

fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land" (v.9).

Jonah made this great testimony in the face of terrific danger, and the effect upon the men was not to stir up their hatred, but to cause them to admire his courage and to desire to save him if at all possible. How often a Christian has this experience! Many a Christian tries to hide his testimony and to keep people from knowing that he is a Christian, because of a fear that in some way they will think less of him, or will persecute him. Often persecution comes to us. Jesus told us that in the world we would have persecution. Yet the man who speaks out boldly and bravely for Christ will be surprised how often people admire him for it, and actually help him instead of persecuting him. A timorous attitude, and an unwillingness to testify to God never brings happiness and joy in the end. In the face of this serious situation -- a situation brought about through his own sin -- Jonah still testified to God and showed his faith to Him.

The men tried to avoid having to throw Jonah overboard. They rowed hard in the vain struggle. Jonah spoke calmly to them, telling them to cast him forth into the sea. What wonderful faith in God, and what wonderful peace of mind it was that Jonah showed! What a testimony it must have been to these men! Who knows what effect it may have had upon their later lives? What a picture we have in verses 13 and 14 of the common grace of God. Often we are amazed at the goodness that we find in unregenerate man. Here were these heathen men rowing hard to try to save the life of the man who had brought this terrible