



Jonah

Jonah 2:1-9 - Jonah Prayer and Deliverance

- Review *Jonah 1:1-9*
 - It was learned by the mariners that Jonah had fled from the presence of the Lord.
 - Jonah then said that they should throw him into the sea and the tempest would cease.
 - As the winds continued, the mariners prayed to the Lord that they would not perish to save Jonah's life.
 - So, they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.
 - The Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.
- *Jonah 2:1-9 - Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the fish's belly. 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. For You cast me into the deep, Into the*



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heart of the seas, And the floods surrounded me; All Your billows and Your waves passed over me. Then I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.' The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head. 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. "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord; And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple. "Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord."

•Jonah 2:1,2 - Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God



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from the fish's belly. 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.

- What do you make of *"I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction,*
 - Does the nature of this prayer represent how we typically reach out to God today?
 - What might be different?
- *And He answered me*
 - And in what way?
- How should we interpret *"Out of the belly of Sheol I cried,*
 - Sheol - the OT designation for the abode of the dead
 - » This could be a place of no return, absence of God, punishment of the wicked, exile, extreme degradation or death.
 - Constable – "Depth" is literally the "belly" of Sheol, the place of departed souls that the Hebrews conceived of as under the earth's



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- surface. Jonah thought that he had gone to join the dead (cf. *Ps. 18:4-5; 30:3*).
- McCalley – ‘An important feature of Jonah’s prayer is its use of the Psalms. The word of God was very much in the forefront of Jonah’s mind as he prayed from the belly of the fish. His allusions to the Psalms are shown on the following chart.’”

JONAH	PSALMS
2:2a	3:4, 120:1
2:2b	18:4-5, 30:3
2:3a	88 :6-7
2:3b	42:7
2:4a	31:22
2:4b	5:7
2:5a	69: 1-2
2:6b	49:15, 56:13, 103:4
2:7a	107:5, 142:3
2:8a	31:6
2:9a	50: 14, 69:30, 107:22
2:9c	3:8, 37:39

» *Psalm 119:50 - This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life.*



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- But it's not wrong to pray when we're afflicted is it.
 - » *Luke 22:41,42 - And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."*
 - » *Acts 16:24,25 - Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.*
 - » *James 5:13 - Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms.*
- *Jonah 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.*





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- These events must have preceded Jonah’s presence in the belly of the fish.
- And how did this all happen?
 - It was no mere chance, but God who sent these waves in
 - And the following Psalm of David to the Chief Musician could very much relate:
 - » *Psalm 69:14,15 - Deliver me out of the mire, And let me not sink; Let me be delivered from those who hate me, And out of the deep waters. Let not the floodwater overflow me, Nor let the deep swallow me up; And let not the pit shut its mouth on me.*
- ***Jonah 2:4 - Then I said, ‘I have been cast out of Your sight; Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple.’***
 - Was this really God removing Jonah from His sight or just a consequence of Jonah’s disobedience?
 - Do we ever feel this way today and if so, is our response like Jonah’s?
 - But when founded in positional truth, this should never be our experience!



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» *Col 3:1-3 - If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

- Feinberg – "He felt he was cast out from the special regard and care which God exercises over His own. Now he realized how dire a thing it is to be apart from the presence of the Lord."

– What does Jonah mean by – ‘*Yet I will look again toward Your holy temple*’.

- Is not this where Israel's faith, forgiveness, and strength was founded?

» *2 Chron 6:38 - "and when they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, where they have been carried captive, and pray toward their land which You gave to their fathers, the city which You have chosen, and toward the temple which I have built for Your name:."*

- ***Jonah 2:5 - The waters surrounded me, even to my soul; The deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head.***

– Do you think that in some way this verse indicates how Jonah thought he might die?



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- Constable – ‘Jonah sensed his hopelessness as he continued his downward plunge into the deep. He seemed to be in death's grip rather than God's. Seaweeds (Heb. *suph*, reeds) bound his head as the water encased his body (cf. *Ps. 69:1-2*).’

» *Psalm 69:1,2 - To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Lilies." A Psalm of David. Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, Where there is no standing; I have come into deep waters, Where the floods overflow me.*

- ***Jonah 2: 6,7 - 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. "When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord; And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple.***
 - In the ultimate of having no strength and hopeless, to whom does Jonah turn?
 - But for us today, either way we win!
 - » *Phil 1:21 - For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*



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- Let's compare this verse, what Paul had written to the church at Philippi, to what Jonah might have been thinking.

» *Isaiah 38:17,18 - Indeed it was for my own peace That I had great bitterness; But You have lovingly delivered my soul from the pit of corruption, For You have cast all my sins behind Your back. For Sheol cannot thank You, Death cannot praise You; Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your truth.*

– *“When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord; And my prayer went up to You, Into Your holy temple.*

- Allen - "As in Jonah 1:6, prayer is presented as the key to the salvation of the one who would otherwise have perished."

- ***Jonah 2:8, 9 - “Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.”***

– Why do you think Jonah mentions *worthless idols* here?

- What *mercy* do they have anyway?

» *Psalms 31:6 - I have hated those who regard useless idols; But I trust in the Lord.*



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- *But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving;*
 - This reminds us of how we believers today should pray:
 - » *Phil 4:6 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;*
- *I will pay what I have vowed.*
 - What was Jonah's vow?
 - It was his way of saying he would fulfill the mission God had given him.
 - » *Jonah 1:2 - "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."*
- *Salvation is of the Lord.*
 - What more can be said!
 - Constable – 'Jonah's desperate condition had brought him to his senses. He would return to the source of loyal love and express his worship of Yahweh with a sacrifice. **His sacrifice would have to be thanksgiving though since he despaired of being able to offer an animal or vegetable offering.'**