

Jonah Act I Prelude (1:1-3)

Key Words:

arise

great

go down

Key Theme:

God's command vs. Jonah's response

Surprises

God: Jonah's commission

Jonah: Prophet's reaction

Setting the Scene

What story is being set up here? How might it end? What might the moral be?

What is our Nineveh?

Jonah Act I Scene I (1:4–17)

Overview:

Jonah's sin catches up with him, as God stops him in his flight. He has to suffer for his wilful disobedience, but even then God's grace is displayed to him and to his shipmates. Jonah ends up being a prophet to the Gentiles despite himself.

Jonah's brief voyage foreshadows the life of Jesus, in part contrasting it, in part prefiguring it.

4–5 Who was the *source* of the storm? Who was the *cause* of the storm? What was the *point* of the storm?

Storms often represent God's presence (e.g. Ps. 29)

How did the sailors react? What do you think the author wants us to think of their reaction (Compare Ps. 107:23–31)? What about Jonah?

The sailors' hurling is a response to God's hurling. What does their experience of 'hurling things back at God' teach us?

What is the significance of Jonah's sleep?

6 What do you think is the irony in this verse?

(Clues: Think of the explanation of the First Commandment in the Small Catechism; and see Jonah 1:2.)

See Rom. 1:19–20. Is this verse in Jonah a case in point?

7 What is the point of casting lots? (Look at 1 Sam. 10:20–21; 1 Sam. 14:41–42; Acts 2:23–26; Prov. 16:33.)

8–9 Under interrogation, Jonah makes a true confession of faith.

How sincere is his confession, though? What's wrong with it?

10–13 How are the pagan sailors contrasted with the prophet Jonah in these verses?

Why do you think Jonah offers to be thrown overboard?

(Compare Jonah 1:5 and 4:3, 9)

14–16 What has God done through Jonah?

What does that tell us about the way God proclaims His word?

1–17 How is God bringing about His desired outcome in and for Jonah?

How does Jonah prefigure Jesus (see Matt 12:40)?

How is Jonah contrasted with Jesus (see Matt 8:23–27)