

# Jonah: Whose Voice Do You Hear Satan's or God's? (Part 1)

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## I. Introduction

Can we really hear God's voice, is this possible? If it is, how will we know when it's His voice and not Satan's? Ever since the beginning of time, Satan has been speaking to us and we hear his voice crystal clearly. But most (if not all) of the time, we don't even realize it's Satan talking to us, guiding us, deceiving us, and we blindly follow him. What if we could hear God's voice?

## II. Can We Really Hear God's Voice, If so How?

**In which Kingdom do you make your decisions, Satan's or Christ's?** Ever since he caused Adam and Eve to fall, Satan has been the ruler of this world in some sense. But then Jesus came and judged him and cast him out, John 12:31; 16:11; Colossians 2:14-15. Thus, when Jesus came He set up His Kingdom, now, the moment you believe in Him He takes you from Satan's kingdom, and places you in His, Mark 1:14-15; Colossians 1:13. But notice that Satan still has sway over people, even Christians because there are two kingdoms at work in this world, Mark 3:22-27; John 17:6, 9, 11-16, 18, 21, 23, 25; Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 2:8; 1 John 5:19. But there's a stark difference between these two kingdoms: in one you experience death, in the other life and peace, Romans 8:6.

**Can we actually hear God's voice?** Does it sound strange, that you can hear God's voice? Jesus heard God's voice, Luke 22:39-53; John 12:27-30. But you might say, "Of course, Jesus heard God's voice, He's the Son of God!" What are you, are you a child of God? Shouldn't you be able to hear your Heavenly Father's voice? Paul heard His voice, Acts 27:21-25. God promises you that whenever you need His help, you will hear His voice, Hebrews 4:15-16.

**But what if it's Satan's or a demon's voice we hear and not God's?** First, what's this question assume? That we can hear Satan's voice. Isn't that interesting, we're ready to believe that we can hear Satan's voice but not God's. Why does the idea of hearing Satan's voice sound so plausible but hearing from God sound so ridiculous? By the way, we always hear Satan's voice, but we're so used to it we don't even realize it. Satan's always on the prowl waiting to deceive us, John 10:10a; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 6:10-16; 1 Peter 5:8. Why do we believe we can't hear God's voice? Perhaps because we've never really heard it; we don't know what it sounds like. But think about this for a moment. What is our relationship with God, how close is He to us? John 17:20-26, if God wants to be part of our lives 24/7, if He *lives inside* us, shouldn't we be able to hear His voice? In order for Him to be intimately involved in every area of our lives, we have to be able to hear His voice.

Second, God has given us a way to discern whether it's His voice or Satan's: God tells us that what He says will never contradict what He's already said in His Word. And it will never agree with what the world says. The reason we're able to hear His voice is because God's Spirit is always with us. Satan speaks through many who follow after him. But God also speaks through His Spirit who dwells in us, 1 John 4:1-6. Thus, what God says will never contradict what He's already said and it will always draw us closer to Him and His purpose for our lives....Satan's voice will always draw us away from God and it takes no faith to believe, e.g., Satan told Adam that he needed to be afraid of God and he was, Genesis 3:10.

## **Whose voice did Jonah hear and why?**

*Jonah 1*, Jonah heard God's voice, but he decided to live that moment in Satan's kingdom instead of God's. And because Satan's kingdom is full of darkness, 2 Corinthians 4:4, and his goal is to steal, kill and destroy, John 10:10a, all Jonah heard was, "If you go to Nineveh, your people will die [Amos 3:11-15, cf. 2 Kings 17:5-6]." So he runs away from God. And even though Satan is the ruler of this world, he's not the absolute ruler, which is why God's able to create a hurricane to stop Jonah's running. Jonah acknowledges that it was God who sent the storm but he still hears, "Your people will die if you go to Nineveh." So he decides that if God's going to kill him, he might as well go to sleep, so he goes to the bottom of the ship. But there's one problem, there are other lives at stake and they're not ready to die. These others hear God's voice loud and clear, even though they don't know Him yet. So they wake Jonah up and Jonah finally acknowledges God's voice as he confesses that he's the cause of the storm, 1:9.

Jonah was living in Satan's kingdom in 1:1-8, which is why all he heard was "Your people will die if you go to Nineveh." In 1:9-17, Jonah finally hears God's voice and steps back into God's Kingdom. God is about to give Jonah a second chance, but from Jonah's point of view, he thinks that God is about to take his life for disobeying.

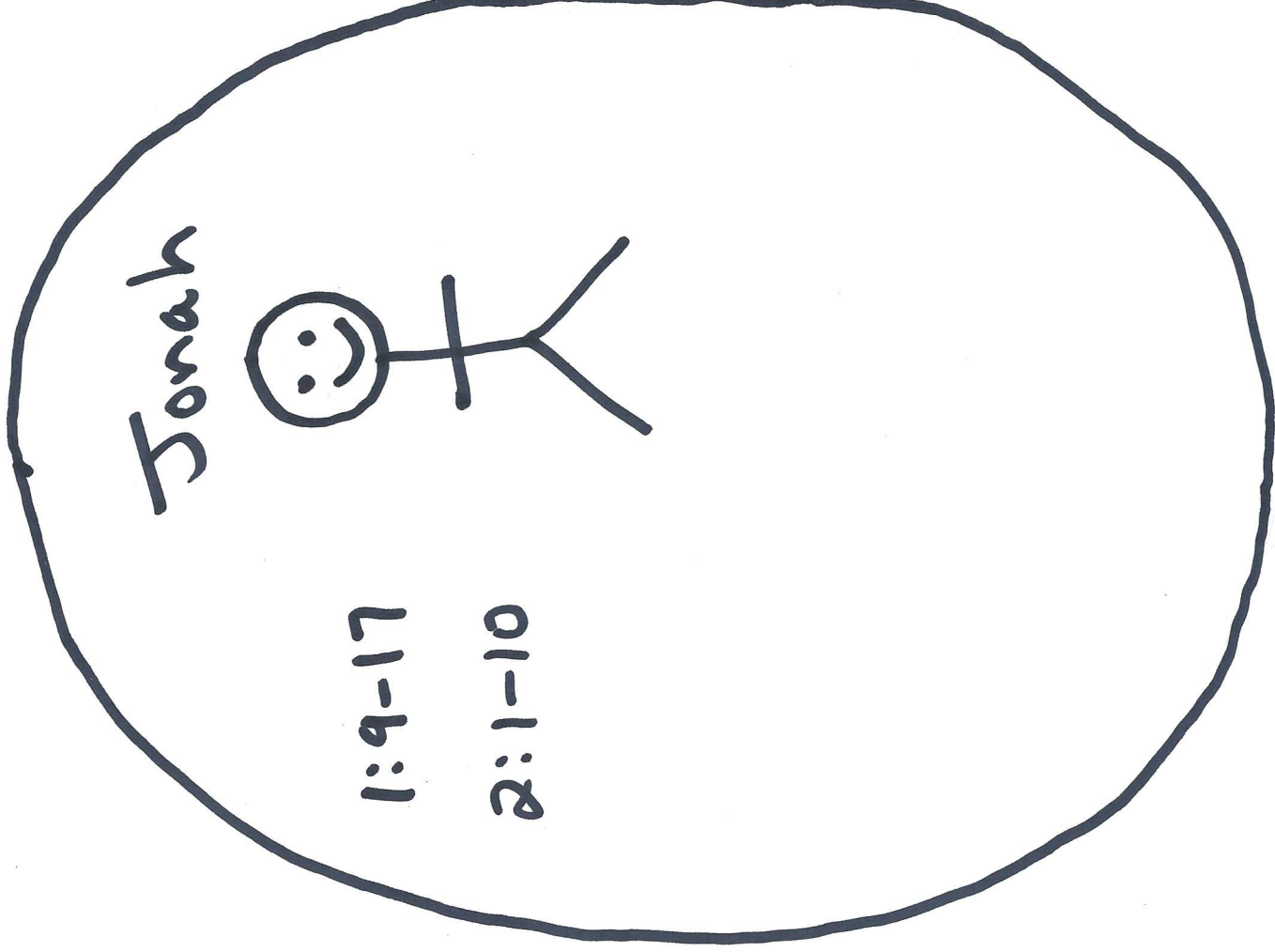
Why is it that we hear Satan's voice so clearly, so clearly we follow it every time? And why do we have a hard time hearing God's voice? When Jonah ran away from God, he wasn't saying to himself, "I think I'll follow Satan now." That's not the way Satan gets us. He's subtle, He's cunning, and he's brilliant at it, Genesis 3:1. His two main weapons are isolation and deception (after all, he's the father of lies, John 8:44). What he did to Eve in the Garden of Eden, he does to us every day. He isolates you and then uses your own life against you. Whatever the circumstance, he'll turn it against you. With Jonah, all he had to do is remind him of what God said through Amos, that the Assyrians would kill his people. That's all Jonah needed to know. As soon as God said, "Go to Nineveh," Jonah had already fallen for Satan's trap. Therefore, he ran away from God as far as he could go with this thought in his head, "My people will die if I go! I can't go to Nineveh! No!"

But God is patient and merciful; He will continue to speak to us in hopes that we will stop our running and listen to His voice.

## III. Conclusion

*Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.*

# God's Kingdom



# Satan's Kingdom

