

Jonah - Lesson 6 - Chapter 4 - The Rebuke of Jonah by God



Did Jonah die or not??

Jonah 2:1 Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the stomach of the fish.

In Jonah's prayer, he makes mention of "Sheol". **Jonah 2:2 and he said, I called out of my distress to the LORD, and He answered me. I cried for help from the depth of Sheol.**

Some have taken this to imply that Jonah actually died.

(Though, there is no Biblical record of someone after the point of physical death calling out to the Lord for help.)

Psalm 30:1-3 A Psalm; a Song at the Dedication of the House. [A Psalm] of David. I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up, And have not let my enemies rejoice over me. 2 O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You healed me. 3 O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You have kept me alive, that I would not go down to the pit.

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Did Jonah die or not??

In his prayer, Jonah is recalling sinking into the sea.

v5 “The great deep engulfed me, Weeds were wrapped around my head.

In verse 6 from *inside* the fish Jonah recalls God’s salvation.

Verse 6 "I descended to the roots of the mountains. The earth with its bars was around me forever, But You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God.

Jonah understood that the fish was sent to SAVE him!

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Did Jonah die or not??

Jesus parallels Jonah with Himself.

Luke 11:29-30 As the crowds were increasing, He began to say, "This generation is a wicked generation; it seeks for a sign, and [yet] no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah. 30 "For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.

Jesus was pointing to the similarity between His burial and Jonah's time in the fish. But similarity doesn't mean it was identical.

Jonah was authenticated as a true prophet of God by the fact that God rescued Him in such a miraculous way.

Jesus was authenticated as the true Son of God by the fact that God resurrected Him from among the dead.

Jonah was

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Jonah 4:1-11 NASB95 - 1 But it greatly displeased Jonah and he became angry. 2 He prayed to the LORD and said, "Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was still in my [own] country? Therefore in order to forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning calamity. 3 "Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life." 4 The LORD said, "Do you have good reason to be angry?" 5 Then Jonah went out from the city and sat east of it. There he made a shelter for himself and sat under it in the shade until he could see what would happen in the city. 6 So the LORD God appointed a plant and it grew up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to deliver him from his discomfort. And Jonah was extremely happy about the plant. 7 But God appointed a worm when dawn came the next day and it attacked the plant and it withered. 8 When the sun came up God appointed a scorching east wind, and the sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he became faint and begged with [all] his soul to die, saying, "Death is better to me than life." 9 Then God said to Jonah, "Do you have good reason to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "I have good reason to be angry, even to death." 10 Then the LORD said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and [which] you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight. 11 "Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know [the difference] between their right and left hand, as well as many animals?"

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Jonah's second prayer - Verses 1&2

Prayer 1 - The first prayer was in Chapter 2 - There, Jonah was thankful for *his* salvation from the sea

Prayer 2 - In this prayer, Jonah is angry about the salvation for the Ninevites!

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Jonah's Complaint - Verses 2&3

Exodus 34:6-7 Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; 7 who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave [the guilty] unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations."

Jonah's anger is over the fact that God was choosing to be gracious to someone other than the Jews.

Wm. R Newell - [Grace] can, and does, often, place the worst deservers in the highest favors. (Romans Verse by Verse pg 245)

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God's Response - Verse 3

“Do you have good reason to be angry?”

Jonah didn't want to talk about the fact that he was angry, and why He was angry.

He just wanted to throw criticism at God for being gracious.

But God knew that Jonah's anger was the issue.

The rest of chapter 4 records God's method of dealing with Jonah's anger.

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Jonah's Stakeout - Verse 5

Jonah went “**outside**” the city.
“**To see what would happen in the city.**”

Jonah knew that the Ninivites had repented. He'd witnessed it.
But apparently he didn't think the Ninevites' repentance was genuine!
In fact he hoped it wasn't!

Jonah is unmoving in his hatred for the Ninevites.

God is about to give Jonah a vivid object lesson.

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God's Divine Object Lesson - Verses 6-8

In 1:17 God “appointed” a great fish to swallow Jonah, and he was delivered from the sea

In 4:6 God “appointed” a plant to grow up over Jonah and he was delivered from his discomfort.

And Jonah is “extremely happy” about the plant!

God has set the stage for His object lesson.

In 4:7 God “appointed” a worm.

In 4:8 God “appointed” a scorching east wind.

Jonah begs God “with all his soul to die”.

Jonah has yet to take His eyes off of himself!

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God's Rebuke - Verses 9-11

God traps Jonah in a similar way to how Nathan trapped David.

First God gets Jonah to respond with compassion to something that Jonah actually cares about.

And then, God points out how foolish it is to care so much about something so unimportant while, at the same time, not caring at all if an entire city full of people is destroyed.

Do we wish for the destruction of those whom God desires to save???

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Did Jonah Get the Lesson?

Jonah is almost certainly the one who wrote the book.
And that tells me that he did learn the lesson after all.

**The book of Jonah stands as a testimony to the greatness of God's
grace and compassion.**