



DEEP IDOLS

Jonah 1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

³ But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

Idols

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Deep Idols

Personal Idols: Ministry Success

National Idols: Patriotism, Racism

Religious Idols: Self Righteousness





The Lord told Jonah to go to Nineveh (Jon. 1:2), the capital of Assyria, about 550 miles northeast of Israel. Instead, Jonah boarded a ship bound for Tarshish—a destination that may have been as far as 2,500 miles in the opposite direction.

Tarshish (Jon. 1:3), believed by many to have been a seaport or region in southern Spain.

Joppa (Jon. 1:3; see Acts 9:42), the only natural harbor in Israel south of Acco, and probably the closest one available to the fleeing prophet.

Jerusalem, capital of Judah.

Samaria, capital of Israel (see 1 Kin. 16:24).

Nineveh (Jon. 1:2), capital of the Assyrian Empire in Jonah's time.

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¹⁰ Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done this?" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them. ¹¹ Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?"-- for the sea was growing more tempestuous. ¹² And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me."

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¹⁷ 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.

2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly.

⁷ "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple.

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⁸ "Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.

⁹ But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."

¹⁰ So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

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Jonah 3:1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,
2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you." 3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent.

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⁴ And Jonah began to enter the city on the first day's walk. Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

⁵ So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

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¹⁰ Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.



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4:I But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. ² So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. ³ "Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!"

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*We are God's chosen few,
All others will be damned;
There is no place in heaven for you,
We can't have heaven crammed.*

Jonathan Swift



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⁴ Then the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

⁵ So Jonah went out of the city and sat on the east side of the city. There he made himself a shelter and sat under it in the shade, till he might see what would become of the city.

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⁶ And the LORD God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant.

⁷ But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered.

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⁸ And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." ⁹ Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!"

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¹⁰ But the LORD said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night.

¹¹ "And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left-- and much livestock?"



DEEP IDOLS

Problem Idols: Caring about our present comfort rather than another person's eternity.



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