

The
Little Bird
Bible

Jonah

Retweeted

The 👍📜
Short
Tweet,
& to the Point

Jarrold Branson Conyers

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Little Bird Bible Jonah

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To The READER

This Sample comes from the first chapter of the Little Bird Bible's **Book of Jonah Retweeted version.**

1. The Abridged version of this book does not include all the side dialogues between the different characters, so just skip over these indented conversations to get a feel for the Abridged version.
2. This sample is formatted as a PDF, so the animated stickers will not work in this format but do in most e-book versions.

Chapter 1

Chapter Breakdown

Verses 1:1-3

The Lord God gives Jonah a message to deliver to Nineveh, the capital of one of Israel's greatest enemies, but Jonah refuses to deliver it and gets on a ship going in the opposite direction.

Verses 1:4-7

Jonah falls asleep aboard the ship and is unaware that God has sent a great storm to keep him from running away. The ship is reckoned to sink, so the terrified sailors lighten the load, pray to their gods, and then discern that Jonah is responsible for the calamity.

Verses 1:8-12

As the storm gets worse, Jonah tells the ship's crew that he is a prophet of the Most High God and that he alone is responsible for the tempest; Jonah suggests the crew throw him overboard so the storm will subside.

Verses 1:13-16

After trying all they could to avoid Jonah's suggestion, the crew prays to Jonah's God to not be angry with them for tossing the prophet overboard. Once they do, the sea becomes dead calm and they worship the Most High God.




Verse 1:17

The Lord God provides a great fish that swallows Jonah as he sinks.


Chapter 1 Emoji Lexicon

The sequential usage & definitions of non-literal emoji concepts

Jonah 1:1-3

   =Prophet


   =City

 =Call


 =Wicked

  =Run, Ran

Jonah 1:4-7

 =Wind

 =Sea


 =Pray

  =See, Look

  =Remember

 =Die, Dying



Jonah 1:8-12

   =Tribe

 =Jew

 =Israel


  =Believe

  =Heaven



  =Calm Down



Jonah 1:13-17


 =Holy, Pure

 =Good

 =Revere

  =Sacrifice

  =Vows

 =Days

 =Nights

The Book of Jonah

Chapter 1 & Comment Threads

Jonah 1:1-3



Narrator @theDivineWord

A long time ago, the Lord spoke this message to Jonah the prophet



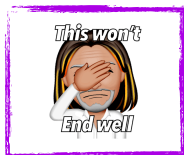
God @theLivingPresence777

“Get & Go to the great city of Nineveh (NIN-uh-vuh) & out against it , because its wickedness has come before me.”



Prof. Rosenbaum @HebrewScholar7

*This is a very common way to start the account of a prophet: **Joel 1:1**, **Micah 1:1**, and **Jeremiah 1:4** all begin the same way with God proclaiming his message to his messenger, but Jonah is the only one who doesn't deliver it.*



Narrator @theDivineWord

But Jonah ran away from the Lord & headed for Tarshish (TAHR-sheesh). He went to Joppa (JAHP-uh), where he found a bound for that port. He bought a , went aboard, & sailed for Tarshish to run from the Lord.



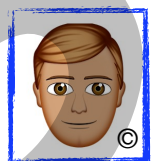
Prof. Lui @GeographyGuru

It is worth noting that Tarshish was in the exact opposite geographical direction than Nineveh was and several thousand miles farther away.



Prof. Rosenbaum @HebrewScholar7

*More to the point, the Hebrew text clearly points out that Jonah was not running away from Nineveh or his responsibility, but the “face of God” not once, but twice, in **verse 1:3**.*



Adam @theVeryFirstMan

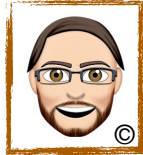
*I also hid from the face of God (**Genesis 3:8**); I don't recommend it; He will always find you.*

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Prof. Winglethrush @LiteratureIsLife

Thus surmised Francis Thompson in his famous poem, "The Hound of Heaven;" Divine Grace will follow and hunt down every distant soul until it is forced to turn to God alone.



Jarrod @LittleBirdBible

It sounds like the great Hound of Heaven is always pursuing us even in the midst of our pain and suffering, yet feeling abandoned by God in the midst of pain and suffering is a pretty common complaint people make. Where is the line between Divine Abandonment and Holy Pursuit?

What do you think? Post about it: **#HoundofHeaven**

Login: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)



Jonah 1:4-7



Narrator @theDivineWord

Then the Lord threw a great wind 🌪️ on the sea 🌊, & such a violent storm arose that the 🚢 threatened to break 📈. All the sailors were afraid 😨 & each prayed 🙏 hard to his own god. They threw the cargo into the 🌊 to lighten the 🚢.

But Jonah had gone 📉 below deck, went to 🛏️, & fell deeply into 😴. The captain went to him & said,

Captain @Tarshishbound

"Get 📈! 📞 on your god! How can you sleep ? Perhaps he will look 📄 & remember 🤔 us, & we will not die 💀."



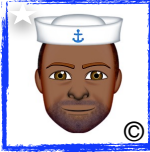
Mark @TheFirstEvangelist

That's funny; I remember something very similar happened to the 12 Disciples, when Jesus went below deck and fell asleep. (Mark 4:35-41)



Paul @WorstSinnerEver

I can relate; a very similar disaster occurred to Luke and me as we sailed to Rome for my trial before Caesar. (Acts 27:13-44)



1st Mate @Tarshishbound

“Hey guys, let’s roll 🎲🎲 to figure out who the guilty person is so we can 🙌 blame 🙌 them for this calamity 😞 we are in.”



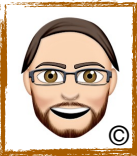
Narrator @theDivineWord

So, they rolled 🎲🎲, & the 🎲🎲 fell on Jonah.



Prof. Storia @HistoryIsLife

Ok, they did not roll dice; they “cast lots.” This was an ancient form of divination to determine God’s will where two stones (the Urim and Thummim) were used and the outcome was predicated by chance.



Jarrod @LittleBirdBible

Oh, you mean like how we use dice?



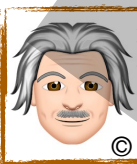
Hellen @OffendedLayPerson

I am offended you are suggesting the Bible promotes gambling!



Prof. Storia @HistoryIsLife

*It’s not gambling. The Ancients used these stones to decide complicated issues in an impartial and fair manner under divine influence—not to get rich fast. Plus, they gave God the credit (**Proverbs 16:33**).*



Einstein @E=MCSquared

“God does not play dice.”²

Jonah 1:8-10



2nd Mate @Tarshishbound

“Jonah, Tell us, are you the one to 🙌 blame 🙌 for all this trouble 😞 ?

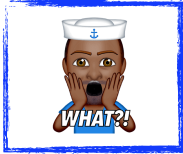
What do you do 🧑🧑🧑 ?

Where do you come from 🌍 ? What is your country 🇪🇬 🇪🇸 🇸🇩 ? Who is your tribe 🧑🧑🧑 ? ”



Jonah @RunawayProphet

“I am a Jew 🇮🇱 from Israel 🇮🇱, & I believe 🐝🍁 in the Lord, the God of Heaven 🌤️🌌, who created the 🌊 and the land 🌍.”



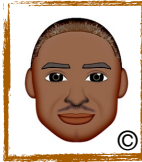
1st Mate @Tarshishbound

“OMG 🤯! What have you done ? ”



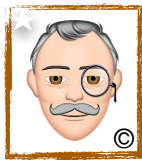
Stacy @TheWhyGirl

Why did Jonah run away to begin with?



Dr. King @IHaveADream

“One of the strange facts of human life is the fact that there is within every man an underlying urge to escape God. This is true not only of the rabid atheist, but also of the devout theist. We may not be aware of this in our conscious minds, but deep down within the hidden chambers of the sub-conscious there is the mad desire to flee from the presence of the Almighty God.”³



Rupert Reinhold III @TheologyZoe

*Jonah actually tells us a little about his reasons in **Chapter 4**. Many people look down on Jonah for his prejudice and anger against their enemy. Some call out his pride and cowardliness for running away. I wonder if Jonah ran away for the virtue of loving his country, for he knew if Assyria repented, they would become the scourge of Israel and wipe them out.*

Jonah 1:11-12



Narrator @theDivineWord

(Now, Jonah already said 🗨️ he was running 🏃🏻👈 away from the Lord)

The 🌊 was getting more rough & went from 😬 to 😡. So they asked him:



Captain @Tarshishbound

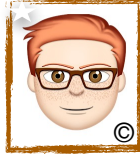
“What should we do to you to make the 🌊 😊👇 for us ? ”



Jonah @RunawayProphet

“Pick me 📌 & throw me into the 🌊, & it will become 😊. I know THIS 😞 is all my fault.”

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Gavin @BibleCampKnowItAll

I think Jonah is really brave here. He is taking responsibility for his actions and wants to sacrifice himself to save the lives of the sailors.



Rupert Reinhold III @TheologyZoe

Or he doesn't care for anyone else but himself and would rather die than see Nineveh repent.

How would you describe the character of Jonah based on his actions?

*What do you think? Post about it: **#JonahCharacter***

Login: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)



Jonah 1:13-16



Narrator @theDivineWord

Instead, the sailors tried to row **BACK** to land. But they could not, for the grew wilder from to . So, they d out to Jonah's God:



2nd Mate @Tarshishbound

"O Lord, please do not let us die for killing this innocent man. You, O Lord, are God; You do as you please; You do what is good & fair."



Narrator @theDivineWord

Then they took Jonah & threw him out of the , & the became a right away. This of the sailors. They revered the Lord, offered a sacrifice , & made vows to the Lord, the God of Israel .



Gavin @BibleCampKnowItAll

So the God of the Universe answered the prayer the sailors offered up to their own little gods, proving He was better than them?



Jarrod @LittleBirdBible

Yes, but it also looks pretty bad that these non-Jewish sailors appear more righteous than the prophet of God that caused the calamity to begin with.

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Prof. Rosenbaum @HebrewScholar7

*The plight of the sailors in many ways parallels the maritime story shared in **Psalm 107:23-32**. I think the point of the story is to show how far the hand of the Almighty can reach to accomplish His purposes. Jonah should have known **Psalm 139**. There is no place on this earth, above it, or under it where one can go where God is not.*

Jonah 1:17



Narrator @theDivineWord

But the Lord provided a great fish 🐟 to swallow Jonah, & Jonah was inside the 🐟 for 3 days 🌅 and 3 nights 🌃.



Stacy @TheWhyGirl

Why didn't they just turn the ship around? That might have stopped the storm, too. Why not throw him an oar to float on along with the cargo since they were not apparently too far from the shore?



St. Cyril @TheAlexandrianBishop

*Jonah was a "type of Christ," to whom our Lord related (**Matthew 16:4**). He descended into the dead and prayed from the belly of a whale. Without the whale, we not only lose the drama of this story but the cornerstone of the resurrection itself.⁴*



Chapter 1: Condensed

God 💬, "Get 📍 & go to Nineveh," but Jonah 🏃🏻 away; God made the 🌊 🌪️; the crew 🧑🏻, 🎲, 🙏, & threw Jonah overboard; the 🌊 grew 😞. God sent a 🐟 to save him.

Chapter Reflection & Discussion

Whether you are reading as an individual or studying as a group, take some time to explore what is going on in the text and within yourself:

1. When has somebody in authority asked you to do something you really did not want to do? What did you do? (*Verse 1:3*)
2. In your life, in your faith, or in the Bible, has God asked you to do something you didn't want to do? (*Verse 1:3*)
3. When have you ran away from something or someone? How did it resolve? (*Verse 1:3*)
4. Jonah bought a ticket and paid the fare to get to a destination where he never arrived. When have you invested your time and/or money in a dead-end endeavor that never took off or went anyplace? (*Verse 1:3*)
5. The captain asks Jonah to pray to his god to save them, but Jonah doesn't; it seems like he doesn't want to be saved. Is there a time that someone has asked you to pray and you refused? (*Verse 1:6*)
6. Read **Psalm 94:8-11** and **Jeremiah 23:23-24**. Do you believe God knows the hearts of all people? (Why or Why not?) (*Verse 1:14*)
7. If actions speak louder than words, do you think this is true of Jonah? Do your actions speak louder than your words?

Say a prayer:

*for those you may have refused to pray for in the past.

*that your actions and words are consistent and godly.

Pictorial Character Directory

Cast of characters in alphabetical order

NOTE:

All characters real, historic, or imagined may have no knowledge or concept of the Little Bird Bible and thus do not endorse it.

The color of the box around the picture indicates their primary category

1. **Royal Blue:** Old Testament people.
2. **Aqua Blue:** New Testament people.
3. **Red:** Philosophers & Theologians.
4. **Green:** Inventors & Scientists.
5. **Grey:** Antagonists & Critics
6. **Yellow:** Musicians & Artists
7. **Purple:** Spiritual Beings
8. **Brown:** Leaders & Experts

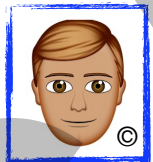
★ A white star indicates the character reflects a generic viewpoint but does not embody an actual person



1st Mate @Tarshishbound. He and the rest of the crew of Jonah's ship chartered for Tarshish were not named and speak collectively. The LBB gave them a name and an icon to make the conversation clearer to read. We know contextually they were not Jewish, and we can assume these sailors were Phoenician.



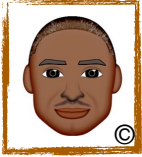
2nd Mate @Tarshishbound. He and the rest of the crew of Jonah's ship chartered for Tarshish were not named and speak collectively. The LBB gave them a name and an icon to make the conversation clearer to read. We know contextually they were not Jewish, and we can assume these sailors were Phoenician.



Adam @theVeryFirstMan. Adam is said to be the first person God created that uniquely knew God. The story of the myth, the man, and the legend is told in **Genesis 2:4-4:1**. As the story goes, God formed Adam out of dirt, breathed life into him, set him to tend and till the earth within a garden of paradise called Eden. God made him a wife, Eve, and he had everything he wanted, but it wasn't enough; he wanted more, which led him to disobey God's one command by eating forbidden fruit. Many theologians conclude all of life's pain and brokenness proceeds from this original sin.



Captain @Tarshishbound. Captain is in command of Jonah's ship chartered for Tarshish. In the Bible, he is given a voice, but not a name. We know contextually he was not Jewish, and we can assume he was Phoenician like his crew.



Dr. King @IHaveADream. (1929-1968AD) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an American Baptist minister and an outspoken activist during the American Civil Rights Movement from 1954 until his death. His passionate voice for racial equality and practice of non-violent civil disobedience inspired the world and won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He was assassinated by a gunman in Memphis, TN, while planning a national rally to occupy Washington, D.C.



Einstein @E=MCSquared. (1879 –1955) Albert Einstein was a German-born theoretical physicist known for his theory of relativity. He won the Nobel Prize in 1921 for his contributions to science. Due to his Jewish background, Einstein had to relocate to the U.S. during WWII and helped with the Manhattan Project, though as a pacifist he hated war and was against the use of atomic weapons. While preparing a speech to celebrate Israel's 7th year of nationhood, his abdominal aorta ruptured and he died shortly after at age 76. His brain was removed for study, where it was dissected and parts of it were lost; to date, the last samples to be found were returned in 2013—58 years after his death.



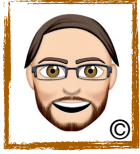
Gavin @BibleCampKnowItAll. Gavin is 11 years old and has successfully completed every Vacation Bible School in the Tri-State area. He knows the names of all the books of the Bible by heart, along with all the U.S. States and capitals. He represents the young, eager, certain, and sheltered voice of his private Christian suburban upbringing.



God @theLivingPresence777. God is The LORD God, Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth, the Source of all that Is, the Eternal, the Divine Revelation beyond our comprehension, the Living Presence, and over fifty different names given in the Bible. God is depicted as an elderly man with a large white beard as God is frequently depicted in Medieval art and modern cartoons. (The LBB believes that God is ultimately beyond gender and material form, but in order to see the anthropomorphic emotions attributed to God within the biblical text, the LBB needed to give God a face.)



Hellen @OffendedLayPerson. Hellen is the voice of the hard-to-please long-standing members of the local church, who are not afraid to share their grievances and opinions.



Jarrod @LittleBirdBible. Jarrod is the author and creator of the Little Bird Bible. Jarrod occasionally weighs in to clarify the intent and inspiration behind the translation as he strives to simplify and enhance the Bible reading experience. In addition, at times Jarrod shares some of his own scriptural revelations he discovered during his study and translation. His biography is in the back of the book.



Jonah @RunawayProphet. Jonah is one of the few Old Testament prophets sent to prophesy to another people group outside of Israel. Jonah is also the only Old Testament prophet to run away from completing the mission God tasked him to do—prophesying against the capital city of Israel's greatest enemy at the time (Assyria) somewhere between 843-793 BC.

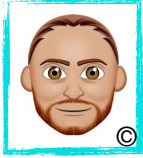
Jonah is actually first mentioned in the book of **2 Kings 14:25**, where he prophesies for King Jeroboam II of Israel before the kingdom's fall; we read the rest of Jonah's story in the **Book of Jonah**. Generally speaking, Jonah is often angry and spiteful, but God uses Jonah in spite of himself to accomplish His divine plan, along with other agents of His will from a worm to a whale.



Mark @TheFirstEvangelist. His full name is John Mark (**Acts 12:12**), and he wrote the first Gospel about the life of Jesus, prior to Matthew, Luke, and John. Mark was a helper and an assistant to the Apostle Peter (**1 Peter 5:13**), where he is thought to have gotten most of his firsthand accounts for his Gospel. Mark was also a traveling companion and fellow missionary of the Apostle Paul on his first missionary journey (**Acts 12:25**). Mark and Barnabas were also cousins (**Colossians 4:10**). Mark was killed doing missionary work in Africa in 68 AD when some of the locals from Alexandria placed a rope around his neck and dragged him through the streets until he was dead. His body and relics were kept in Egypt until 828 when smugglers stole his body, hid it in a cart covered in pork and cabbage to evade detection from the Muslim guards, and sailed back to Venice. San Marco's Basilica was built to bear the saint's name and remains.



Narrator @theDivineWord. Much of the Bible is told through an anonymous 3rd person, omniscient story teller who knows the thoughts, feelings, and motivations of the characters in the story, but is at the same time not a part of the story. The Little Bird Bible employs the a Divine Narrator when the authorship of a Biblical text is uncertain, or when it makes it easier to distinguish when the story's main characters move from 3rd person to 1st person in the storyline to speak for themselves. Since we believe all scripture is God-breathed (**2 Timothy 3:16**), it is easier to use an icon of the Divine Narrator than a generic icon of whatever we think the Holy Spirit looks like.



Paul @WorstSinnerEver. (?-65 AD) Paul was a distinguished Jewish leader and Pharisee with a brilliant mind and incredible zeal, who started out persecuting Christians before his conversion to the faith. He then became one of their greatest missionaries and authors, credited with writing 13 of the 27 books found in the New Testament, and he still believed that he was one of the worst sinners to have lived (**1Timothy 1:15-16**). Tradition says that after standing trial, Paul was decapitated by orders of Emperor Nero.



Prof. Lui @GeographyGuru. Lui is the Little Bird Bible's resident scholar in geography. With her Ph.D. in cartography, she has sailed the seven seas and successfully crossed the Oregon Trail.



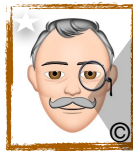
Prof. Rosenbaum @HebrewScholar7. Rosenbaum is the Little Bird Bible's resident Hebrew scholar. The etymology of biblical words and phrases are at the center of her teaching and scholarly contributions. Among her peers, Professor Rosenbaum has never lost the Talmud's challenge that during Purim one should drink alcohol until one "cannot distinguish between cursing Haman and blessing Mordecai."



Prof. Storia @HistoryIsLife. Storia is the Little Bird Bible's resident expert on world history. With a double Ph.D. in Western Civ. and a lifelong subscription to National Geographic, she is known for giving the best synopsis of historical periods, people, and places.



Prof. Winglethrush @LiteratureIsLife. Winglethrush is the Little Bird Bible's resident literary scholar. She is an enthusiast of the Classics of Western Literature, and she has a keen eye for English grammar and syntax.



Rupert Reinhold III @TheologyZoe. Reinhold is one of the Little Bird Bible's resident theologians. Endowed with sharp wit and white privilege, his field of study is Hermeneutics, Eschatology, Consubstantiation, which makes him the perfect armchair theologian to pontificate on any subject for any great length of time.



Stacy @theLawBeWithYou. Stacy is the voice of many millennials. Stacy greatly distrusts authority structures, is not satisfied with easy answers, and must always get to the bottom of things. She is not afraid to ask bold or awkward questions to cultivate a deeper understanding.



St. Cyril of Alexandria @TheAlexandrianBishop. (376-444 AD) Cyril was an Egyptian-born Patriarch of Alexandria during the height of the city's power and influence under Rome. The fifth century was a difficult time to be a leader in the early Church, as many complicated theological debates took place, and great political rivalries between key cities, Sees, and saints. Cyril was a key architect in developing the belief that Jesus was completely both human and divine without pretending to be one or the other and defending Mary's title as the "mother of God." At the Council of Ephesus (431), he defended these beliefs while preventing a delegation of his political rivals from participating because they showed up late. He was deposed and arrested following the Council for three months; Cyril would not compromise on doctrine, no matter the cost, thus he purged churches of the Nestorian heresy, and evicted the Jews out of Alexandria when the continued religious street fighting with Christians became too much. Apart from sainthood, Cyril is considered one of the Church Fathers (maybe an Uncle by some) and a Doctor of the Church. When he died, he had been bishop for 32 years.

Endnotes

1. (Not found in Sample)
2. Einstein, Albert. Letter to Max Born (1926), Irene Born (translator), *The Born-Einstein Letters*, Walker and Company, New York, 1971.
3. King, Martin Luther, Jr., "Fleeing from God." *Stanford University*, King Institute, www.kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/fleeing-god
4. Cyril of Jerusalem. (1894). The Catechetical Lectures of S. Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem. In P. Schaff & H. Wace (Eds.), R. W. Church & E. H. Gifford (Trans.), *S. Cyril of Jerusalem, S. Gregory Nazianzen* (Vol. 7, p. 99). New York: Christian Literature Company.

Author Bio

Jarrold Branson Conyers has been studying and teaching the Bible to both young people and adults for the past 24 years. His passion is innovating new ways to connect people to Holy Scripture. His Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and his Master of Arts in Christian Ministry poured the foundation of his profound interest in understanding culture, technology, exploring the nuance of words current and ancient, and sharing the Good News 🙌📖. Jarrod lives in Albuquerque, NM, with his wife and children; he enjoys poetry, still life photography, and board games. You can email Jarrod directly at Jarrod@littlebirdbible.com, and you can like and follow the Little Bird Bible on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.