

READING PLAN WEEK 5 for **The Epic of Eden – Jonah**

Word from the Author: “Beginning in the latter part of Chapter 1 and moving into Chapter 2 of Jonah, we go from “hurling” to “appointing”. With such a disobedient prophet, we see Yahweh pulling out truly big guns to get his compliance. He appoints a very big fish. In the second chapter of Jonah, we are reminded of a Creator who can find his servants anywhere they might wander (or hide), who is in no way bound by the earth he has created, who hurls wind, who appoints large aquatic mammals, and who can even fish out (pun intended) a man who is cascading into the mouth of Sheol itself. This is a God who cannot be resisted.”

Day #1: Read Jonah 1:11-16. Does anything surprise you about Jonah’s answer to the panicked sailors’ question about what they needed to do? Bear in mind a couple things; Hebrews were not known to be seafaring people, nor good swimmers. As you meditate on this reading, consider the sailors’ responses when Jonah told them the only way to calm the storm. Consider who it was who prayed to Yahweh and the content of both their prayer and their consequential action(s).

Day #2: Read Genesis 1:20-21, Jonah 1:17 and Job 41:1-34. The focus of our several readings for this day is to give us an idea of exactly how powerful Jonah’s God is. In the all these verses, what would you glean about God’s relationship to his creation? As you read through the description of Leviathan in the Job verses, does any creature from your own literal or mythological experience come to mind? What emotions might rise in you if you came face-to-face with this creature?

Day #3: Read Job 28:4-13, 34-35, Job 39:26-27, and Jonah 2:10. Yes, we’re hearkening back to the book of Job again. After reading the referenced verses in Job 28 and Job 39 (which are Yahweh’s words to Job), reflect first on how much you might recall about the man, Job. Jot down 3 prevailing characteristics about Job that come to mind. Now, laying those characteristics alongside Yahweh’s words we just read, what are *your* first thoughts about Yahweh’s response to Job? What kind of impression does this give you about the nature of Job’s God and what God wanted Job to think in response to His words? Finally, comparing Jonah 2:10 and Jonah 1:4 (from the last session), how would you describe Yahweh as represented in those two verses?

This week’s reflection question: We noted during the previous session C.S. Lewis’ teaching about the nature of God; that “He is not a tame lion”. Sometimes what God does doesn’t make sense to us. Sometimes, the back side of the tapestry doesn’t portray the picture being embroidered on the front side clearly. Sometimes we are being utilized as part of a plan we cannot see. Sometimes the deliverance from our debacle looks way scarier than the debacle itself. And sometimes God is calling us to simply trust Him in the in-between space. What is your in-between space? Ask God to step into it with you and give you the strength you need to trust Him to follow through.

