What God . . .

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"So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not. And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us; What is thine occupation? and whence comest thou? What is thy country? and of what people art thou? And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land." (Jonah 1:6-9).

wake him up. These sailors have seen storms before and know that this is no normal storm. Look at the words of the shipmaster to Jonah. Jonah was the only Jew onboard and the people didn't know

him. Therefore he said, "Call on thy God." Remember at that time each nation had their own god that they worshiped. Some had several to worship, sometimes copying them from other nations. Each had different characteristics and requirements for worship. Some were thought to be stronger than others and to rule in certain parts of the earth. In <u>1 Kings 20:23</u> we see this in the words of the servants of the King of Syria, "And the servants of the king of Syria said unto him, *Their gods are gods of the hills; therefore they were stronger than we;* but let us fight against them in the plain, and surely we shall be stronger than they." God went on to show that He is God on the plains, too. The Syrians were defeated by Israel there as well as in the mountains.

When Jonah was asked about his people and his country, it would tell what God he worshipped. Perhaps the sailors hoped that the god of Jonah has fled from God and is upon the sea in the storm. The men Jonah would be a god of the sea. The Lord God is God of all the earth, who sail with him are afraid because of the terrible storm and have to not just a portion of it. Jonah told them, "And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land," (Jonah 1:9). He believed in the right God, but he, like a lot of people, didn't obey God.

The men on the ship had called on their gods and had not received an answer. None of the gods called upon were any value at all. "Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them." (Psalms 115:4-8).

What God do you trust in and call on? Money, fame, material things, and sports are some of the gods that are trusted in today. None of these can save from sin, or provide comfort when death comes. Some have even tried to make the Lord fit into their idea of what they want to believe in. (Rom. 1:25). They may try, but in that day when He comes the Lord will say, "Depart from me, I never knew you." (Matt.7:23.)

Call on the right God, the God who created the heavens and the earth, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Obey Him and don't rebel as Jonah did. It is not enough to call and believe in the right God, we must obey Him.

