

**Monday** -- Jonah (1:1-2) is a personal name meaning, "dove" and is the name of a famous book of the Bible preserving a part of prophet's ministry. Jonah is unique among the Minor Prophets in consisting of a short story about a prophet and in confining his prophetic sermon to one sentence (*Jonah 3:4*). The man Jonah is mentioned in *2 Kings 14:23-29* as active in the reign of Jeroboam II (about 785-745 B.C.). His prediction of national expansion for the Northern Kingdom, evidently made early in the reign, expressed God's longing to save His people, wicked though they were.

**Tuesday** -- Jonah was called to Nineveh, which according to *Genesis 10:11* was founded by the notorious Nimrod. It was the wickedest city in the world, being located on the Tigris river in what is our modern day Iraq. *Nahum 3:1-4* describes the depth to which the city had fallen. The more Jonah thought about it, Nineveh was a good place to stay away from. So in verse 2, When God called him to "go to that great city of Nineveh and preach against it," he decided to run away.

**Wednesday** -- "But Jonah headed for Tarshish. (*Jonah 1:3*) He went down to Joppa where he found a ship bound for that port. The first two words of this verse are the saddest words in the whole book. Jonah did just the opposite of what God wanted. Jonah hurried 60 miles Down to Joppa where there was a seaport. Instead of going to Ninevah 700 miles to the East, he looks the opposite direction and the most distant city in the known world is 2200 miles to the West clear on the edge of Spain. *Jeremiah 10:9* says Tarshish was a smelting town. Silver, Iron, Tin, Lead were refined. In verse 3 we read he 'found' a ship going for Tarshish. Coincidence? Do you ever justify your choices by the way things seem to fall into place. It's a marvel that the Evil One always has a ship waiting to take you away from where God wants you to be.

**Thursday** -- Running from God is always expensive. Jonah "paid the fare" (v 3). The voyage often took 6 months or even longer. It probably took all the money he had. We pay our own way when we flee from God. *Galatians 6:7* The trip was far more expensive than he ever dreamed. In fact have you ever thought about it--- Sin is the most expensive thing in the whole world. It cost Jesus his blood. *Romans 6:23*-- God sent a great WIND on the sea. *Jonah 1:4,5*. Ships never sailed in the season when the infamous Meltimi winds from the North made sailing dangerously impossible. This was the season of smooth sailing. This savage wind was supernatural. But Jonah is sound asleep. (v5). It is hard to comprehend how he could sleep while the storm is raging. It shows how insensitive we can get. Sin quickly hardens the heart. *Ephesians 4:19* Finally the captain wakes him (vs 8-10)...his disobedience is found out (*Numbers 32:23*)

**Friday** -- The stormy seas get rougher (*Jonah 11-12*) he says those famous words, "Throw me into the sea." Vs 13-16 say they tried hard to row to shore. "But they could not". Salvation is not by effort alone. It is a happy day when we finally realize that our best will not cut it. Our real hope is Christ in us (*Col 1:27*). In the Gospels, especially at *Matthew 12:40*, Jonah's stay in the fish (*Jonah 1:17*) is represented as a prototype of Jesus' three days in the grave.

- I. God's call is very Personal
    - *"The word of the lord came to Jonah son of Amittai" Jonah 1:1*
    - 25 Days of Prayer and Fasting
  - II. God's call tends to be Specific
    - *"go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it" Jonah 1:2*
  - III. God's call has a great Purpose!
    - *"... because its wickedness has come up before me." Jonah 1:1-2*
  - IV. Running away from God's Call
    - A. Heading to Tarshish *Jeremiah 10:9*
      - *"BUT Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. Jonah 1:3*
    - B. Down, down, down...
      - *He went down to Joppa,*
    - C. The Ship of disobedience is always waiting
      - *Where he found a ship bound for that port." Jonah 1:3*
    - D. Running Away is expensive
      - *"After paying the fare, he went aboard." Jonah 1:3*
    - E. God Responds
      - *"The Lord sent a great wind and a violent storm" Jonah 1:4*
    - F. Jonah Responds
      - *"deep sleep." Jonah 1:5*
    - G. The Captain Responds
      - *"Awake O Sleeper!" Jonah 1:6*
    - H. The Sailors Respond
      - *they threw the dice... Jonah 1:8-10*
    - I. The Sea Responds
      - *"the sea was growing rougher and rougher" Jonah 1:11*
  - V. Two life changing lessons from Jonah (so far)
    - A. Responsibility
      - *"Throw me into the sea!" Jonah 1:12*
    - B. Reliance
      - *"instead the men did their best to row back to land , but they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before." Jonah 1:13-16*
- Conclusion: Jonah as a metaphor for Jesus
- *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 12:40*