

A brass compass is the central focus, resting on dark, jagged volcanic rocks. The compass is open, with its lid propped up. The background is a soft-focus sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The overall mood is contemplative and suggests a journey or a search for direction.

# M. I. A.: The Story of Jonah

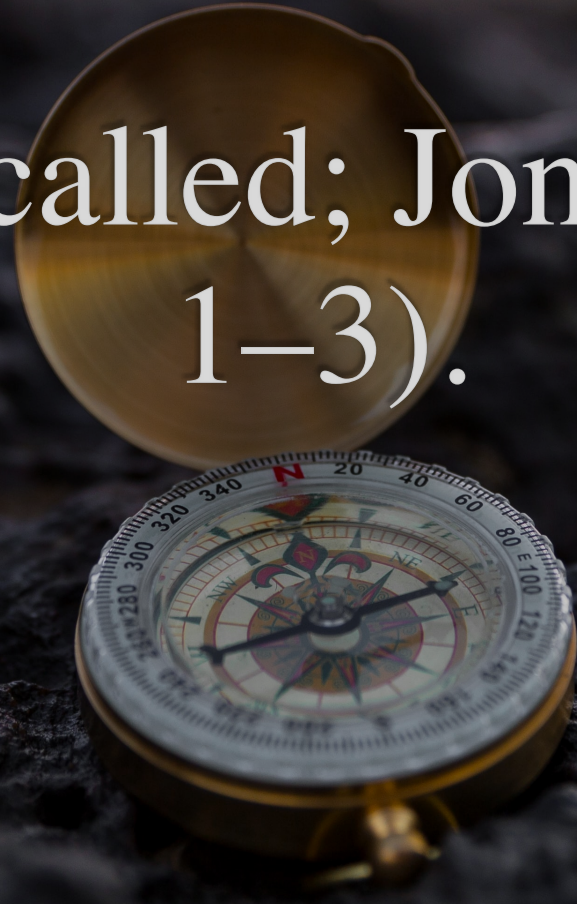
Steering Servants back to Stewardship

# Biblical Idea: Jonah 1:1–16

Jonah attempted to flee  
from making God's  
presence known to  
Nineveh.



The Lord called; Jonah fled (vv.  
1–3).

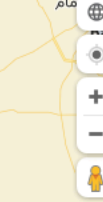


# Who is “the LORD”?

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation” (Exodus 34:6–7 ESV).

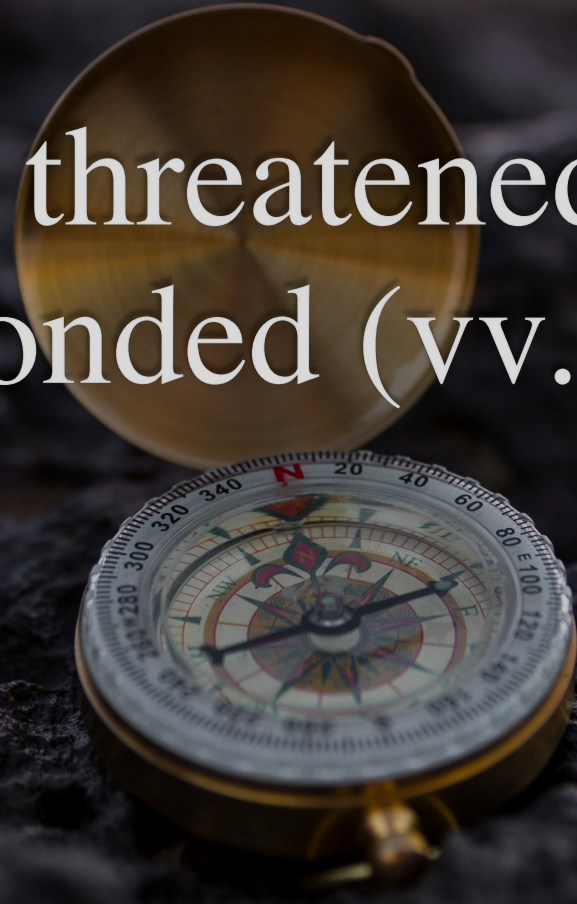
# Who is “Jonah”?

In the fifteenth year of Amaziah the son of Joash, king of Judah, Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, began to reign in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD. He did not depart from all the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, which he made Israel to sin. He restored the border of Israel from Lebo-hamath as far as the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, which **he spoke by his servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet, who was from Gath-hepher.** For the LORD saw that the affliction of Israel was very bitter, for there was none left, bond or free, and there was none to help Israel. But the LORD had not said that he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, so he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam the son of Joash (2 Kings 14:23–27 ESV).

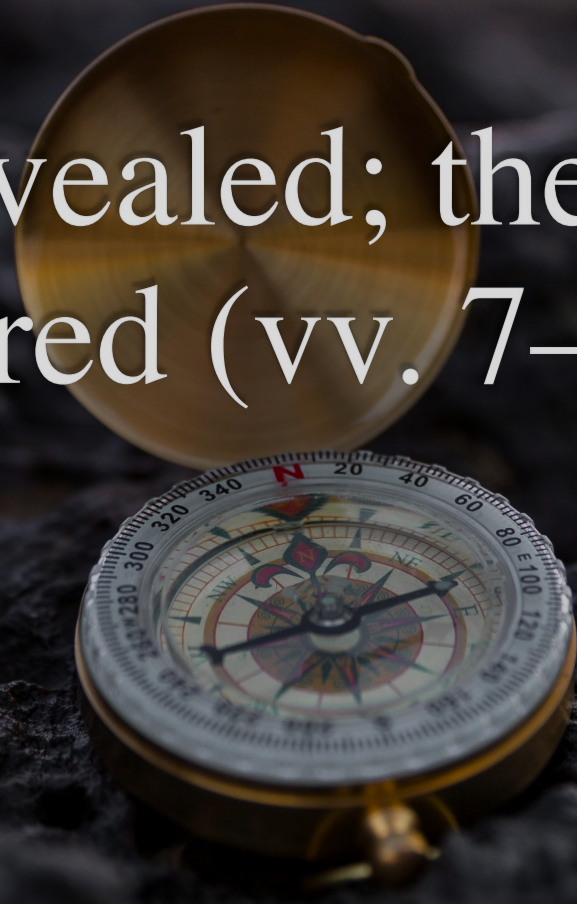


Google

The Lord threatened; the crew  
responded (vv. 4–6).



Jonah revealed; the mariners  
feared (vv. 7–10).





The mariners appealed to God; the  
mariners experienced God (vv. 11–16).



Timeless  
Truth:

God is free and present.



## Gary Smith in *The Prophets As Preachers* (p. 87)

Should the violent Assyrians who destroyed nations throughout the ancient Near East receive compassion from God? Would it be more just for God to destroy those who commit such atrocities?

Yes, it is true. God's punishment of these sinful people would establish justice, but God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek. 18:23). God wants all people to come to know the truth and repent of their evil ways (1 Tim. 2:4). Therefore, in unbelievable patience God will frequently send a prophet to warn an undeserving people of their impending doom. Would anyone want Him to act with less compassion on themselves?

A golden globe and a compass are positioned on a dark, rocky surface. The globe is in the upper center, and the compass is below it. The background is a blurred sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font.

Jonah's Opinion: Wicked Nineveh  
deserves justice.

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Jonah's Theology: God is free to act  
compassionately or justly as he pleases (Ps.  
115:3; Ex. 34:6; Jer. 18:1–11).

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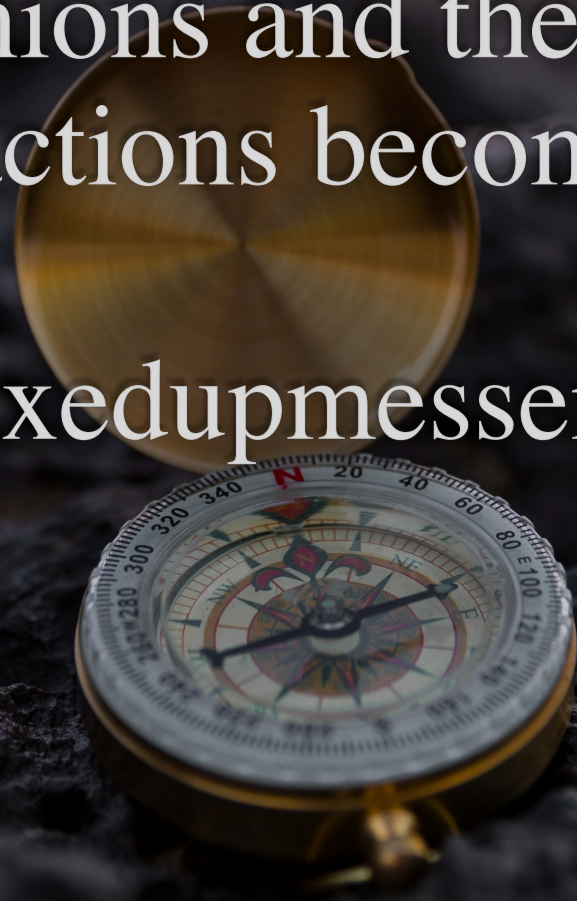
Jonah's Action: I will flee from the  
Lord's presence.

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Jonah's Theology: I fear the Lord of  
heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.

When our opinions and theology are out of alignment, our actions become disordered too.

#mixedupmessengers



Today's  
Message:

Reverse rogue routes.





## Reversing Rogue Routes

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STOP RUNNING DOWN AND AWAY FROM GOD'S PRESENCE.





## Reversing Rogue Routes

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SEEK TO EXTEND THE COMPASSION OF THE LORD BEYOND  
YOURSELF.



# Reversing Rogue Routes

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SUBMIT YOUR WORLDVIEW TO GOD'S HEAVENLY VIEWPOINT.

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# Reversing Rogue Routes

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STAKE YOUR STEWARDSHIP ON GOD'S FAITHFUL FREEDOM.

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