

Loving God =

Following God's Will

Jonah Act 1

# Typical teaching on God's Will

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## The Wrong Premise

- The believer must first search for God's elusive sovereign will in order to make decisions in life.

# Some Typical Approaches:

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- “Pray and shoot”
- “Read and shoot”
- “Fleece method”
- “Open and shut doors”

# The Misuse of the term “God’s Will”

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- “God told me His will was for me to marry you 😊”
  - Nobody knows God’s sovereign will before it happens.
- “God told me His will was for me to divorce you 😞”
  - God does not contradict His Word.

# The Misuse of “God’s Will”

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- “For the past 25 years after I graduated, I have not found out God’s will so I cannot make a decision what job to take. Let me just carry on staying at home not working as the Lord leads...”
  - Do not use the concept of God’s will to avoid making plans or decisions!

# The book of Jonah – a “minor prophet” book

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## ■ Structure

If 1 John is a symphony ;  
then Jonah is a play.

# The book of Jonah – a “minor prophet” book

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Act 1 – Jonah 1:1-2

Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city...

Act 2 – Jonah 3:1-2

And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city...

# The book of Jonah – a “minor prophet” book

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## ACT ONE



Scene ONE: Jonah 1:1-3 *“To Tarshish”*

- God tells Jonah 1<sup>st</sup> time & he disobeys

Scene TWO: Jonah 1:4-16 *“The Storm”*

- God creates crisis @ sea & others repent

Scene THREE: Jonah 1:17-2:10 *“The Big Fish”*

- God saves Jonah & he repents



# The book of Jonah – a “minor prophet” book

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## ■ Literal view – Jonah’s a real prophet

### A. 2 Kings 14:23-25

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 reigned forty and one years... He restored the coast of Israel from the entering of Hamath unto the sea of the plain, according to the word of the Lord God of Israel, which he spake by the hand of his servant Jonah, the son of Amittai, the prophet, which was of Gathhepher.

# The book of Jonah – a “minor prophet” book

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- Literal view – Jonah’s a real prophet

B. Matthew 12:40-41

For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

# Biblical decision making

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- We are to follow God's moral will i.e. Bible
- We are to wisely make plans & decisions
- We are to recognize that God in His sovereign will may either allow or disallow our plans or decisions.
- We will only know His sovereign will when it happens. Submit to it!

# Loving God = Following God's Will

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## ACT ONE



1. God has a moral will – Obey!
2. God will always carry through His sovereign will – Submit!
3. God gives second chances – Repent!

Loving God =

Following God's Will

Jonah Act 1