

JONAH – CHAPTERS 1 & 2 – Jonah’s Disobedience; The Storm at Sea; Jonah Thrown into the Sea; Jonah’s Prayer and Deliverance

OBSERVATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Jonah, the name means “Dove” – Jonah had a very short prophecy - Nineveh had only one prophet of God to speak to them, and he was not a loving, friendly prophet. He was an angry prophet. He didn’t have a lot of messages interspersed with psychology, and all kinds of titillating things to tickle their ears. His message was 8 words! - **"Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"**, and they repented! So Jonah really is a drama, a play in two acts:

Act 1 – the Great Sea– Jonah Forsaking His Mission—

Chap. 1 – God’s Patience while Jonah was protesting;

Chap. 2 - God’s Pardon when Jonah was praying

Act 2 (Chaps. 3&4) – the Great City - Jonah Fulfilling His Mission

Jonah’s Disobedience vs. 1-3:

Jon 1:1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

Jon 1:2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

Jon 1:3 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.

The Storm at Sea vs. 4-9:

Jon 1:4 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.

Jon 1:5 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.

Jon 1:6 So the captain came to him, and said to him, "What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish."

If you were called to go to Raqqa and deliver Jonah’s message, would you go?

Raqqa - ISIS has imposed its brutal version of Islamic law in Raqqa, which serves as the Sunni militant group’s capital, as well as other cities it has seized in Syria and Iraq.

v. 1 Jonah is mentioned in 2Ki 14:25. He was clearly very patriotic, and did not despair of his country in its darkest days. This commission to Nineveh was therefore not to his taste, because he had no desire to see the great heathen city brought to her knees. Jesus mentions Jonah in Mt. 12:39-41; Luke 11:29-30, 32

v. 2 That great city - **Awesome city! Awful society!** It is said to have been one hundred and fifty furlongs in length, that is eighteen miles and three quarters, and eleven miles and one quarter in breadth.

v. 3 Jonah is trying to run from God’s call, which is sending him to the Gentiles. **He doesn’t want to preach to the Gentiles.** He goes to Joppa to escape the God’s call. 800 years later, Peter, on the housetop of Simon, that the Lord gave him the vision to take the gospel to the Gentiles. Satan will always have a ship in place, when we’re running from the Lord! **Jonah is going down, down, down!**

v. 4 God was responsible for this storm. **This storm is supernatural.**

God is using a storm, and He is using it for a good purpose. He is going to save a city with this storm. He is going to turn around a prophet who has been going the wrong way. Ps. 107:28-30; Mark 6:45-52

v. 5 When their life is threatened, when they get into a life threatening position, **they are quick to cry upon God.** So, these mariners were praying and throwing stuff over. **Doped by the Devil!**

v. 6 The captain says, "You sleeper! Do you mean that you can sleep in a storm like this?" Jonah could. In fact, he is the only one on board who could sleep! The captain goes on, "Arise, call upon your God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we may not perish" So Jonah now comes up on deck, and he sees this great storm they are in which is threatening to send the ship to the bottom.

Jonah was a real man! Probably prophesied about 780 B.C.

Historically ...2 Kings 14:25 *He restored the territory of Israel from the entrance of Hamath to the Sea of the Arabah, according to the word of the LORD God of Israel, which He had spoken through His servant Jonah the son of Amittai, the prophet who was from Gath Hopher.*

Characteristics:

The relationship of the Hebrew people to foreign nations at this period of time was characterized by a strange contradiction; they were making alliances; and they were bitterly exclusive. Both these attitudes were wrong in the measure of their misinterpretation of the divine attitude, and prostitution of the divine purpose. Amos taught the sovereignty of Jehovah over all nations. Obadiah declared the judgment of God on an outside nation, which was disobedient as to the light it had.

Jonah’s story was to teach the tenderness of God toward a repentant nation and thus to rebuke the false exclusiveness of Israel!

Jesus attested to the genuineness of Jonah. He made of couple of references. First of all, (Mt. 12:40) His death and resurrection after three days, would be similar to Jonah, **as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights, in the heart of the earth.**” Jesus confirming Jonah’s experience. Then Jesus also confirming the effectiveness of Jonah’s ministry in Nineveh. For Jesus said (Mt. 12:41), **“Nineveh will arise in the Day of Judgment with this generation, and they will condemn it. Because they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, a greater than Jonah is here.**

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Jon 1:7 And they said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.

Jon 1:8 Then they said to him, "Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?"

1:9 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."

Jonah Thrown into the Sea vs. 10-16;

Jon 1:10 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.

Jon 1:11 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.

Jon 1:12 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."

v. 7 Cast lots - "Lots are an appeal to heaven in doubtful cases, and therefore not to be used but where the matter is undeterminable in any other way."

v. 8 Jonah apparently has had some time to talk to these sailors, but he hasn't told them much about himself. He certainly is no witness for God. A man out of the will of God can never be an effective witness for God. That is something very important for us to keep in mind.

v. 9 - "I am an Hebrew"—that meant a lot. The Hebrews were known to be monotheistic; that is, they worshiped *one* God, never an idol. They had no other gods before them but worshiped the God who is the Creator. Jonah says, "I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land."

v. 10 Although he could sleep with it very nicely, Jonah had a bad conscience. These men say to Jonah, "Why have you done this?" That is the good question that the unbeliever sometimes asks of the believer—and can be an embarrassing one. Num. 32:23 *But if you do not do so, then take note, you have sinned against the LORD; and be sure your sin will find you out..*

v. 11 These men recognize that they are up against a very hard decision, and they want Jonah to make that decision. They ask him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us? And Jonah gives them a very straightforward answer—

v. 12 Jonah recognizes that the hand of God is in all of this and that He is moving in his life at this time. He knows that the only solution to the problem of the storm is to get him off the ship going to Tarshish. God has determined that this man is not going to Tarshish but to the place where He wants him to go. Disobedience to God is always an action of pride. Pride is something that God says He *hates*.

Jonah's experience shall encourage others, in all ages, to trust in God as the God of their salvation; all that read this story shall say with assurance, say with admiration, that *salvation is of the Lord*, and is sure to all that belongs to him.

He knows that his salvation is of the Lord. He also now knows it in the big picture; that salvation is not of a nation or a race or a language, or not of man at all. No, salvation is of the Lord

Satan's Special Hassle:

Three Books, which are so instrumental re the coming of Jesus Christ:

1. Genesis 3:15 – the incarnation (First Coming) of Jesus Christ
 2. Daniel 7 - the Second Coming of Jesus Christ
 3. Jonah – represents the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- All three of the above Books has been under great attack from Satan, down through time.

Also Jesus went out of His way to talk specifically of the these three Books!

Vs. 5-7 There are important lessons that we need to learn in life. Lessons concerning God and the purposes of God, and **God is determined that you're going to learn these lessons one way or the other. You can learn the easy way, or you can learn the hard way.**

Make it easy on yourself. So the lesson that Jonah learned...

v. 10 - Sin – *it will find you out!* Others, innocent people, will get beaten up on the process. Other people pay the price for our foolishness in rebellion!

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Jon 1:13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to return to land, but they could not, for the sea continued to grow more tempestuous against them.

Jon 1:14 Therefore they cried out to the LORD and said, "We pray, O LORD, please do not let us perish for this man's life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You."

Jon 1:15 So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.

Jon 1:16 Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice to the LORD and took vows.

Jonah’s Prayer and Deliverance vs. !:17-2:10

Jon 1:17 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.

Jon 2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly.

Jon 2:2 And he said: "I cried out to the LORD because of my affliction, And He answered me. "Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, And You heard my voice.

Jon 2:3 For You cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the floods surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me.

v. 13 These pagan sailors certainly stand in a good light at this point. They are pagan and heathen, but they do not want to throw him overboard. They try their best to get the ship out of the storm. They row as hard as they can to bring the ship to land, but they cannot do it.

v. 14 Notice the change that is taking place in these men's lives. They are turning now to the living and true God, turning in their desperation. They call upon God to forgive them for what they are going to do, because they have no other alternative.

v. 15 This reveals very definitely that it was a supernatural storm under God's control.

v. 16 "And took vows." What vows do these men take? They vow to the Lord that they will now serve Him. Through this experience, they now turn to the living and true God. So something good is accomplished by the storm, by Jonah's being on board the ship, and by his being cast overboard. **These men were saved! Revival begins here!**

v. 17 A great fish (*dag*) - The Greek word, also translated as a great fish in Mat 12:40 is *ketos*, meaning "a huge fish." We don't know if it was a whale or not, but the important thing that is that the fish was prepared by the Lord for this special event. **James Bartley**

v. 1 Notice when Jonah prayed. **When he was in trouble; when we are in affliction we must pray. Being kept alive by miracle, he prayed. A sense of God's good-will to us, notwithstanding our offences, opens the lips in prayer, which were closed with the dread of wrath. Also, where he prayed; in the belly of the fish. No place is off-limits for prayer. To whom he prayed; to the Lord his God. Have you ever waited to pray?**

v. 2 My affliction - Straits with which he was encompassed, his body and mind being both shut up, the one by the monstrous dungeon of the fish's belly, and the other by the terrors of the Almighty. Heard my voice - Of which undoubtedly God gave him an assurance in his own soul.

v. 3 If Jonah lived in the fish, he also lived like a fish, because he was swamped by water. He says, "The floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me." In other words, Jonah is saying, "I got wet." **Psa 42:7** *Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me.*

Assyrian War Bulletin (1000 B.C.)

"Asshur my Lord commanded me to go forth...I covered the regions of Saraush and of Ammaush with ruins...I proved myself against their armies at the mountain of Aruma, I chastised them, I strawed the earth with their bodies as they had been beasts of the field; I took their cities in possession, I carried away their gods, I led them away captive, them and their goods and their treasures; I burned the cities with fire, I destroyed them, I made them even with the ground, I made of them heaps and a desolation; I laid upon them the grievous yoke of my dominion, and in their presence I gave thanks unto Asshur my Lord."

"I slew two hundred and sixty fighting men; I cut off their heads and made pyramids thereof. I slew one of every two. I built a wall before the great gates of the city; I flayed the chief men of the rebels, and I covered the wall with their skins. Some of them were enclosed alive in the bricks of the wall, some of them were crucified on stakes along the wall; I caused a great multitude of them to be flayed in my presence, and I covered the wall with their skins. I gathered together the heads in the form of crowns, and their pierced bodies in the form of garlands."

"The inhabitants forsook their strongholds and their castles: they fled for safety towards Matui, a strong country; I rushed after them in pursuit; I strawed a thousand bodies of the warriors upon the mountain; I covered the mountain with their dead bodies; I filled the valleys therewith. As for two hundred that I had taken alive, I pierced their wrists. My face rejoiceth over ruins; in the satisfying of my wrath I have my pleasure."

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Jon 2:4 Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.'
Jon 2:5 The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head.
Jon 2:6 I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God.
Jon 2:7 "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple.
Jon 2:8 "Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy.
Jon 2:9 But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."
Jon 2:10 So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

TRUST AND OBEY!

1. *When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
 What a glory He sheds on our way!
 Let us do His good will, He abides with us still,
 And with all who will trust and obey.*
 - Refrain:
*Trust and obey, for there's no other way
 To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*
2. *Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
 But our toil He doth richly repay;
 Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
 But is blessed if we trust and obey.*
3. *Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
 Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
 What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
 Never fear, only trust and obey.*

v. 4 I said - With myself, I thought in the midst of my fears and sufferings. Cast out - Cut off from all hope of life, and as it were forgotten of God. I will look - Toward heaven. **Psa 31:22** For I said in my haste, "I am cut off from before Your eyes"; Nevertheless You heard the voice of my supplications When I cried out to You.
v. 5 The weeds - It seems to mean, my case was as hopeless as that of a man wrapped about with weeds in the depth of the sea. **Psa 69:1** Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck.
v. 6 I went down - The fish carried him down as deep in the sea as are the bottoms of the mountains. With her bars - I seemed to be imprisoned where the bars that secured were as durable as the rocks, which they were made of. Yet - By what was first my danger, thou hast wonderfully secured me. From corruption - Or the pit, a description of the state of the dead. O Lord - In the assurance of faith, he speaks of the thing as already done.
v. 7 When my soul fainted - When I had given up all hope of life. My prayer came in unto thee - Here prayer is personified, and is represented as a messenger going from the distressed, and entering into the temple of God, and standing before him. This is a very fine and delicate image. This clause is one of those which I suppose the prophet to have added when he penned this prayer.
v. 8 They that trust in worthless idols, follow vain predictions, permit themselves to be influenced with foolish fears, so as to induce them to leave the path of obvious duty, forsake their own mercy. In leaving that God who is the Fountain of mercy, they abandon that measure of mercy which he had treasured up for them. **Psa 31:6** I have hated those who regard useless idols; But I trust in the LORD.
v. 9 But I will sacrifice to You - I will make a sincere vow, which, as soon as my circumstances will permit, I will faithfully execute; and therefore he adds, "I will pay that which I have vowed." Salvation is of the Lord - All deliverance from danger, preservation of life, recovery from sickness, and redemption of the soul from the power, guilt, and pollution of sin, is from Jehovah. He alone is the Savior, He alone is the Deliverer; for all salvation is from the Lord. **Psa 50:14** Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High.; **Psa 3:8** Salvation belongs to the LORD. Your blessing is upon Your people. He knows that his salvation is of the Lord. He also now knows it in the big picture; that salvation is not of a nation or a race or a language, or not of man at all. No, salvation is of the Lord. Jonah declared the victorious shout and the LORD delivered him!! (out of the fish!)
v. 10 Even a fish couldn't digest Jonah, the backsliding prophet." But Jonah is a different man now. He's made some vows to God, and one of them is that he is going to Nineveh. His ticket is now to Nineveh.

V.9 “SALVATION IS OF THE LORD”! (Partial list of Salvation Scripture verses)

- **JACOB BLESSING HIS SONS - Gen 49:18; RED SEA PARTING - Exo 14:13; MOSES’ SONG - Exo 15:2 HANNAH’S SONG - 1Sa 2:1; DAVID’S SONG OF DELIVERANCE - 2Sa 22:47; DAVID’S SONG OF THANKS - 1Ch 16:23 (Psalm 96); DAVID, WHEN FLEEING FROM ABSALOM - Psa 3:8; DAVID – ROYAL PSALM – RESCUED FROM SAUL & ALL HIS ENEMIES - Psa 18:2; Psa 18:46; DAVID - Psa 27:1; DAVID – CRY FOR HELP AGAINST PURSUERS - Psa 35:9; DAVID – GLADNESS WHEN GOD ARISES - Psa 68:20; DAVID - MESSIANIC PSALM - Psa 69:13; SONS OF KORAH - Psa 85:7; SONS OF KORAH - Psa 88:1; MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD - Psa 98:2; I LOVE THE LORD BECAUSE - Psa 116:13; GOD’S STEADFAST LOVE - Psa 118:14; Psa 119:41; Psa 119:166; Psa 119:174; ISAIAH - 12:2; Isa 45:8; Isa 45:17; Isa 49:8; Isa 52:10; Isa 61:10; Isa 62:11; Jer 3:23; Jon 2:9; Mic 7:7; Hab 3:8; Hab 3:18 PAUL’S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY – CYPRUS - Act 13:47; 1Th 5:9; 2Th 2:13; 2Pe 3:15; Rev 19:1**