

PRAYERS ONBOARD—PROPHET OVERBOARD!

Jonah 1:9–17

We pick up Jonah’s story in the midst of the storm . . . *and what a storm it was!* It is described as “a powerful wind over the sea, causing a violent storm that threatened to break the ship apart” (v.4), “terrible storm . . . awful storm” (vv.7–8), and “the raging sea” (v.15). It was so violent, seasoned sailors feared for their lives, which prompted them to “bombard” Jonah with one question after another, and finally cry out to the prophet’s God as they fully acknowledged, “O Lord, You have sent this storm upon him for Your own good reasons” (v.14). Without exaggeration, the scene was a study in over-the-top panic and chaos! What’s ironic is that these pagan sailors had a greater respect for the Lord than one of His very own prophets. Finally, after great soul-searching, they reluctantly did what they had to do in order to survive—which, as we shall see, led to two phenomenal surprises: one on the sea . . . the other in their souls.

I. Storms that Shock: Reminding Us of Who’s in Charge

- When they happen

- Why they come

II. Fears that Frighten: Bringing Us to Our Knees

- Realizing our human limitations

- Acknowledging God’s limitless power

III. Rescues that Relieve: Delivering Us by Total Surprise

- Previously arranged

- Precisely punctual

The main message: _____