have you ever been in a situation where you had the opportunity to demonstrate love for someone else, but passed them over because they were of a different group (ethnically, socio-economically, politically, etc.)? What do you think has influenced you to value one person's/group's worth over another?

RESPONDING QUESTIONS

- 2 It's easy to care about those who are like us, but what about those who are different? What are some tangible ways you could begin to show love towards those who are of a different "tribe"?