

FOUR SHIPS IN SCRIPTURE

A dramatic scene of a three-masted sailing ship with white and blue sails navigating through a stormy sea. The ship is positioned in the center, moving towards the right. The sky is dark and filled with lightning bolts, and the sea is turbulent with white-capped waves. The overall atmosphere is one of intense weather and maritime challenge.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2024

The Lord is Near - Feb. 3, 2024

- **Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV)** Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful.
“Our hope is anchored in heaven in Christ who , as the forerunner, has sat down at the right hand of God. We are presently looking for him to return, and we are looking for a city that is yet to come. Our eyes are to be fixed on Christ who is our Hope.” Tim Hadley, Sr.
- **Hebrews 6:19 (NKJV)** This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast,
- **Acts 27:29-40 (NKJV)** Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come. When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they observed a bay with a beach, onto which they planned to run the ship if possible. And they let go the anchors and left *them* in the sea, meanwhile loosing the rudder ropes; and they hoisted the mainsail to the wind and made for shore.

Four ships in the Bible

- Began as Three Ships in Scripture
- Sunday School Lesson for Grandkids
- We began by singing (accompanied by an internet choir), “Master the Tempest is Raging” by Mary Ann Baker. She was orphaned when her parents died of tuberculosis. She lived with her brother and sister in Chicago. Her brother later died of the same disease that took her parents. She became very bitter and rebellious. She wrote “But the Master’s own voice stilled the tempest in my unsanctified heart, and brought it to a calm of deeper faith and a more perfect trust.”

Ship # 1



- Vessel – Large Merchant ship
- Destination – Tarshish
- Passengers – Mariners (crew) and Jonah
- **Jonah 1:1-3 (NKJV)** 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.

Ship # 2

- Vessel – Good sized fishing boat approx. 15 passenger
- Destination – Country of Gadarenes
- Passengers – Disciples and Jesus
- **Luke 8:22-23 (NKJV)**

²² Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out.

²³ But as they sailed He fell asleep.



Ship # 3

- Vessel – Good sized fishing boat
15 passenger
- Destination – Land of Gennesaret
- Passengers – Disciples
- **Matthew 14:22-25 (NKJV)** Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.



Ship # 4

- Vessel – Large Merchant ship
- Destination – Italy
- Passengers – Sailors, Paul, other prisoners and *one* named Julius, a centurion with his soldiers

Acts 27:1-4 (NKJV) And when it was decided that we should sail to Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to one named Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment. So, entering a ship of Adramyttium, we put to sea... And the next *day* we landed at Sidon. And Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him liberty to go to his friends and receive care. When we had put to sea from there, we sailed under the shelter of Cyprus, because the winds were contrary.



- **Acts 27:5-10 (NKJV)**

⁵ And when we had sailed over the sea which is off Cilicia and Pamphylia, we came to Myra, a city of Lycia.

⁶ There the centurion found an Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy, and he put us on board.

⁷ When we had sailed slowly many days, and arrived with difficulty off Cnidus, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under the shelter of Crete off Salmone.

⁸ Passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called Fair Havens, near the city *of* Lasea.

⁹ Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them,

¹⁰ saying, "Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives."

As we continue reading these four accounts there are four things that appear to be common to all.

- Seas – all vessels are on seas
- Storms – a storm came on all the vessels
- Fear – fear of perishing
- GOD – His presence and assurance of his care

SEA– all vessels are on seas

- They had left the security of land and were now on the sea.
- Humans cannot exist for very long on water without coming to land. We are not made for water.
- **Hebrews 11:29 (NKJV) life & death**
²⁹ By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry *land*, whereas the Egyptians, attempting *to do so*, were drowned.
- **James 1:6 (NKJV) doubting person**
⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.
- **Jude 1:13 (NKJV) ungodly decievers**
¹³ raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.
- **Revelation 21:1 (NKJV) no more sea**
¹ Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

STORM— a storm came on all the vessels

- **Jonah 1:4 (NKJV)** But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.
- **Luke 8:23 (NKJV)** But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling *with water*, and were in jeopardy.
- **Matthew 14:24 (NKJV)** But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.
- **Acts 27:13-27 (NKJV)** When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained *their* desire, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete. But not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon. So when the ship was caught, and could not head into the wind, we let *her* drive. ²⁰ Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on *us*, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up. ²⁷ Now when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven up and down in the *Adriatic Sea*, about midnight the sailors sensed that they were drawing near some land.

Fear – fear of perishing

- **Jonah 1:5 (NKJV)** Then the mariners were afraid; and every man cried out to his god, and threw the cargo that *was* in the ship into the sea, to lighten the load. But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.
- **Luke 8:23-24 (NKJV)** They were filling *with water*, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!"
- **Matthew 14:26-33 (NKJV)** And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. **Mark 6:48** He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by.
- **Acts 27:17-20 (NKJV)** Fearing lest they should run aground on the Syrtis Sands, they struck sail and so were driven. Now when neither sun nor stars appeared for many days, and no small tempest beat on us, all hope that we would be saved was finally given up.

GOD— His presence and assurance of his care

- **Jonah 1:9-13 (NKJV)**

⁹ So he said to them, "I *am* a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry *land*."

¹⁰ Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done this?" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

¹¹ Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?"--for the sea was growing more tempestuous.

¹² And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest *is* because of me."

¹³ Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them.

- **Jonah 1:14-17 (NKJV)** So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and took vows. Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.
- **Jonah 2:1-9 (NKJV)** Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly, (ending with verse 9) “Salvation *is* of the LORD.”
- **Jonah 2:10 (NKJV)** So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry *land*.
- **Jonah 3:1-3 (NKJV)** Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD.

- **Luke 8:24 (NKJV)** And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm.
- **Matthew 14:27-33 (NKJV)** But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."
And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind *was* boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

- **Acts 27:22-26 (NKJV)** And now I urge you to take heart, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.' Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. However, we must run aground on a certain island."
- **Acts 27:33-36 (NKJV)** And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored *them* all to take food, saying, "Today is the fourteenth day you have waited and continued without food, and eaten nothing. Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, for this is for your survival, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you." And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken *it* he began to eat. Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves.

- **Acts 27:39-44 (NKJV)** When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they observed a bay with a beach, onto which they planned to run the ship if possible.
And they let go the anchors and left *them* in the sea, meanwhile loosing the rudder ropes; and they hoisted the mainsail to the wind and made for shore.
But striking a place where two seas met, they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable, but the stern was being broken up by the violence of the waves. And the soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape.
But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from *their* purpose, and commanded that those who could swim should jump *overboard* first and get to land, and the rest, some on boards and some on *parts* of the ship. And so it was that they all escaped safely to land.
- One verse stands out in each situation,
But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, Eph 2:4

The Results

- **Jonah 1:16 (NKJV)**
¹⁶ Then the men (mariners) feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and took vows.
- **Luke 8:25 (NKJV)** And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"
- **Matthew 14:33 (NKJV)** Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."
- **Acts 27:35-36 (NKJV)** And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken *it* he began to eat. Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves.

- **Psalm 139:7-10 (NKJV)** Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.
If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.
- God was working on each vessel, and in each life that was aboard,
- He provided deliverance for Jonah with a Great Fish,
- And for the disciples, he calmed their fear, commanding the winds “be still”,
- Again to the disciples in terror as they see him walking on the water in the storm, saying to Peter “Come”.
- And to Paul, God spoke, “Do not be afraid, Paul;”
- And so it was that they all escaped safely to land.

- **Psalm 107:23-31 (NKJV)**

²³ Those who go down to the sea in ships, Who do business on great waters,

²⁴ They see the works of the LORD, And His wonders in the deep.

²⁵ For He commands and raises the stormy wind, Which lifts up the waves of the sea.

²⁶ They mount up to the heavens, They go down again to the depths; Their soul melts because of trouble.

²⁷ They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, And are at their wits' end.

²⁸ Then they cry out to the LORD in their trouble, And He brings them out of their distresses.

²⁹ He calms the storm, So that its waves are still.

³⁰ Then they are glad because they are quiet; So He guides them to their desired haven.

³¹ Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD *for* His goodness, And *for* His wonderful works to the children of men!