

EPISODE NO. 182

Jonah 1:1-17

Jonah Tried to Run Away from God

1 The Word of Yahweh came to Jonah, the son of Amittai. It said: 2 “Get up and go to the great city of Nineveh. Cry out against it, because the evil things which they have done have come to My attention.”

3 So Jonah got up. But he tried to run away from the presence of the One Who Is Always Present to the city of Tarshish. He went down to the town of Joppa and found a ship that was going to Tarshish. He paid the fare and went on board the ship to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of Yahweh.

4 But the Always-Present One sent out a great wind over the sea. And there was a violent storm at sea. The ship was in danger of breaking up. 5 The sailors were afraid. Each man cried out to his gods. In order to make the ship lighter for them, the sailors threw out the ship’s cargo into the sea. (Now Jonah had gone below into the inner parts of the ship. He was lying there sound asleep.) 6 So, the captain approached him and said to him, “How can you sleep at a time like this!? Get up! Call upon your god. Perhaps that god will care about us and save us.”

7 Each one of the sailors said to one another, “Come on, let us pick lots, so that we may know why all this trouble has happened to us.” So, they picked lots, and the lot pointed to Jonah!

8 Then they asked him, “Please tell us, why has this horrible thing happened to us? What do you do for a living? Where do you come from? What is your country? And, what people do you belong to?”

9 Jonah answered them, “I am a Hebrew. And, I worship Yahweh, the God of heaven, who made the ocean and the dry land.”

10 Then Jonah told them that he was running away from the presence of Yahweh. So, the men became very scared. They asked Jonah, “What is this you have done!?”

11 The sea continued to get worse. They asked Jonah, “What are we going to do with you, so that the sea will become calm for us!?”

12 Then Jonah answered them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea! That is how the sea will become calm for you. I know that this great storm has come upon you because of ME!”

13 At first, they said no. The men rowed hard to get back to land, but they could not make it. The sea was getting even stormier against them. 14 So they cried out to Yahweh, saying, “We beg You, O Yahweh, don’t let us die because of THIS man’s life! Please don’t hold us responsible for killing an innocent man! You, O Yahweh, have done as You pleased!” 15 So, they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea. Then the raging sea became calm. 16 After this, the men had great respect for Yahweh. They offered a sacrifice to Him and made vows to Him.

17 The Always-Present One had prepared a large fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the stomach of the fish for three days and three nights.