

Jonah encountered a storm in the Mediterranean Sea that nearly took his life. A similar thing happened to the apostle Paul in Acts 27 on the same sea, and with the same raw terror. In Jonah's case, the prophet's sin precipitated the storm. In the case of Paul, the storm arose for other reasons. In both cases, God used the storms to develop the souls of his two servants.

Not every storm happens because of sin, but every storm can be used by God to shape our faith and character, and draw us closer to Him. How we wish we could avoid storms! Bereavement! Illness! Anxiety about our loved ones! Yet there has never been a storm beyond the reach of our Saviour's outstretched arm. We often learn more about Him in the storm than in the sunshine.

So when you experience a difficult trial, look carefully for how God is helping you to grow in your relationship with Him.

Jonah 1:4; Acts 27:20 "There was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up.... 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."