

RUSSELL SANDERS
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JONAH PART 9
Ch 1:13-14

As the mariners inquired of Jonah what they should do to satisfy his god and save the ship, he instructed them to throw him overboard. Certain that it would result in his death, they did not wish to do that. Jonah's honest confession and willing self-sacrifice had earned their respect for him.

Verse 13 says, ***“Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring (the boat) to the land, but they could not. ...the sea (was turbulent) and was (with vicious) wind against them.”*** Desiring to avoid casting Jonah overboard to his death, they tried their best to row to shore.

Sea-going boats or ships of the time would have had a large sail for the wind to push, but they also had oars for times of no wind to also guide the ship into port. In a storm such as this one, they would let the sail down to avoid being carried along with the storm or even capsizing. The oars were the alternative as they could try to push the boat crosswind. Due to the strength of the mighty wind, their efforts were fruitless. It left them little alternative except to do as Jonah had said.

In verse 14 it says, ***“Wherefore they cried unto Yahweh (Jonah's God) and said, We beseech Thee, Oh Yahweh, we beseech Thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us (the charge of) innocent blood. For Thou Oh Yahweh, hast done (this) as it pleased Thee.”***

These sailors had some integrity and good ethics. They knew that the “shedding of blood” was a serious evil, and they were pleading with Jonah's God to not lay the blame upon them (and the penalty) for Jonah's death of drowning in the sea when they had to toss him overboard.

I wish life was that much valued today in America. Unfortunately, it is not. Our government has legalized abortion resulting in the shedding of “innocent blood.” There are over 61 million aborted children that are known to be recorded and likely millions more unrecorded. God judges such murderous killings of the innocent. The pagan sailors had better morals than the “progressives” of our day.

We need to earnestly pray that a future U.S. Supreme Court will overturn the abominable 1973 decision that legalized “abortion on demand,” with no reason or justification needed.

Yes, these pagan sailors called upon Jonah's God, the Yahweh of Israel. That same God is also **our** salvation, our help, and our refuge. Praise Him!