

Summer Shorts: Book of Jonah - 1

Darrell Buchanan, July 11, 2021

The story of Jonah is not about how he survived the ordeal of getting swallowed by a fish.

- The fish is only mentioned in three verses out of the entire book's four chapters (1:17; 2:1, 10).

Jonah 1

What is startling and surprising about Jonah's story is heard in **the first three verses** of the book that bears his name.

- There is no other record in the entire Bible of a prophet who disobeyed God's call like Jonah did.

Jonah ran because God's mission for him made no practical or theological sense.

- Practically: Little likelihood that a military and a cultural powerhouse like Nineveh would listen to someone like Jonah.
- Theologically: Nineveh's destiny already determined (see **Nahum 1:1-6**).

Jonah's refusal raises the question that continues to confront us today: Does God know what's best, or do I?

Here's the good news:

As soon as Jonah hits the water, the God whom he did not trust saves him: "But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah." (1:17)

- For those of us who are too often like Jonah this is powerfully good news.
- God pursues us with his grace – again, and again, and again.

BACK