

JONAH

Reluctant Prophet. Relentless God.

1. The Futility in Running From God

Jonah 1:1-17

The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

Jonah 1:1-17

But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

Psalm 139:7-10:

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. ⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

JONAH

Reluctant Prophet. Relentless God.

1. The Futility in Running From God

2. The Cost in Running From God

Jonah 1:1-17

Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

Jonah 1:1-17

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”

Jonah 1:1-17

Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

Jonah 1:1-17

So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

Jonah 1:1-17

He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?”

Jonah 1:1-17

(They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had already told them so.)

The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

Jonah 1:1-17

“Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

Jonah Going Down

1:3 “went down to Joppa”

“went down into it” [the ship]

1:5 “gone down into inner part of ship”

“lain down”

fell “fast asleep”

1:7 The sailors “cast [down] lots”

“the lot fell [down] on Jonah”

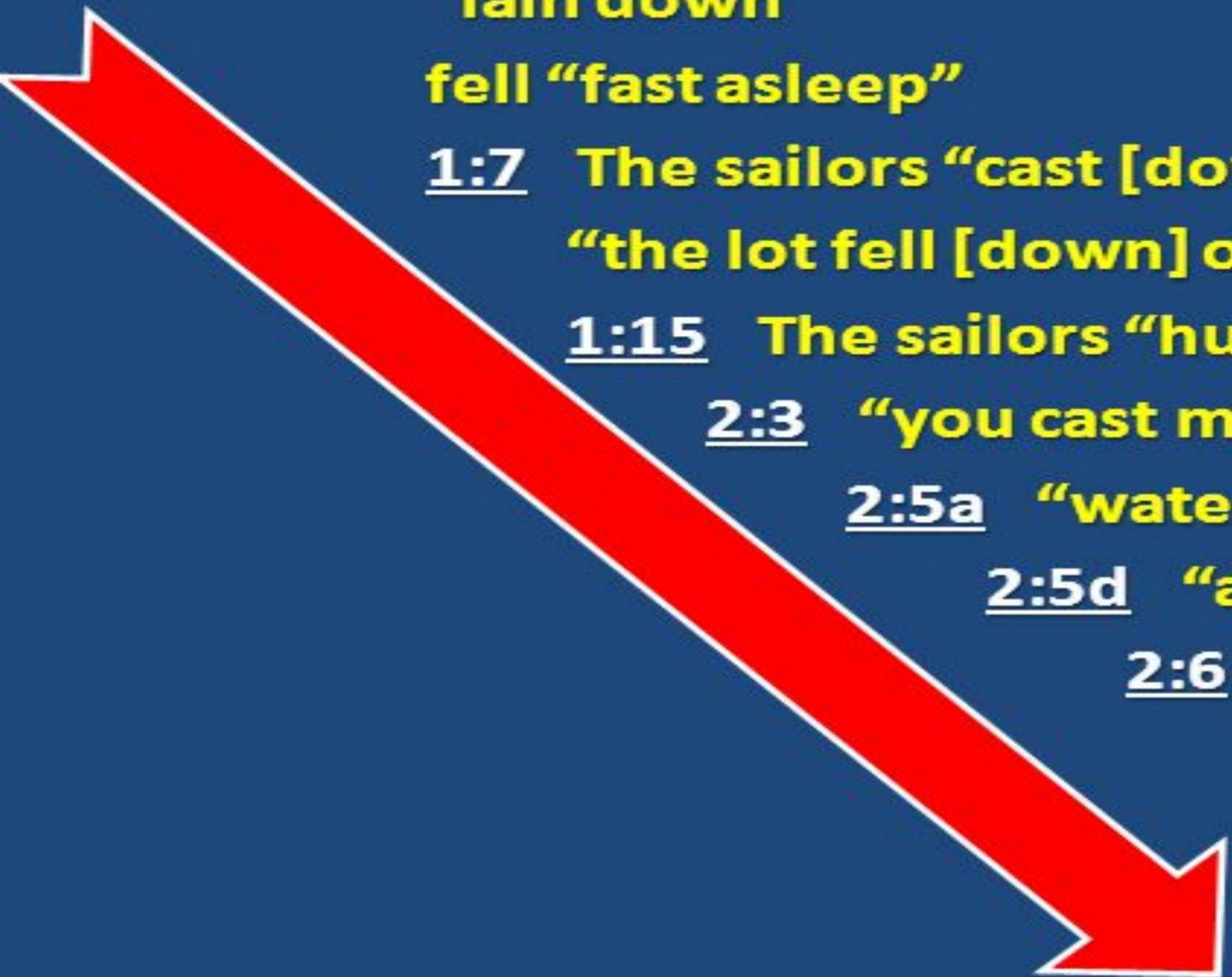
1:15 The sailors “hurled him [down] into the sea”

2:3 “you cast me into the deep” [*on the surface of the water*]

2:5a “waters closed [down] over me [*in midst of the sea*]

2:5d “at the roots of the mountains” [*the sea bottom*]

2:6 “down to land whose bars closed upon me forever” “the pit”



[Jonah is in “*Sheol*,” the lowest point he could possibly go]

JONAH

Reluctant Prophet. Relentless God.

Jonah's runaway posture is our posture, every time we sin, whether in thought, word, or deed, whether it's something we consider big or something small, whether it's doing something we shouldn't or failing to do something we should...

Every time we sin, we are telling God, 'My way of navigating this particular situation is better than yours. My wisdom and skill are more efficient and more effective in this moment than your wisdom and skill.' It's not that we stop believing. It's just that what we believe has shifted.

JONAH

Reluctant Prophet. Relentless God.

**Sin will take you farther than you want to go,
keep you longer than you want to stay,
and cost you more than you want to pay.**

1. The Futility in Running From God

2. The Cost in Running From God

3. The Surprise in Running From God

Jonah 1:1-17

Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before.

Jonah 1:1-17

Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you pleased.”

Jonah 1:1-17

Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

Jonah 1:1-17

Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Surprise #1: God is merciful

Surprise #1: God is merciful

Surprise #2: God is providing

Surprise #1: God is merciful

Surprise #2: God is providing

Surprise #3: God is gracious

1. The Futility in Running From God

2. The Cost in Running From God

3. The Surprise in Running From God

“Get up!”

Jonah 1:6

JONAH

Reluctant Prophet. Relentless God.