

Jonah: The Reluctant Prophet-11

Introduction: In this chapter we are dealing with Jonah's prayer from the belly of a great fish. It is here that we see Jonah's repentance and God's protection.

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

Let us continue now in our notes and notice with me.

4. The _____ of the Prayer. **v2,3,5,6**

In this account we see Jonah in prayer. And it is interesting to note the **place of His prayer**.

There is much debate as to whether or not Jonah died and was resurrected during this time.

Of course, we understand that the Lord Jesus Christ pointed out that Jonah and His time spent in this fish was a type of the Lord Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. (**Matthew 12:39-40**)

Jonah also was said by the Lord to be a sign. Specifically, as we will see later on, Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites. (**Luke 11:30**)

Notice the following verses from the book of Psalms:

Psalm 18:3-6 “3 *I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: So shall I be saved from mine enemies.* 4 **The sorrows of death compassed me, And the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.** 5 **The sorrows of hell compassed me about: The snares of death prevented me.** 6 *In my distress I called upon the Lord, And cried unto my God: He heard my voice out of his temple, And my cry came before him, even into his ears.”*

Psalms 86:13 “13 *For great is thy mercy toward me: And thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.”*

Psalm 88:1-9 “1 *O Lord God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee: 2 Let my prayer come before thee: Incline thine ear unto my cry; 3 For my soul is full of troubles: **And my life draweth nigh unto the grave.** 4 **I am counted with them that go down into the pit: I am as a man that hath no strength: 5 Free among the dead, Like the slain that lie in the grave, Whom thou rememberest no more: And they are cut off from thy hand. 6 **Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, In darkness, in the deeps.** 7 Thy wrath lieth hard upon me, **And thou hast afflicted me with all thy waves.** Selah. 8 *Thou hast put away mine acquaintance far from me; Thou hast made me an abomination unto them: I am shut up, and I cannot come forth. 9 Mine eye mourneth by reason of affliction: Lord, I have called daily upon thee, I have stretched out my hands unto thee.”****

The Bible tells us in **verse number 2** that Jonah prayed, “...out of the belly of hell...”

In **verse 3** we discover that “*the floods compassed...*” Jonah and that all God’s “*billows*” and “*waves*” passed over him.

In verse 5 the Bible says, “*the waters compassed*” Jonah about even to his “*soul...*” Inside this belly there were weeds about his head.

He describes the sheer terror of this going down “*to the bottoms of the mountains...*”

And the earth’s bars seemed to be his prison according to **verse 6**.

Not only do we see The place of the prayer, but notice secondly:

5. The _____ of the Prayer **v4,6,7**

Jonah the Bible says prayed according to the Scriptures.

“Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.”

This allusion in verse number 4 takes us back to I Kings chapter 8. Let’s turn there for a moment this morning.

I Kings 8:22-53

22 “And Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the congregation of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven:”

*30 “And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, **when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.**”*

The Temple “was a symbol of great encouragement, of great hope for the repentant sinner. Jonah knew he did not deserve help from God. He felt he was cast out of God's sight because of his sin; but he still prayed because the Temple, representing God's great mercy, gave him great encouragement to seek God in spite of his sin.

Today we have a far better Temple than the one in ancient Jerusalem to encourage us to pray in spite of our unworthiness. We can look to Jesus Christ.”- John Butler

Really, we could say it this way, **Jonah prayed in faith toward God.**

The revealing fire of tribulation oftentimes shows us the strength of our faith. --- What do you really believe?