

Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet-10

Introduction: We begin this chapter understanding that Jonah has been cast into the sea. The LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. Chapter 2 begins with the prayer of Jonah from the belly of this great fish.

Text: **Jonah 2:1-10**

The last sentence in **chapter 1** gives us the setting for **chapter 2**.

Notice in **chapter 1:17**, *“Now the LORD had prepared a great **fish** to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”*

Note: It is good when you study the Word of God to just restate the facts of what you find in the Scriptures. Articulate them clearly; succinctly.

1. This fish was prepared by the LORD.
2. This fish is described as being great.
3. This fish swallowed Jonah.
4. Jonah was inside of this fish for three days and three nights.

The word used here for ‘fish’ in Jonah chapter 1 is the Hebrew word דָּג, *dag* (daag), which properly means a fish.

In the New Testament passage **Matthew 12:40** the Lord uses the word κῆτος - *kētos* (kay-toes), which can be used to signify a great fish, whale or sea monster.

Let’s read Jonah chapter 2 and review our outline.

II. Jonah's Repenting: God's Protection - Chapter 2

A. The Prayer Of Jonah v1-10

1. The Person of the Prayer v1
2. The Reason of the Prayer v1,2
3. The Manner of the Prayer v2
4. The Place of the Prayer v2,3,5,6
5. The Faith of the Prayer v4,6,7
6. The Conclusion of the Prayer v8,9
7. The Praise of the Prayer v6,9
8. The Result of the Prayer v10

We start first of all with:

A. The Prayer of Jonah

1. The _____ of the Prayer

The Bible says, (vs.1) "*Then **Jonah** prayed...*"

After all the **disobedience** and **waywardness** of Jonah, we find a prayer from none other than Jonah.

Not only does Jonah pray, but the Bible tells us that **the LORD heard him.** (vs. 2)

Charles Spurgeon noted, "*Surely this is the only prayer that ever went up to God out of a fish's belly.*"

This ought to give us great encouragement in the midst of any waywardness we may find ourselves in; that God being merciful and gracious to us is near to them that are of a broken and contrite spirit.

Again, the Bible states in **Psalm 34:18**, "*The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*"

The wicked oftentimes are described as lying in wait for the righteous to fail and fall (**Proverbs 24:15,16**), but the truth concerning this passage is that you and I can turn back to the Lord from a position of waywardness.

In **verse 1** Jonah states that he **prayed unto the LORD his God**.

Notice secondly, we see:

2. The _____ of the Prayer v1,2

What do you think is the reason for Jonah's prayer?

John Gill stated this concerning Jonah praying, *“Though Jonah had been a praying man, being a good man, and a prophet of the Lord, yet it seems he had not prayed for some time; being disobedient to the will of God, he restrained prayer before him; all the while he was going to Joppa he prayed not; and how indeed could he have the face to pray to him, from whose face he was fleeing?”*

In **verse 2** we are given this simple explanation, ***“And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD”***

You and I ought to thank God that He **allows us to come to Him** especially in times of affliction.

- a. We ought to pray in the midst of affliction.
- b. We ought to be truthful in our prayers.

Consider Matthew 14:30 and Luke 18:13.

- c. We ought to be fervent in our prayers.
- d. We ought to understand that God desires to hear us in our affliction.

Affliction oftentimes can be the best school for the Christian.

Charles Spurgeon further said this, *“Most of the grand truths of God have to be learned by trouble. They must be burned into us with the hot iron of affliction; otherwise we will not truly receive them.”* Spurgeon. (2017). The Spurgeon Study Bible: Notes (pp. 1219–1220). Holman Bible Publishers.

We see the Person of the Prayer, the Manner of the Prayer but thirdly:

3. The _____ of the prayer.

How is it that Jonah prayed?

a. Jonah's prayer was **directed** to His God.

Sometimes it is that we pray in such a way, that really we are praying to ourselves.

In verse 2 we see the remarks in the text that he cried, "*unto **the LORD...***"

In verse 4 we see that his heart was toward God and His dwelling place. "*...yet I will look again toward thy holy temple...*"

In verse 6 we see a recognition of God's deliverance... with God being the focal point of His prayer. "*...yet hast **thou brought up my life.... O LORD my God.***"

In verse 7 we see a steadfast mind in spite of his physical weariness upon the LORD. "*...I remembered the LORD...*"

Secondly, I believe the text all shows us that He prayed **in submission to God.**

b. Jonah prayed in **submission** to God.

The whole crux of Jonah's departure from the Lord was his unwillingness to be obedient to God. But here in this prayer we see he directed it towards God, but we also see he prayed **in submission to God.**

Many today, perhaps stumble over the verse found in **Psalm 66:18** which states "*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me;*"

The key to **Psalm 66 verse 18** verse is the word 'regard.'

Here in our text we see **in verse 8,9** a submission to God in his prayer.

"They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."