

Great Wind - Great God

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide#2 3rd service Baby Dedication: Michael Brandon Allegro.

II. Slide#3 **Intro:**

- A. Title: *Great Wind - Great God*
- B. A mom recounts, Hurrying my 11-year-old daughter to school, I turned right on a red light where it was prohibited. "Uh, oh," I said, realizing my mistake. "I just made an illegal turn." "It's all right," my daughter said. "The police car behind us did the same thing."
1. Last week we noted, Jonah made *an illegal turn*.
 2. Numb.32:23...be sure **your sin** will find you out.
- C. Slide#4 We'll note...
1. Jonah runs **from** his enemies - God runs **toward** His enemies.
 2. Jonah is on a mission of **revenge** - God is on a mission of **rescue**.
 3. Jonah is racially **exclusive** - God is racially **inclusive**.
 4. Jonah is about **self-protection** - God is about **sacrifice**.
- D. Slide#5 **Outline:**
1. **Crawling Down Into The Hold. All Hands On Deck. Climbing Up To The Crows Nest.**

III. Slide#6 **CRAWLING DOWN INTO THE HOLD**

- A. Slide#7 The **Phoenicians** dominated the Mediterranean Sea for 3 centuries from 10-8bc [Jonah 8bc]
1. Their ships were built for **trading** but had the capacity to **fight**. [pics of Phoenician Assyrian ship 8 cent.bc]
- B. **But the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea -**
1. **The story isn't...God's ticked at Jonah. Jonah you disobeyed. I'm sending a storm as your punishment. No!**
 - a) The storm **wasn't** a **punishment from** God, **but** the **intervention of** God.
 - b) **Intervention** is for people in trouble & don't realize it. (alcohol, drugs, porn)
- C. Slide#8 Note...because Jonah was sleep, Jonah misses the prayer meeting.
1. While the pagans were **entreating**, the prophet was **sleeping**.
 2. Prov.24:33 NLT **A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest - then (spiritual) poverty will pounce on you like a bandit.**
- D. (6) **Arise, call on your God** - This was the exact thing he was **running from**.
1. The sailors need was so great that the men despaired of their lives; **yet** God's servant **slept**. :(

- a) What an **object lesson** to God's people **then & now**, to awaken from **apathy**, as crying people perish on *the sea of life*.
 - (1) Oh that our **apathy** (w/o feeling), would **turn** into **sympathy** (w/feeling), that would **result** in **empathy** (in feeling; I **can** do something, I **must** do something).
2. He didn't want to **pray**. He didn't want to **seek God**. He **had** heard from God already... **THIS WAS THE PROBLEM**.
3. Jonah would have first had to **confessed** his sin & determined to **obey** God.
 - a) Ps.66:18 **If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.**

IV. Slide#9 ALL HANDS ON DECK

- A. Slide#10a (8) Come on, **please tell us!**...*Name, rank, & serial number*.
 1. **Occupation?** Prophet **Where from?** Galilee **Your country?** Israel **What people?** Jews
 2. He wasn't living up to **prophet**, for prophets said what God told them to say.
 3. He wasn't living up to being a **Jew** for he was not being a blessing to the Gentiles.
 - a) Unfortunately, the man that was *to be saving the lost* **was being saved by the lost**.
- B. (9) **God of heaven** - as opposed to your false earth-gods.
- C. Slide#10b (10) **Why have you done this?** (ouch)
 1. More a Statement of **horror** at Jonah's disobedience **than** a question of inquiry.
 2. How embarrassing to get rebuked by the unbeliever.
- D. Slide#10c (12) **Was this Resignation or Repentance?**
 1. **Resignation** – I believe his arms were folded until 2:1.
 2. Jonah wasn't a martyr; he was **playing** a martyr.
 3. **Martyr's die for the glory of God, but Jonah offered to die because selfishly he would rather die than obey the will of God.** Warren Wiersbe, OT Outlines.
 - a) He's misrepresenting God as *The Angry God* & in need to be **appeased** by his death.
 - (1) And they believe him, as they start rowing, **i.e.** we don't want Him to turn His anger toward us if we throw him over.
 - (2) No wonder why **the people that flocked to Jesus** won't flock to our churches/ourselves today. We've misrepresented our God.
 - (3) Rom.2:4 **the goodness/kindness of God leads you to repentance.**
 4. Slide#10d **Throw me into the sea** - might sound **heroic**, but **No**. He would rather **die than surrender**. Kill me, because that is my **angry God**. He's cranky & abusive when he doesn't get His way.
 - a) Jonah's commended for **telling the truth**, **but** not for **taking his own life in his hands**.

- (1) He should have said, *my God is sooo gracious, turn around the ship & bring me back to Joppa.*
- (2) Remember, Jonah was not afraid of going to Nineveh for **fear of failure**, but **fear of success**...because he knew the **mercy** God would show on those **Nasty Ninevites**. see 4:2

E. **Slide#10f** Let's look at the **trouble** we put **those around us** in...when we are in **sin**.

1. Would God hurl a storm into your **home** saints because of your disobedience?
2. Would God send a storm into your **workplace** because of your spiritual mutiny?
3. Would God send a storm into your **surroundings** because of your relocation rebellion?
 - a) **Does He send then blessings** to those around you for your obedience? :)
4. **So, who was effected by Jonah's sin?** Jonah. The sailors. The Ninevites. **And** any/all other ships on the Mediterranean (**and they have no clue why this storm has come up**).

F. **Slide#10g** When we **start backsliding**...we normally *do not feel* the **movement**.

1. When you're sitting on your **surfboard** out in the water, *you don't feel* the currents pull.
2. Normally you look up & see what **landmark** you're in front of (i.e. where you enter the water) so you can **watch your drift**.
 - a) **Never underestimate the power of the drift**...toward **sin**. It's slow. It's subtle.
 - b) Our only **hope** is to **stop** running **from** God & **start** running **to** God.
 - c) **God always welcomes those who run to Him**. **Even better**, like the prodigal, once there is the least amount of movement in His direction...*our Father who art in heaven* comes **running toward us** to bridge that ugly/scary gap.

(1) God to Adam, **Adam where are you?**

(2) Jesus to the blind man *Jn.9:35* when he heard he was cast out of the Temple, **& when He had found him, He said to him, Do you believe in the Son of God?**

(3) Sometimes His *running to our rescue* looks like **a big fish**...*but that's next week*

G. Jonah could say as the psalmist, **The LORD has chastened me severely, But He has not given me over to death**. Ps.118:18

H. **Slide#10h** (5) **How did the Sailors respond to the storm?**

1. 1st, these **polytheists** cried out to their gods. Each cried out to their **own deity**.
 - a) They weren't sure which god was offended. *This is Co-Exist at its finest. Covering all bases. Maybe Jesus' mom can help, lets throw up a Hail Mary.*

2. Yet it is very interesting that these **pagan sailors** seem far more concerned about *obedience...than Gods Prophet.*
 3. Ever been *better treated* by an **unbeliever** then by a **believer**?
Ever have *better work done* by an **unbeliever** then by a **believer**?
 - a) Sometimes **unsaved people** put believers to shame by their honesty, sympathy, & sacrifice.
- I. **Slide#11a** (7) **Wow...the dice came up right...on Jonah.**
1. Prov.16:33 **The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.**
 2. I bet **Bob Larson** could have captured this scene on a **Far Side comic**. Jonah just gets up, comes up on deck, stretching, yawning, wiping sleep from his eyes & **asking, hey guys, watcha playin?** **Slide#11b** Then realizing they are all looking **at him!**
- J. **Slide#12** (12,13) It is **significant** that the heathen sailors at 1st rejected Jonah's offer & began to work harder to save him & the ship.
1. **Interesting**, they had more compassion for 1 life **then** Jonah did w/hundreds of thousands.
- K. (14) **They have some basic theology:** The **existence** of Jonah's God. Their **own guilt** before Him. And His **sovereignty** over creation...*for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You.*
- L. (16) Note their progression of **fear** (5,10,16) and **why**.
1. **Slide#13 Feared the Storm itself** (5)
 2. **Feared the Creator of the Storm** (10) - Wow...his God actually **made** the sea.
 - a) This terrified them. He was more powerful then they imagined.
 3. **Feared the God of the Storm** (16) *He did what their gods could never do.*
 - a) Jonah's God answered their prayer from vs.5.
 - b) God did **quiet** the storm, **which** was **more terrifying** than the storm itself.
 4. **Some say** they just placed another god on their **god shelf**. **Others say** this was true repentance. - I bel this was true repentance. They now use **YHWH**, 5x's in vs.14,16.

V. **Slide#14 CLIMBING UP TO THE CROWS NEST**

- A. Now let's take a look from the crows nest down.
- B. (4) **How did the Sovereign One respond to the storm?**
1. Trick question...He didn't **respond** to the storm...*He was the reason for the storm.*
 - a) He **sent/hurled/cast** it out.
 2. God loves His children too much than to **let them run**.
 - a) **Slide#15** Spurgeon said, "God never allows his children to **sin successfully.**"
 - b) Heb12:6 **For the Lord disciplines the one he loves & chastises every son whom he receives**

3. Slide#16 When you won't listen to His **whisper** from His word, **often** he will get our attention from the **shouting** of a storm. *Read Ps.107:23-32
4. The Lord who can **calm** the troubled waters in your life *is the same Lord* who can **stir** them up to **great frenzy**.

C. Slide#17 I summed up chapter 1 like this:

1. Jehovah pleas. Jonah flees.
 God said, Go. Jonah said, No.
 Ship sought. Ticket bought.
 Down deep. Fast asleep.
 Captain awoke. Prayer invoked.
 Lots cast. Jonah last.
 Questions pop-ed. Jonah cop-ed.
 Stormy sea. All about me.
 To calm the tide? It's over the side.
 Row & row. Still too slow.
 1,2,3. Into the sea.
 Storm cleared. Sailors feared.
 Jonah despaired. Fish prepared.
 Sumptuous dish. Belly of a fish.

D. Spurgeon - While I was walking in the garden one bright morning, a breeze came through and set all the flowers and leaves a fluttering. Now that is the way flowers **talk**, so I pricked up my ears and listened. Presently an old elder tree said, "Flowers, shake off your **caterpillars!**" Slide#18 "Why?" said a dozen all together - for they were like some children, who always say "Why?" when they are told to do anything. The elder said, **If you don't, they'll eat you up alive.** So the flowers set themselves a shaking until the caterpillars were shaken off. In one of the middle beds there was a **beautiful rose**, who shook off **all but one**, and she said to herself, "Oh, that's a beauty! I'll keep that one." The elder overheard her, and called out, "One caterpillar is **enough to spoil you.**" "But," said the rose, "look at his brown and crimson fur, and his beautiful black eyes, and scores of little feet. I want to keep him. Surely one won't hurt me." A few mornings after, I passed the rose again. There was not a whole leaf on her. Her beauty was gone; she was all but killed, and had only life enough to weep over her folly, while the tears stood like dew-drops on her tattered leaves. "Alas! I didn't think **one caterpillar** would **ruin me.**"

1. Is there **one caterpillar** of *disobedience* in your life that you must **remove**?
 - a) Slide#19 *Squish it today!*

E. Gods grace sent another Prophet. And more than a Prophet...a Savior.

1. Who **lived** a life we could not live. Who **died** a death we should have died.
2. **Jesus** is the *new & better & obedient* Jonah.