

2) Jonah Gets Caught In The Storm

- A) The sailors make two accurate assumptions about their situation. First, they believe such a sudden and bizarre storm is a divine punishment for someone on board their ship. Secondly, they believe God communicates through the casting of lots* (cf. Proverbs 16:33, 18:18).
- B) When the lot falls to Jonah (Jonah 1:7), the sailors pounce on him with questions (1:8). Jonah's faithful response (1:9) reveals their worst fears and causes panic (1:10-11).

3) Jonah Gets Hurled Into The Sea

- A) Jonah tells the sailors to "hurl" him into the sea, since he knows that the storm is because he is running from God's presence (1:12). Jonah figures death might relieve the storm, but still shows no intention toward obedience!
- B) The sailors are terrified to "hurl" Jonah overboard though, because they figure that "the Lord God of heaven" might kill the sailors for harming one of His own people (1:13-14).
- C) But when the storm becomes worse, they pick up Jonah and reluctantly "hurl" him into the sea (1:15). The sea immediately calms and the sailors (in contrast to Jonah), worship God and make sacrifices (1:16).

* The Hebrew word which is translated for "lots" (לֹטְרִים) is related to an Arabic word for stone or pebble. "Casting lots" involved throwing stones (like dice) in a container (or one's garment) until a stone came out, or more likely, until a combination of stone's revealed the Lord's will. Proverbs 16:33 indicates that the Lord can reveal His will through the casting of lots (although it is not a foolproof method, note 1st Samuel 14:36-46). Lots were used for choosing a king (1st Samuel 10:20-21), to mount an attack against an enemy (Judges 20:9), or a goat to be sacrificed for Yom Kippur (Leviticus 16:8). The breastplate of the High Priest contained two jewels or stones named the Urim and Thummim, which were used in casting lots to reveal God's will (e.g., Numbers 27:21; Joshua 7:14, 18; 1st Samuel 23:9-12). You might recall the soldiers "casting lots" to divide up Jesus' clothing at the cross (Luke 23:34). In the New Testament, prayer was combined with the casting of lots to replace Judas as one of the Twelve Disciples (Acts 1:15-26). While we are not certain of the exact method of casting lots from Jonah, we know that the first hearers of the story would have understood this method of determining the intention of deity, and obviously, from the text – we know that this method worked according to God's will.

Hurled

Long Beach Alliance Church • July 4th, 2010 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**He said to them, "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD God of heaven who made the sea and the dry land."
~Jonah 1:9 (NASB)**

1) Let The Hurling Begin!

- A) In an attempt to escape "the word of the LORD," Jonah flees "from the presence of the LORD" (Jonah 1:1-3) on a ship bound for Tarshish (probably in Southern Spain).
- B) Jonah's attempts at escape are almost immediately fruitless. God "hurls" a huge storm at Jonah's ship, which threatens the ship and terrifies the sailors (1:4-5).
- C) While the ship's crew become suddenly spiritual, they bail water and try to increase their buoyancy by "hurling" valuable cargo (1:5). While "all hell is breaking loose" on the ship, the only person who actually knows the one true God is peacefully asleep, choosing complete isolation.
- D) Shocked at Jonah's peaceful sleeping, the captain of the ship forcefully wakes Jonah and demands he address their dire situation through prayer to Jonah's own god (1:6).

