



# *More Than a Fish*

LESSONS FROM THE PROPHET JONAH

## A Chosen and Redeemed Failure

Jonah 1



<sup>1</sup> The word of the Lord came to **Jonah son of Amittai**: <sup>2</sup> “Go to the great city of **Nineveh** and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.” <sup>3</sup> But **Jonah ran away from the LORD** and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

- Jonah 1:1-3 (NIV)









<sup>3</sup> But **Jonah ran away from the LORD** and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

- Jonah 1:3



An aerial photograph of a beach with waves crashing onto the shore. The water is a deep teal color, and the sand is a light beige. The waves are white and frothy as they break. The text is overlaid on the water.

Jonah **chose** to  
deliberately disobey God

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# Jonah chose to deliberately disobey God...again

<sup>4</sup> Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup> All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

**But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep.** <sup>6</sup> The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”

- Jonah 1:4-6

<sup>7</sup> Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup> So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

<sup>9</sup> He answered, “**I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD**, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

<sup>10</sup> This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?”  
**(They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)**

- Jonah 1:7-10



# Jonah chooses to deliberately disobey God...**again and again**

<sup>11</sup> The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

<sup>12</sup> “**Pick me up and throw me into the sea,**” he replied, “**and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.**”

- Jonah 1:11-12

An aerial photograph of a beach with waves crashing. The water is a deep teal color, and the sand is a light beige. The waves are white and frothy as they break. The text is overlaid on the image.

At The Core Of Jonah's Disobedience Is A  
Refusal To Trust God

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<sup>11</sup> The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

<sup>12</sup> “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

<sup>13</sup> Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. <sup>14</sup> Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you pleased.” <sup>15</sup> Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. <sup>16</sup> **At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.**

- Jonah 1:11-16

An aerial photograph of a beach with turquoise waves crashing onto the shore, creating white foam. The text is centered over the image.

# God Redeems Our Stories for His Glory

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<sup>1</sup> The word of the Lord **came to Jonah** son of Amittai: <sup>2</sup> “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”


- Jonah 1:1-2

<sup>4</sup> Then **the Lord sent** a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up.

- Jonah 1:4

<sup>15</sup> Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. <sup>16</sup> At this the men greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him. <sup>17</sup> **Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah**, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

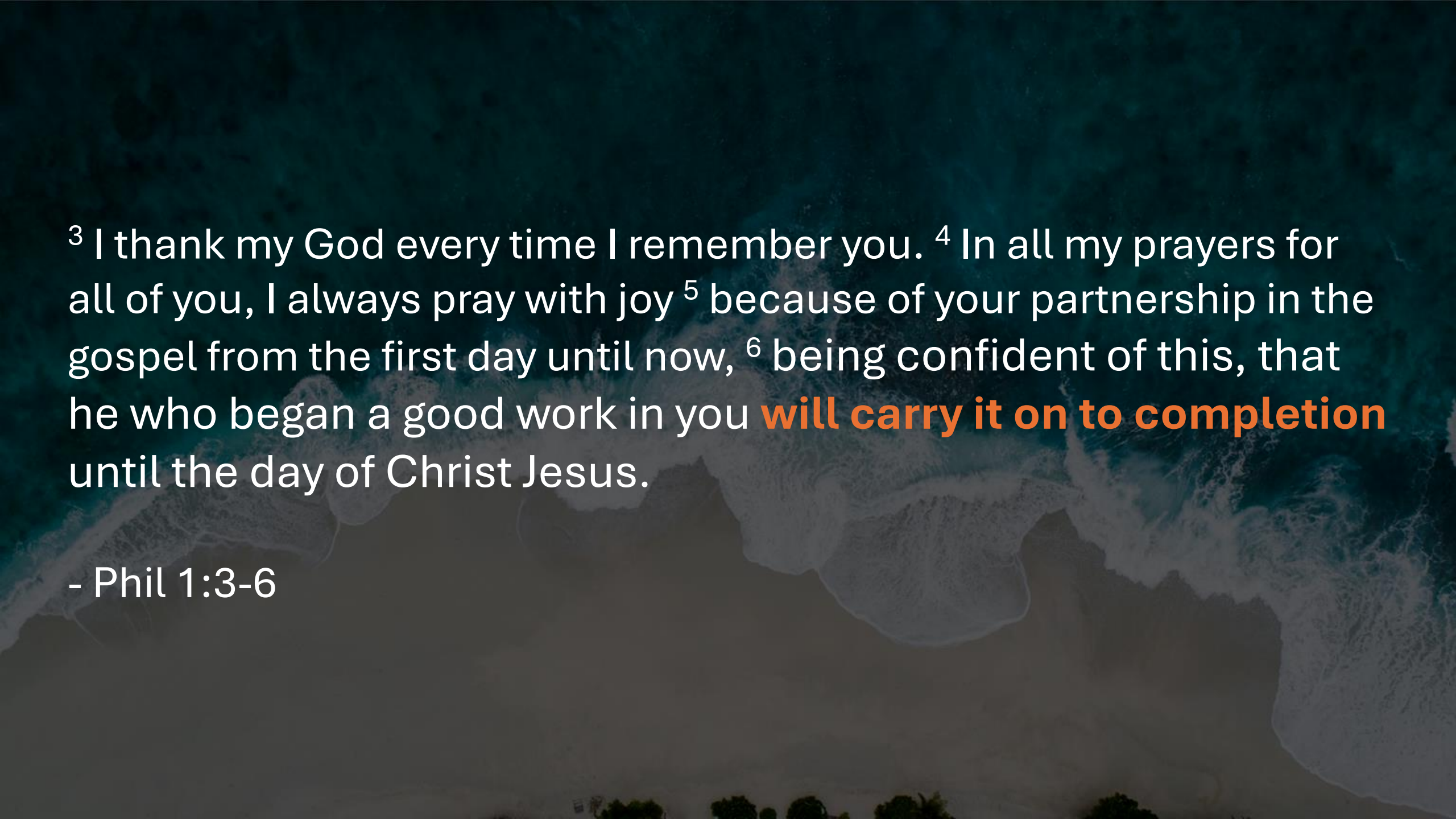
- Jonah 1:15-17

An aerial photograph of a beach with waves crashing. The water is a deep teal color, and the sand is a light beige. The waves are breaking in a series of white, frothy crests that curve along the shoreline. The text is centered over the water.

God Keeps Choosing Jonah  
And He Keeps Choosing Us!

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<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you **will carry it on to completion** until the day of Christ Jesus.

- Phil 1:3-6



An aerial photograph of a beach. The top half of the image shows deep turquoise ocean water with white foam from breaking waves. The bottom half shows a wide, light-colored sandy beach. A few small, dark green trees are visible along the bottom edge of the frame.

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