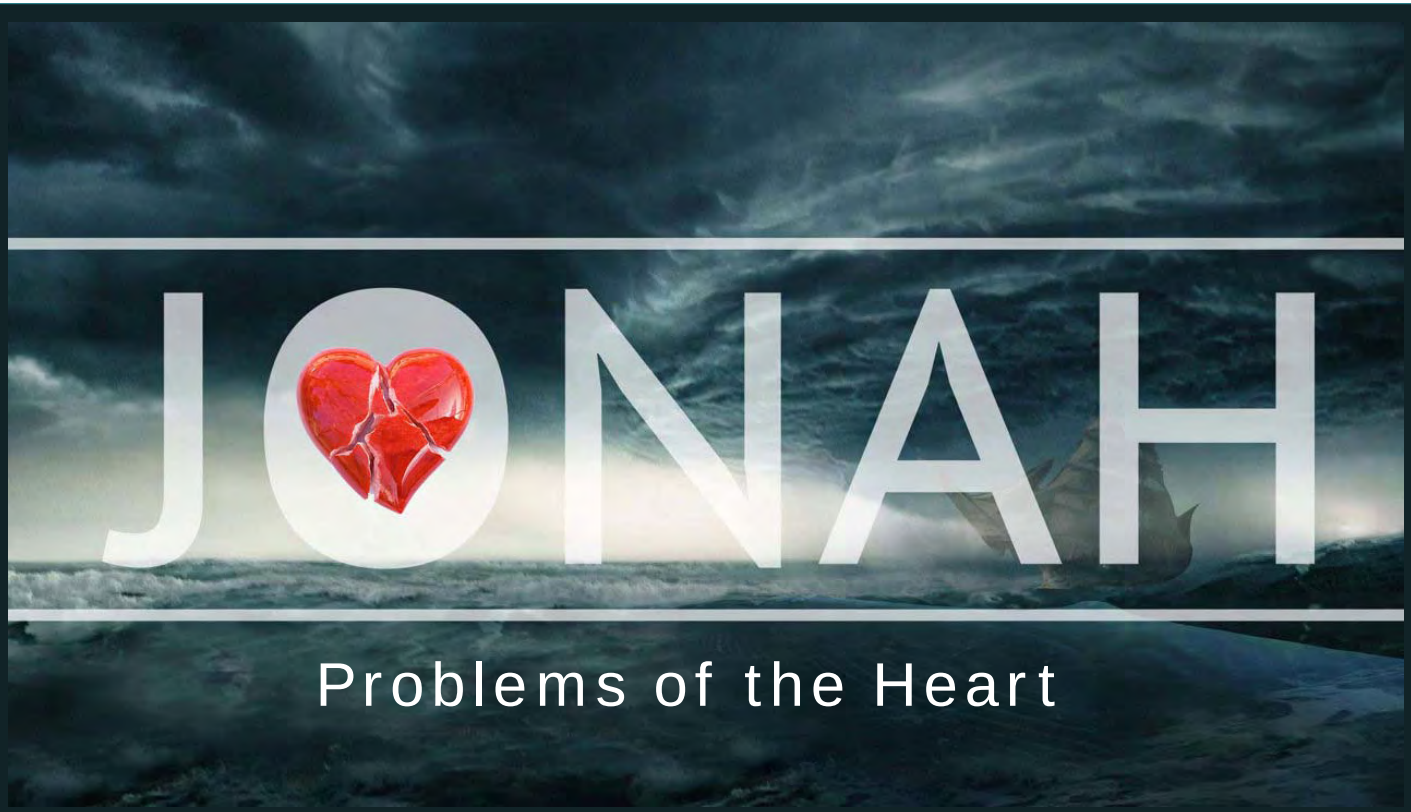
JONAH

JONAH
Problems of the Heart

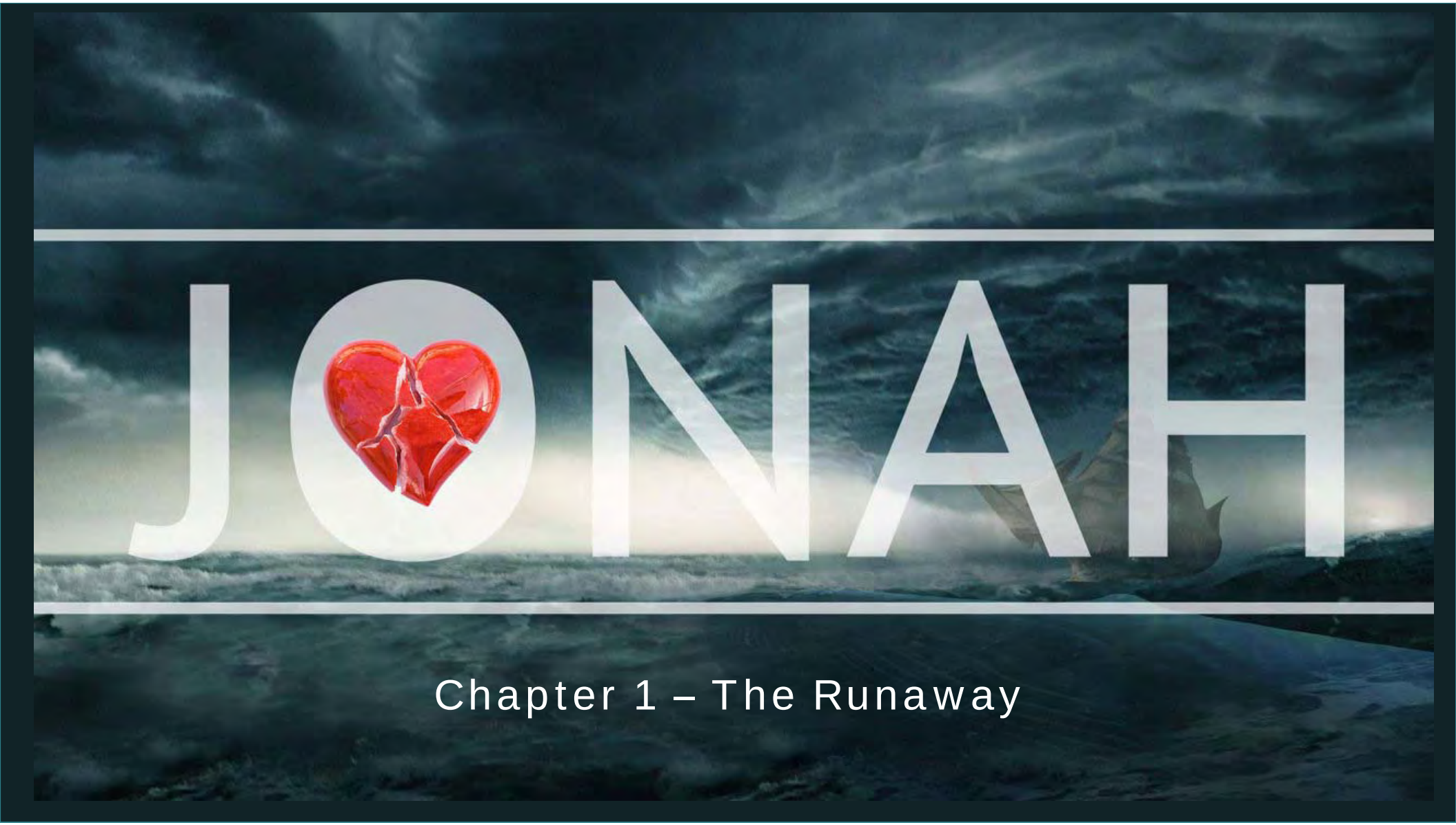


1st Problem & God's Answer

Chapters 1 & 2

2nd Problem & God's Answer

Chapters 3 & 4


JONAH
Chapter 1 – The Runaway

The Calling VS 1-2

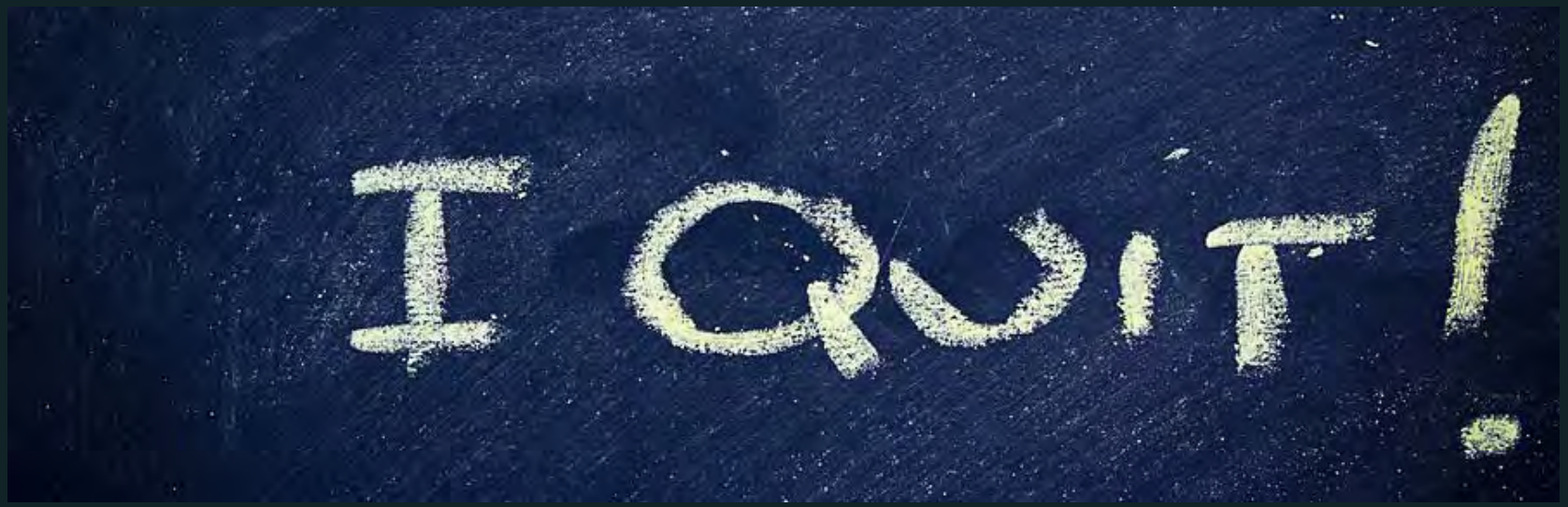
Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

The Rebellion vs 3

From the presence of the LORD

The Rebellion vs 3



From the presence of the LORD

The Consequence

The Consequence - Jonah Lost The:

Rebellion

Ability to hear God's voice

Desire to Pray

Testimony (Influence)

Heart Problem from Wrong Thoughts

Wrong Thoughts About the Will of God

Difficult – Dangerous - Undesirable

God wanted to use Jonah in the greatest revival of human history

Wrong Thoughts
About witnessing for God

Could be a witness sometimes

And could take time off

But only choice is what kind of witness

Wrong Thoughts
About his enemies – Assyrians

He wanted to see them perish

God is not willing that any should perish
But that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

Wrong Thoughts Brought Wrong Actions – Running Away

Brings about a Downward Slide

Down to Joppa

Down into the Ship

Down into the Sea

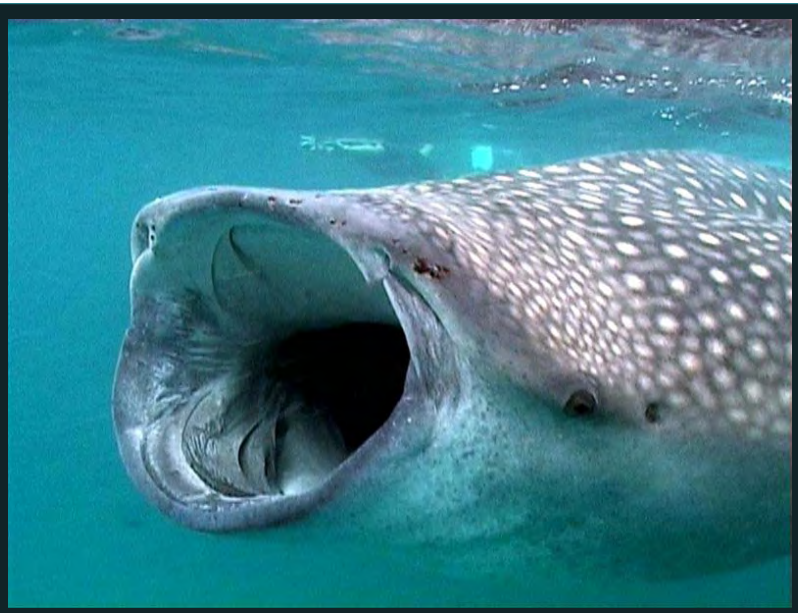
Chapter 1 – The Runaway because of Rebellion

The Patience of God

JONAH
The Story Continues

Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah.
And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. 1:17

The Problem of the Fish



People who know little more about the Bible than this story consider it sufficient to regard the Bible as a book of fables, myths, unfit to be taken seriously by people of intelligence.

The Problem of the Fish

The narrative seems almost unbelievable, yes it sounds like a greater falsehood and folly than any fable of the poets.
If it were not recorded in Scripture, I would regard it as a ridiculous lie.

BUT

2 Timothy 3:16 – inspiration
John 17:17 – Scripture is truth

Martin Luther on Jonah

A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Matthew 12:39-40

Jesus on Jonah

Is Jonah Real or a Parable - Miracles are the Problem

Remember when Jonah Lived?

During the days

of Elijah and Elisha

1 Kings 17 to 2 Kings 13

God's Men of Miracles

Miracles in his day

1) Causing the rain the cease for 3 1/2 years (1Ki 17:1)

2) Being fed by the ravens (1Ki 17:4)

3) Miracle of the barrel of meal and cruse of oil (1Ki 17:14)

4) Calling of fire from heaven on the altar at Mt. Carmel (1Ki 18:38)

5) Causing it to rain (1Ki 18:45)

Miracles in his day

6) Prophecy that Ahab's sons would all be destroyed (1Ki 21:22)

7) Prophecy that Jezebel would be eaten by dogs (1Ki 21:23)

8) Calling fire from heaven upon the first 50 soldiers (2Ki 2:10)

9) Calling fire from heaven upon the second 50 soldiers (2Ki 2:12)

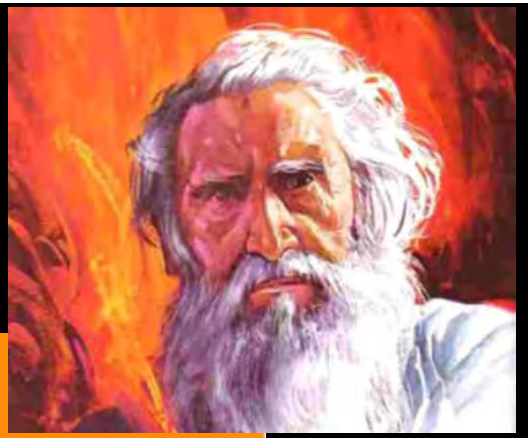
Miracles in his day

10) Parting of the Jordan (2Ki 2:8)

11) Prophecy that Elisha have a double portion of his spirit (2Ki 2:10)

12) Being caught up to heaven in a whirlwind (2Ki 2:11)

ELISHA



Miracles in his day

1) Parting of the Jordan (2Ki 2:14)

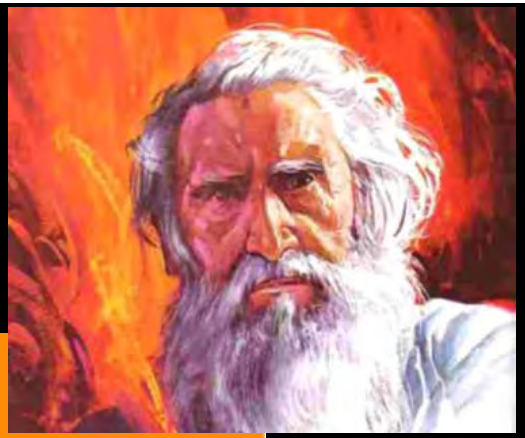
2) Healing of the waters (2Ki 2:21)

3) Filling of the valley with water (2Ki 3:17)

4) Miracle of the vessels of oil (2Ki 4:4)

5) Prophecy that the Shunammite woman would have a son (2Ki 4:16)

ELISHA



Miracles in his day

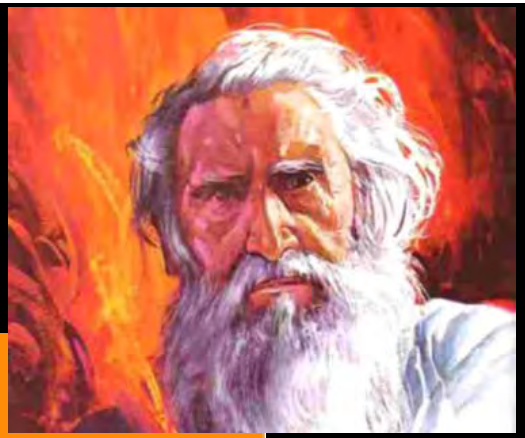
6) Miracle of the bread (2Ki 4:43)

7) Healing of Naaman (2Ki 5:14)

8) Perception of Gehazi's transgression (2Ki 5:26)

9) Floating of the axe head (2Ki 6:6)

ELISHA



Miracles in his day

10) Prophecy of the Syrian battle plans (2Ki 6:9)

11) Vision of the chariots (2Ki 6:17)

12) Smiting the Syrian army with blindness (2Ki 6:18)

13) Restoring the sight of the Syrian army (2Ki 6:20)

14) Resurrection of the man touched by his bones (2Ki 13:21

Miracles on Land

Elijah raised the son of Zarephath's widow

1 Kings 17:17-24

Elisha raised the son of the Shunammite woman

2 Kings 4:35

Miracles in the Sea

JONAH
Chapter 2 – Repentance – The Way Back
The Pardon of God

Made A Decision to Pray to God (2:1-2)

Return from rebellion

Confession

1 John 1:9

Confess = “Say the same thing”

Prodigal Son
Luke 15

Made a Decision to Accepted God's Discipline (2:3-6)

Hebrews 12:5 Responses to Discipline

1. Despise and fight
2. Discourage and faint – give up

Hebrews 12:6-11 Results of Discipline

1. Proof of Sonship
2. Produces peaceable fruit of righteousness

Made a Decision to Accepted God's Discipline (2:3-6)

Notice the description of the situation

Into the heart of the seas,
And the floods surrounded me

Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight

Weeds were wrapped around my head.
I went down to the moorings of the mountains;

Made a Decision to Accepted God's Discipline (2:3-6)

Notice the description of the situation

The earth with its bars *closed* behind me forever;

HOPELESSNESS

Cast Upon God's Mercy

Made a Decision to Trust God’s Promises (2:4, 7)

Solomon’s Prayer of Dedication

150 years previous

2 Chronicles 6:36-40 - Request

2 Chronicles 7:12-15 - Answer

Made a Decision to Yield Fully to God (2:8-9)

Idol in his Heart

Forsake Mercy

Offered Sacrifice Thanksgiving

Pay My Vow

The Fish Vomited Jonah Up (2:10)

So the LORD spoke to the fish,
and it vomited Jonah
onto dry land.

Lessons for Rebels

There is a way back

Lessons for Rebels - There is a way back

1. Return to God through confession
2. Learn from God's discipline
3. Trust God's promise of mercy
4. Yield fully to God

JONAH
Problems of the Heart