

**God's Grace is Scandalously Unfair**  
**Jonah 1:4-16 (CSV)**

14. The men were seized by <b>great</b> fear of the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. (1:4-16)	
1. But the Lord threw a <b>great</b> wind onto the sea, and such a <b>great</b> storm arose on the sea that the ship threatened to break apart.	13. Then they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.
2. The sailors were afraid, and each cried out to his god.	12. So they called out to the Lord: "Please, Lord, don't let us perish because of this man's life, and don't charge us with innocent blood! For you, Lord, have done just as you pleased."
3. They threw the ship's cargo into the sea to lighten the load. Meanwhile, Jonah had gone down to the lowest part of the vessel and had stretched out and fallen into a deep sleep.	11. Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they couldn't because the sea was raging against them more and more.
4. The captain approached him and said, "What are you doing sound asleep? <u>Get up!</u> <u>Call</u> to your god. Maybe this god will consider us, and we won't perish."	10. He answered them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea so that it will calm down for you, for I know that I'm to blame for this <b>great</b> storm that is against you."
5. "Come on!" the sailors said to each other. "Let's cast lots. Then we'll know who is to blame for this trouble we're in." So they cast lots, and the lot singled out Jonah.	9. So they said to him, "What should we do to you so that the sea will calm down for us?" For the sea was getting worse and worse.
6. Then they said to him, "Tell us who is to blame for this trouble we're in. What is your business, and where are you from? What is your country, and what people are you from?"	8. Then the men were seized by a <b>great</b> fear and said to him, "What is this you've done?" The men knew he was fleeing from the Lord's presence because he had told them.
7. <b>He answered them, "I'm a Hebrew. I worship the Lord, the God of the heavens, who made the sea and the dry land."</b>	

A) But the Lord threw a **great** wind onto the sea, and such a **great** storm arose on the sea that the ship threatened to break apart.

**Great: Obstacles for Jonah**

- Ninevah "Get up! Go to the **great** city of Nineveh and preach against it because their evil has come up before me." 1:2
- Wind/Storm But the Lord threw a **great** wind onto the sea, and such a **great** storm arose on the sea that the ship threatened to break apart. 1:4b
- Sailors' Fear Then the men were seized by a **great** fear and said to him, "What is this you've done?" The men knew he was fleeing from the Lord's presence because he had told them. 1:10
- Storm He answered them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea so that it will calm down for you, for I know that I'm to blame for this **great** storm that is against you." 1:12
- Sailors' Fear The men were seized by **great** fear of the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. 1:16
- Fish The Lord appointed a **great** fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. 1:17
- Ninevah "Get up! Go to the **great** city of Nineveh and preach the message that I tell you." 3:2
- Ninevah Jonah got up and went to Nineveh according to the Lord's command. Now Nineveh was an extremely **great** city, a three-day walk. 3:3
- Jonah's Anger Jonah was **greatly** displeased and became furious. 4:1
- Ninevah But may I not care about the **great** city of Nineveh, which has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot distinguish between their right and their left, as well as many animals?" 4:11

Exodus 15	Psalm 48
<p>Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord. They said</p> <p>a) <b>I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted; he has thrown the horse and its rider into the sea.</b></p> <p>b) The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.</p> <p>c) This is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.</p> <p>d) The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name.</p> <p>e) <b>He threw Pharaoh's chariots and his army into the sea; the elite of his officers were drowned in the Red Sea.</b></p> <p>f) <b>The floods covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.</b></p> <p>g) Lord, your right hand is glorious in power. Lord, your right hand shattered the enemy.</p> <p>h) You overthrew your adversaries by your great majesty. You unleashed your burning wrath; it consumed them like stubble.</p> <p>i) <b>The water heaped up at the blast from your nostrils; the currents stood firm like a dam. The watery depths congealed in the heart of the sea.</b></p> <p>j) The enemy said: "I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil. My desire will be gratified at their expense. I will draw my sword; my hand will destroy them."</p> <p>k) <b>But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters.</b></p> <p>l) Lord, who is like you among the gods? Who is like you, glorious in holiness, revered with praises, performing wonders?</p> <p>m) <b>You stretched out your right hand, and the earth swallowed them.</b></p> <p>n) With your faithful love, you will lead the people you have redeemed; you will guide them to your holy dwelling with your strength.</p> <p>o) When the peoples hear, they will shudder; anguish will seize the inhabitants of Philistia.</p> <p>p) Then the chiefs of Edom will be terrified; trembling will seize the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan will panic;</p> <p>q) terror and dread will fall on them. They will be as still as a stone</p> <p>r) because of your powerful arm until your people pass by, Lord, until the people whom you purchased pass by.</p> <p>s) You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your possession; Lord, you have prepared the place for your dwelling; Lord, your hands have established the sanctuary.</p> <p>t) The Lord will reign forever and ever!</p>	<p>a) The Lord is great and highly praised in the city of our God.</p> <p>b) His holy mountain, rising splendidly, is the joy of the whole earth.</p> <p>c) Mount Zion—the summit of Zaphon—is the city of the great King.</p> <p>d) God is known as a stronghold in its citadels.</p> <p>e) <b>Look! The kings assembled; they advanced together.</b></p> <p>f) <b>They looked and froze with fear; they fled in terror.</b></p> <p>g) <b>Trembling seized them there, agony like that of a woman in labor,</b></p> <p>h) <b>as you wrecked the ships of Tarshish with the east wind.</b></p> <p>i) Just as we heard, so we have seen in the city of the Lord of Armies,</p> <p>j) in the city of our God; God will establish it forever.</p> <p>k) God, within your temple, we contemplate your faithful love.</p> <p>l) Like your name, God, so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;</p> <p>m) your right hand is filled with justice. Mount Zion is glad.</p> <p>n) Judah's villages rejoice because of your judgments.</p> <p>o) Go around Zion, encircle it; count its towers,</p> <p>p) note its ramparts; tour its citadels</p> <p>q) so that you can tell a future generation: "This God, our God forever and ever—he will always lead us."</p> <p>r) (Psalm 48 CBV)</p>

B) The sailors were afraid, and each cried out to his god.

#### The Fear of God

Abraham	Genesis 22:12
Isaac	Genesis 31:53
Jacob	Genesis 31:53
Joseph	Genesis 42:18
Midwives	Exodus 1:17,21
Servants of Pharaoh	Exodus 9:20
Jews in Egypt	Exodus 14:31
Jethro and Leaders	Exodus 18:21
Moses	Deuteronomy 4:10; 6:1-3; 8:6-10; 28:58-63;
Joshua	Joshua 4:24; 24:14-15
Samuel	Samuel 12:14-15
David	2 Samuel 23:3; Psalm 2:11; 5:7; 9:20; 15:4; 19:9;22:23;22:25; 25:12; 25:14; 31:19; 33:8; 34:7; 34:9; 34:11; 40:3; 47:2; 52:5; 60:4; 61:5; 66:16; 67:7; 72:5; <b>76:7</b> ; 76:8; 76:11; 85:9; 86:11; 89:7; 96:4; 102:15; 103:11; 111:5; <b>111:10</b> ; 112:1; 115:11; 118:4; 118:6; 119:38; 119:63; 128:1; 128:4; <b>130:4</b> ; 135:20; 145:19; 147:11; 23:17; 24:21; 28:14; 31:30; Ecclesiastes 5:7; 8:13; 12:13;
Solomon	2 Samuel 8:43; Proverbs 1:7; 1:29; 2:5; 3:7; 8:13; 9:10; 10:27; 14:2; 14:27; 15:16; 15:33; 16:6; 19:23; 22:4;
Obadiah	2 Samuel 18:3
Asa, King of Judah	2 Chronicles 14:14-15
Kingdoms around Judah	2 Chronicles 17:10
Jehoshaphat	2 Chronicles 19:4-7
Uzziah	2 Chronicles 26:5
Zerrubabel	Ezra 3:3
Nehemiah	Nehemiah 1:11
Job	Job 1:11

C) They threw the ship's cargo into the sea to lighten the load. Meanwhile, Jonah had gone down to the lowest part of the vessel and had stretched out and fallen into a deep sleep.

Adam and Eve: Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. So the Lord God called out to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid." Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man replied, "The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate." So the Lord God asked the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (Genesis 3:8 -14 CSV)

Cain and Abel:	Genesis 4
Noah	Genesis 6:
Tower of Babel	Genesis 11
Sodom and Gomorrah	Genesis 18
Moses	Exodus 3

D) The captain approached him and said, "What are you doing sound asleep? Get up! Call to your god. Maybe this god will consider us, and we won't perish."

The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: "**Get up! Go** to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it because their evil has come up before me." (Jonah 1:1-2 CSV)

E) "Come on!" the sailors said to each other. "Let's cast lots. Then we'll know who is to blame for this **trouble** we're in." So they cast lots, and the lot singled out Jonah.

- The land is to be divided by lot; they will receive an inheritance according to the names of their ancestral tribes. Numbers 26:55; 55
- When you have written a description of the seven portions of land and brought it to me, I will cast lots for you here in the presence of the Lord our God. Joshua 18:6
- The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord. Proverbs 16:33

F) Then they said to him, "Tell us who is to blame for this **trouble** we're in. What is your business, and where are you from? What is your country, and what people are you from?"

## Evil

- 1:2 “Get up! Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it because their **evil** has come up before me.”
- 1:7 Then we’ll know who is to blame for this **trouble** we’re in.”
- 1:8 “Tell us who is to blame for this **trouble** we’re in.
- 3:8 Furthermore, both people and animals must be covered with sackcloth, and everyone must call out earnestly to God. Each must turn from his **evil** ways and from his wrongdoing.
- 3:10 God saw their actions—that they had turned from their **evil** ways—so God relented from the disaster he had threatened them with. And he did not do it.
- 4:1 Jonah was greatly **displeased** and became furious.
- 4:2 He prayed to the Lord: “Please, Lord, isn’t this what I thought while I was still in my own country? That’s why I fled toward Tarshish in the first place. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger, abounding in faithful love, and one who relents from sending **disaster**.
- 4:6 Then the Lord God appointed a plant, and it grew over Jonah to provide shade for his head to rescue him from his **trouble**

G) He answered them, “I’m a Hebrew. I worship the Lord, the God of the heavens, who made the sea and the dry land.”

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” There was an evening, and there was a morning: one day. (Genesis 1:1-5)

F<sup>t</sup>) Then the men were seized by a great fear and said to him, “What is this you’ve done?” The men knew he was fleeing from the Lord’s presence because he had told them.

E<sup>t</sup>) So they said to him, “What should we do to you so that the sea will calm down for us?” For the sea was getting worse and worse.

D<sup>t</sup>) He answered them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea so that it will calm down for you, for I know that I’m to blame for this great storm that is against you.”

C<sup>t</sup>) Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they couldn’t because the sea was raging against them more and more.

B<sup>t</sup>) So they called out to the Lord: “Please, Lord, don’t let us perish because of this man’s life, and don’t charge us with innocent blood! For you, Lord, have done just as you pleased.”

### A Psalm of Deliverance for the Sailors: Psalm 34

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.  
I will boast in the Lord; the humble will hear and be glad.  
Proclaim the Lord’s greatness with me; let us exalt his name together.  
I sought the Lord, and he answered me and rescued me from all my fears.  
Those who look to him are radiant with joy; their faces will never be ashamed.  
This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him from all his troubles.  
The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and rescues them.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good. How happy is the person who takes refuge in him!

You who are his holy ones, fear the Lord, for those who fear him lack nothing.  
 Young lions lack food and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord will not lack any good thing.  
 Come, children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.  
 Who is someone who desires life, loving a long life to enjoy what is good?  
 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from deceitful speech.  
 Turn away from evil and do what is good; seek peace and pursue it.  
 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry for help.  
 The face of the Lord is set against those who do what is evil, to remove all memory of them from the earth.  
 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.  
 The Lord is near the brokenhearted; he saves those crushed in spirit.  
 One who is righteous has many adversities, but the Lord rescues him from them all.  
 He protects all his bones; not one of them is broken.  
 Evil brings death to the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be punished.  
 The Lord redeems the life of his servants, and all who take refuge in him will not be punished.

A<sup>1</sup>) Then they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.  
 The men were seized by great fear of the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.

The progression of the sailors' fear:

1. Cried out to their gods
2. Threw the cargo into the sea
3. Approached Jonah to cry out to his god
4. Cast lots to discern the cause of the storm
5. Questioned Jonah about the cause of the storm
6. Reproved Jonah for disobeying his god
7. Inquired of Jonah as to how to "obey" his god
8. Rowed harder to address the storm
9. Cried out to Jonah's god to not blame them and to recognize God's sovereignty
10. Obeyed God and threw Jonah into the sea
11. Offered sacrifices and vows to God

Jonah and Jesus: Caught in a Storm

	Jonah (Jonah 1:3-16)	Jesus (Luke 8:22-25)
1. Escape in the opposite direction	Jonah got up to flee to Tarshish from the Lord's presence. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. He paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the Lord's presence.	One day he and his disciples got into a boat, and he told them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake." So they set out
2. Deep sleep during the storm	Meanwhile, Jonah had gone down to the lowest part of the vessel and had stretched out and fallen into a deep sleep.	and as they were sailing he fell asleep
3. Violent windstorm	But the Lord threw a great wind onto the sea, and such a great storm arose on the sea	Then a fierce windstorm came down on the lake;
4. Danger of the ship sinking	that the ship threatened to break apart.	they were being swamped and were in danger.
5. Rude Awakening by others on the ship	The captain approached him and said, "What are you doing sound asleep? Get up! Call to your god. Maybe this god will consider us, and we won't perish."	They came and woke him up, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to die!"
6. Calming of the sea	Then they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped its raging.	Then he got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves. So they ceased, and there was a calm. <b>He said to them, "Where is your faith?"</b>
7. Awestruck fear	The men were seized by great fear of the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows.	They were fearful and amazed, asking one another, "Who then is this? He commands even the winds and the waves, and they obey him!"