VIDEO LECTURE MODULE:

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

Lesson 104

Jonah's Flight

Lecture Presenter: Dr. Daniel Sweetman



Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

113 LESSONS

77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge 36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman

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- 87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace 88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness 89. The Writing on the Wall 90. Daniel in the Lions' Den 91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams 92. Ezra—Return from Captivity 93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple 94. Ezra—The Scribe 95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls 96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed 97. Esther the Queen 98. Esther–Haman's Plot 99. Esther–The Jews Saved 100. Hosea–The Minor Prophets 101. Joel and the Day of the LORD 102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman 103 Obadiah Prophesies Edom's Fall **104. Jonah's Flight** 105. Jonah's Mission 106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy 107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh 108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies 109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises 110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple 111. Zechariah—The Night Visions 112. Zechariah Prophesies of Christ
- 113. Malachi-Last Old Testament Prophet

Lesson 104 Jonah's Flight Jonah, chapters 1 to 4

Memory Verse

"I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God." —Jonah 2:6

Introduction

After hearing many warnings against sin in the books of Hosea, Joel, Amos and Obadiah, we come to the book of Jonah. From 2 Kings 14:25, we learn that Jonah was a prophet during the time of King Jeroboam II, and that Jonah prophesied that the Lord would grant victories and blessings to his people. This happened. During the rule of Jeroboam II, Israelites enjoyed peace and prosperity. It must have grieved Jonah to see that the goodness of the Lord did not cause the Israelites to repent and return to him. Instead, they departed from the Lord more and more. We read this in Hosea and Amos, who prophesied during the same time as Jonah.

God Sends Jonah

Jonah feared. The Assyrians to the north were becoming very powerful. Jonah trembled to think that God would have to send these cruel barbarians to punish his people. What a shock it must have been to Jonah to hear the voice of the Lord speak these words: "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it: for their wickedness is come up before me." Nineveh was the capital city of Assyria, the very nation which threatened the peace and prosperity of Israel. Jonah was a true Israelite. He had no love for the Gentile Assyrians. How could he go and preach to these heathens? It was unheard of. Jonah would be condemned by all. Another thought struck Jonah. Perhaps the people of Nineveh would repent! What a humiliation that would be! The children of Israel hardening their hearts, and the Assyrians repenting! That may not happen, Jonah decided. Even the thought that Nineveh's repentance might mean a postponement of the Assyrian invasion, could not bring Jonah to obey the voice of the Lord. Instead he went straight to Joppa, quickly found a ship going in the opposite direction, and was soon off to Tarshish, a city in Spain, about as far from Nineveh as anyone was able to travel in Jonah's day.

God Finds Jonah

Wearily, Jonah stretched out in the bottom of the ship and fell fast asleep. Suddenly he felt a hand shaking him. At the same moment he felt the boat lurching violently. A raging storm was tossing the ship up and down "What meanest thou, O sleeper? Arise!" The shipmaster shouted. At once Jonah realized that God had found him! After confessing to the sailors, he told them there was only one thing which would save their lives. They would have to throw him overboard. Reluctantly the sailors complied. In a second, Jonah vanished in the foaming waves. The same

second, the storm died down! The sailors were filled with awe. Surely that was the end of the man of God. Great fear and reverence for this God filled their hearts. In Jonah 1:16, we read, "Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows."

Jonah sank to the bottom of the sea. As he was losing consciousness, a cry to the Lord rose from his heart. Then everything became black. How astonished Jonah was when he found himself in the belly of a great fish! Jonah realized that God had spared his life. How this must have humbled him! Jonah was filled with shame, but also with love, and even with hope and faith. He believed that God would bring him out of this strange prison. Jonah broke out into thanksgiving and praise. "I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving. I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD" (Jonah 2:9).

God kept Jonah in the belly of the fish three days and three nights, and then brought him out alive. What a remarkable foreshadowing this was of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ! The Lord Jesus Himself points this out in Matthew 12:40. What a great difference too! Jonah ended up in the whale for his sin of unwillingness and disobedience. The Lord Jesus willingly went into the grave for the sins of Jonah, and countless other proud and disobedient sinners, Jews and Gentiles who learn to cry unto him out of the depth of guilt and shame.

Review Questions

1. The ship was heading from:

- a. Joppa to Nineveh
- b. Tarshish to Nineveh
- c. Joppa to Tarshish
- d. Tyre to Tarshish

2. During the storm, what were the sailors doing?

- a. Rowing hard
- b. Crying to their gods
- c. Casting wares into the sea
- d. All of the above

3. How many questions did the sailors ask Jonah in Jonah 1:8?

- a. 3
- b. 5
- c. 4
- d. 6

- 4. Number the following events in the order in which they happened.
 - _____ There was a great storm.
 - _____ The sailors cried to their gods.
 - _____ Jonah told them to cast him into the sea.
 - _____ The shipmaster woke up Jonah.
 - _____ They threw Jonah into the sea.
 - _____ They cast lots, and it fell on Jonah.
 - _____ The sailors rowed harder.
 - _____ The sailors asked the Lord to forgive them.
 - _____ The storm stopped.
- 5. After the storm stopped, what three things did the sailors do?

Discussion Questions

1. What were some reasons why Jonah did not want to go to Nineveh?

2. Who else in the Bible went "from the presence of the Lord"? (Genesis 4:16; Job 1:12)

3. What can we learn from Psalm 139, verses 7 to 12?

4. In Jonah chapter 2, what past events does Jonah describe?

What future event	s does he describe?
. Compare and co	ntrast Jonah and the Lord Jesus. How are they the same? How are they
ifferent?	