

# The Gathering

## You Can Run but You Can't Hide!

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# Jonah 1:1-3 4:2-3



# Background

- 1/12 Minor Prophets in OT
- Narrated story about Jonah
- Reign of King Jeroboam II
- Contemporary of Amos and Hosea



# Background

- From Gath-hepher in the Northern Kingdom of Israel
- Son of Amittai



# Nineveh

- Built by Asshur (Noah's grandson)
- Capital of Assyria
- Great city due to its size and power
- Chief enemy of Israel





**Jonah means "dove"**

**Doves symbolize the Holy Spirit**

**Doves used as messengers of Spirit**



**Amittai means  
"truth of God"**



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**Assyria was known for its  
violence, idolatry and  
ignorance of God.**





- **Isaiah 6:8** - *"Here I am Lord, send me."*
- **1 Samuel 3:7** - *"Speak Lord, your servant is listening"*
- **Exodus 3:11** - *"Who am I?"*



**Jonah arose from  
prayer in disobedience.**



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**Jonah goes in the opposite  
direction of where God  
told him to go.**



**Have you ever done the  
exact opposite of what  
God told you to do?**



**Is avoiding your purpose  
worth dying for?**



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**Avoiding our purpose could  
lead us to make bad decisions  
with harmful consequences.**



**Failure to obey God and  
God's word is disobedience.**

**Disobedience is sin.**



**“Each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”**

**James 1:14-15**



**“Sin brings our soul  
into much senselessness.”**

**Albert Barnes**



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**We compromise ourselves and others if we are some place that we are not supposed to be.**





**God wants us at the  
center of his will.**



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**We can run but we can't hide.**



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# Psalm 139:7-10



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**There is no place that we can  
go that we will not find God.**



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**Jonah refused  
God's service.**



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**God designs the  
plans not us.**



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**“ ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord.”**

**Jeremiah 29:11**



**“In their hearts humans plan  
their course, but the Lord  
establishes their steps.”**

**Proverbs 16:9**



**“Commit to the Lord whatever  
you do, and he will establish  
your plans.”**

**Proverbs 16:3**



God is the writer of the  
plans, the director of steps,  
the decider of direction.





**God is the alpha and  
omega of your purpose.**



**God decides the who, what,  
when, where, why and how  
of your purpose.**



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**Even in disobedience,  
God will be on our side.**



**God sent waves,  
wind and a great storm to  
discourage Jonah from  
heading to Tarshish.**



**God wanted Jonah to fulfill  
his purpose.**





**“For we are God’s handiwork,  
created in Christ Jesus to do good  
works, which God prepared in  
advance for us to do.”**

**Ephesians 2:10**



**God does not want any of us  
to leave this earth without  
completing our purpose.**



**God sent that fish to protect  
Jonah from death until he  
could come to himself.**



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**“So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”**

**Isaiah 55:11**



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**God's plan will be achieved with  
or with you. But if it's assigned  
to you, God wants  
it to be YOU.**





**Jonah was not afraid of failure, but of success.**



**Jonah determined that  
the Assyrians were unworthy  
of being saved.**



**We represent God,  
but we are not God.**



**The words of the prophet  
were not his own, but God's  
passing through him.**



**Jonah reflected Israel's feelings towards the rest of the world; their religious exclusiveness; their superiority; contempt for other nations; and toxic patriotism.**





**God has been on mission to  
redeem all people together with  
all its systems since the first sin.**



**God's declaration of Israel  
as his chosen people was  
a call to mission.**



**"God is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."**

**2 Peter 3:9**



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**We can't determine that  
anyone is undeserving of  
salvation, redemption, mercy,  
grace, goodness, service,  
ministry or love.**



**“The Lord is good to all; he has  
compassion on all he has made.”**

**Psalm 145:9**



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**We must walk in our  
purpose with humility.**



**“Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful.  
Mercy triumphs over judgment.”**

**James 2:12-14**

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# Discussion:

1. Have you ever made a senseless choice to avoid obeying God?
2. Have you ever faced consequences for your disobedience? Did others suffer?
3. What did you learn about God and yourself from your rebellion?
4. Who is difficult to serve?
5. How could Jonah have handled his difficulty better?

