

RUNNING

THE STORY OF JONAH AND US

#2: RUNNING FROM GOD—JONAH 1

JIM HINTON

I. AN OVERVIEW OF JONAH CHAPTER ONE

1. Jonah is called (v.1-2)

2. Jonah runs (v.3)

See the flashing swords and glittering spears as the charioteers charge past! There are countless casualties, heaps of bodies—so many bodies that people stumble over them. All this because Nineveh, the beautiful and faithless city, mistress of deadly charms, enticed the nations with her beauty. She taught them all her magic, enchanting people everywhere.

Nahum 3:3-4 (NLT)

3. God pursues (v.4-7)

We may throw the dice, but the LORD determines how they fall.

Proverbs 16:33 (NLT)

4. Jonah confesses (v.8-10)

5. Jonah sinks (v.11-17)

II. WHAT I LEARN FROM JONAH CHAPTER ONE

1. God still loves and can save the people in the Nineveh's of the world

One night the Lord said to Paul in a vision, "Don't be afraid to speak out! Don't be silent! I'm with you. No one will attack you or harm you. I have many people in this city."

Acts 18:9-10 (GWT)

2. I may run – but I can never hide from the Lord

Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?"

Jeremiah 23:24 (NIV)

3. If I am running from God – I should expect a storm

Now a consultant is someone whose wisdom we highly value and listen to, but at the end of the day, we make the final decision. That's why they're called consultants. Here's the problem: God doesn't do consulting. Never has. Never will. He does God. When we treat him as a consultant, he simply stops showing up for meetings.

Larry Osborn

4. Storms caused by my rebellion effect the people around me

5. Storms the Lord sends are intended to correct me – not destroy me

Our earthly fathers correct us, and we still respect them. Isn't it even better to be given true life by letting our spiritual Father correct us? Our human fathers correct us for a short time, and they do it as they think best. But God corrects us for our own good, because he wants us to be holy, as he is. It is never fun to be corrected. In fact, at the time it is always painful. But if we learn to obey by being corrected, we will do right and live at peace.

Hebrews 12:9-10 (CEV)

