



## Episode One

# Running Away on a Circle

Jonah 1:1-6

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### Why Study Jonah?

Two different readings, two different views of God  
Jonah as the anti-role model

### Contextual Background

Neo-Assyrian Empire: **912 BCE** ----- **610 BCE**

Neo-Assyrian Empire Conquest of Israel: **740 BCE** ---- **720 BCE**

Jeroboam II's Reign: **793 BCE** ----- **753 BCE**

Date Range for Jonah Story: **843 BCE** ----- **705 BCE**

The reputation of Assyrian cruelty  
Jonah as a nationalist pro-government prophet (see 2 Kings 14:23-29)  
We can posit that Jonah despised the Assyrians

### Away from the Presence of the Lord

Jonah knew his theology: see 1:9  
Dr. Doug Stuart: away from the place where God speaks  
Port of Embarking: Gentile Joppa to "Tarshish"  
Destination "Tarshish": a generic coastal city name or "out on the open sea"  
Let God use someone else!  
The kid slouching down in the back of lecture hall  
Completing the check-out: asleep in the hold of the boat  
Jonah wakes up to words that sound eerily similar: "arise and call out": vs. 2 and 6

### Why Did Jonah Run Away?

Nineveh's "evil" or "troubles"? Verse 2 (see also 1:2,7,8; 3:8,10; 4:1,2,6)  
When God gives a warning, it is an act of grace: see Romans 2:4  
Jonah did not want to be part of a possible grace operation: see 4:1-2

### Wherever you go, there He is

Even if I dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea: Psalm 139:7-10  
Running away on a circle: both directions lead to the same end  
Wind is another circle picture of the result of running away from God  
God as the wind-maker: Psalm 135:7; Amos 4:13; Mark 4:41  
Wind is a circle (hot air rising, cool air rushing in to takes its place)

The Spirit (breath/wind) rushes in where sin makes a space for Him  
Not as coercion but as mercy  
Instead of skirting sin, God runs toward it, like the father in Luke 15:20  
Think of wind holding back a boat teetering on the edge of a rocky shoal  
Careful to distinguish anger and urgency  
Reasons people are running away from God  
Disappointment in God not coming through  
Betrayal by Christians in their poor role models  
Unsolvable intellectual questions and conundrums  
A desire for autonomy and the idea that God is a killjoy  
As wind is to the stalled wind mill, the deflated sail, the stifling day  
Rushing wind blow through this temple

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