

## JONAH 2:1-9 – JONAH'S PRAYER AND DELIVERANCE!

8/22/15 Sat Morn Prayer – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com)

### Biblical Background: -

**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**, in the **context of coming against this bitter exclusiveness of the Jews**. 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 great fish, 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*

### The Prayer of Jonah: -

#### Vs. 1-2 – Jonah praises God for His deliverance. (Thanksgiving)

**[1] Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly. [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.**

- **Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the fish's belly:** Jonah is still in the belly of the fish but he knows it is enough that the LORD has heard his cry (**You heard my voice**). In faith, Jonah knows that he will be delivered.
- Jonah knew God heard him before the answer came. This shows that Jonah had faith and that God can give us a total peace and assurance that our prayers are answered, even before the actual answer comes.
- In this and the rest of the chapter, Jonah's prayer incorporates many phrases and figures of speech from the Psalms. This shows that Jonah was a man who knew God's Word, and knew it by *heart*, because there was no Bible and no candle in **the fish's belly**.
- *In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple* ([Psalm 18:6](#))
- *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* ([Psalm 31:22](#))

#### Vs. (3-7) Jonah recounts his predicament, his cry to God, and Gods faithful answer. (Contrition)

**[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. [4] Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple. [5] The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head. [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. [7] "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple.**

- **You cast me into the deep:** Jonah realizes that it was not the sailors that cast him into the sea, it was God Himself. Jonah sees that he has never been out of God's hands, though he tried to run from Him.
- **"You cast me into the deep...All Your billows and Your waves passed over me."** *Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; all Your waves and billows have gone over me* ([Psalm 42:7](#))
- **"I have been cast out of Your sight":** Jonah's greatest pain was not the calamity, but his separation from God - his feeling that he was **cast out of Your sight**. Still he was determined - even in the belly of a fish - to turn his heart towards God and His **temple**. Simply, Jonah **remembered the LORD**.
- **"Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God":** Again, Jonah can praise God for the answer to prayer before the answer came, because God gave him assurance.

### Vs. (8-9) Jonah declares his commitment to God. (Rededication)

[8] *"Those who regard worthless idols Forsake their own Mercy. [9] But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."*

- **Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own Mercy:** Jonah realizes that resisting God, running from Him - is like being an idolater.
- **But I will sacrifice to You:** Jonah repents from running away from God, and he turns to God with sacrifice and thanksgiving. He will pay his vows to God, and do whatever God tells him to do,
- At one time or another, Jonah had probably said what we all have said: Lord, I'll do whatever You want me to do. Now Jonah realizes fully that he must stop resisting God and he should pay his vows to God.
- **Salvation is of the LORD:** This is more than a statement of fact; it is Jonah's triumphant declaration. God has saved and will save, and Jonah means it *personally*. **Jonah's salvation is of the LORD.**
- Jonah knows this in the *close-up* picture; 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**.
- At the end of [Jonah 2:9](#) it is clear that Jonah has repented, but we might wonder *when* did Jonah repent? There are indications of repentance when . Jonah said he feared the LORD and was honest about his story ([Jonah 1:9](#)); offered to be cast into the sea ([Jonah 1:12](#)); during the three days and three nights in the belly of the fish ([Jonah 2:2](#), [2:4](#), and [2:7](#)); in renewing his commitment to his vow ([Jonah 2:9](#)); So, when did Jonah repent? The answer is found in seeing repentance as more than a one-time event. Though it begins at one time, it must continue and mature. It is an event but it is also a process.

### SUMMARY:

- There are several ways Christians may respond to the chastening of God: we may **despise** it, as Jonah did for three days, and refuse to confess; we may **faint and give up**; or we may **endure** God's chastening, **confess** our sins, and **trust Him to work everything out for our good and His glory**. To rebel against the hand of God is to ask for trouble. Jonah **submitted, prayed, and trusted**, and **God forgave him**.
- We see here **an act of purest faith**. There is a faith of a **soft and easy kind**, when everything **goes smooth**, and we have no anxiety, no fear or distress. How glibly then do men speak of having their hope in God.
- There is another kind of faith, **which produces resignation, patience, willingness to endure** and be **brave**, and even **willing to suffer**. But yet it may not be faith that cheers the soul,—not a "rejoicing in the Lord," not the triumph of a trustful soul.
- The **real saving faith is seen when the soul finds God working in the storm and tempest, and reads the handwriting on the wall, speaking even in the midst of death and terror, and yet can calmly look on the Redeemer on the Cross, and see in the future the immortality beyond the grave, see the brightness of the glory that will one day be"** to the faithful the heritage of **boundless joy**, and so be **comforted and gladdened even in sorrow and pain**,—it is **such faith** we see realized in the repentant Jonah.
- May we **learn the reason of trials and troubles** which so often disturb our life. What would it be if we were always in the sunshine, always prosperous? Would there not be, even to the most faithful, a risk of too great confidence of a false assurance?
- Jonah's experience **so encourages us to trust in God as the God of our salvation**. **Salvation is of the LORD**, not of a nation or a race or a language, or not of man at all. No, **salvation is of the LORD!**

### PSALM 5! – Terry Clark

*Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation.*

*Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.*

*My voice shalt thou hear in the morning,*

*O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up. (3x)*

### SAT MORN PRAYER GUIDELINES:

We all want to receive **instruction from the teaching in Biblical prayers and for the prayer time be effective**, being **led by the Holy Spirit**. To that end:

- Please be on time at 6:30am to receive the blessings of the weekly prayers in the Bible.
- If you are late, **simply agree in prayer and refrain from praying** in group prayer and **wait until the small group** prayer time.
- Those who pray aloud during the prayer meeting portion, **please keep the prayers short (2-3 minutes)** praying as led by the Holy Spirit. There is only about a 30 minute period for 15 or so to pray.
- **Intercessory prayer** (church, country, leaders) **during group time**; **personal** prayer during small group time.
- **Welcome times of silence** during the group prayer time as we **wait on the Holy Spirit**.