

# JONAH 1:1-2

## GOD'S UNEXPECTED CALL

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

At some point in a study like this, we must ask ourselves this question: Why study a book that is so old, so short, so improbable and so irrelevant?

In a committed response to this question, we will find that Jonah's antiquity adds a deep degree of color and background, its brevity displays a marvelous sense of style and artistry, its improbability at times highlights God's intentions and its assumed irrelevance finds no validity. Jonah's saga and writing will prove an enthralling study and experience for those who press in.

For more detailed information on the background to Jonah the man, Nineveh the city, Assyria the Empire and Jonah the book, please see the online tool kit resource. It was written just for you.

**Jonah 1:1**—The call of Yahweh, God's beautiful relational and covenant name in the Old Testament, comes *once again* to Jonah. It would seem that this is not his commissioning call, not the beginning of his ministry as a prophet. **2 Kings 14:25** is the only other OT record of Jonah, son of Amittai, and it records his ministry in the reign of Jeroboam (c. 790-750 B.C.).

The voice of God came to Jonah...but it was an unexpected call indeed. The authority of the message was based on its origin—The LORD.

**Jonah 1:2**—“*Arise, Go.*” This command is interesting when compared to Jonah's actions in the rest of chapter one. We'll see that next week. “*Go to Nineveh...and cry against it.*” None of us will ever fully understand the severe shock of this command. Assyria, and Nineveh one of its chief cities and future capital, was famous for its demonic brutality in warfare. The Assyrians were barbarians, brutes, thugs, soul-less people in the minds of many.

“*For their wickedness has come up before Me.*” God is not untouched by any wicked deed, no matter how dark or far the corner in which it is done. In fact, there seems to be a threshold to God's inaction and disciplining of blatant sin. He is about to spring into action, yet again his limitless patience and mercy instructs Jonah to go “*cry against*” Nineveh so that she might repent.



A full resource kit of background study, discussion questions, application and more is available now online at—  
**[faithbibleonline.org](http://faithbibleonline.org)** under Messages.

# APPLICATION

This text proves to be a marvelous study of our heart and relationship to God. This week purpose to read through the book of Jonah several times. It only takes about 7 minutes to read it slowly. As you do, try to pay attention to the big picture and the details.

**Big picture stuff:** What seems to be the main emphasis and focus of the book? What is secondary? What seems to be the overall purpose?

**Detail stuff:** What words are repeated? What irony do you notice? What other stylistic or artistic impressions do you get from the writing? How does the book make you feel?

The true and intended answer to all of these questions is directly behind the purpose of the Author. He wants to convey big picture, details and feeling.

Be sure to get access to the *online Tool Kit* and browse the resources there as another avenue to encounter God's intentions for the prophecy of Jonah.

As you read through Jonah in its entirety and focus on **1:1-2**, prayerfully meditate on these questions:

What is God's calling for me?

How am I following God at this point in my life?

How am I running from God?

How have I disobeyed the voice of God in my life?

Who have I disregarded in pursuit of my own things?

What could I possibly be missing out on by not following closely after God?

