

THEN JONAH PRAYED

JONAH 2

Text: Jonah 2:1

Jonah 2:1

¹ Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,

Introduction:

Jonah was a successful prophet and thought he knew God, but he didn't know Him nearly as well as he thought he did. Jonah would have come under Paul's message to the Romans:

Romans 2:17-21

¹⁷ Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, ¹⁸ And knowest *his* will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law; ¹⁹ And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, ²⁰ An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law. ²¹ Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?

As a result of Jonah's rebellion he finds himself in the belly of a great fish. It's there that Jonah prays unto the Lord.

Notice:

1. Jonah's Desperate Prayer

A. What Jonah Reaped. (1-6)

Jonah 2:1-6

¹Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, ²And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, *and* thou heardest my voice. ³For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. ⁴Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. ⁵The waters compassed me about, *even* to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. ⁶I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars *was* about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.

1. A feeling of horror (1-3)
2. A flash of hope (4)
3. A foretaste of Hell (5-6)

B. What Jonah Remembered (2:7)

Jonah 2:7

⁷When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.

1. Even in the belly of the fish God was with him.

Psalms 139:1-24

¹ O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known *me*. ² Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. ³ Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted *with* all my ways. ⁴ For *there is* not a word in my tongue, *but*, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. ⁵ Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. ⁶ *Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot *attain* unto it. ⁷ Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? ⁸ If I ascend up into heaven, thou *art* there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou *art there*. ⁹ *If* I take the wings of the morning, *and* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; ¹⁰ Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. ¹¹ If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. ¹² Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light *are* both alike *to thee*. ¹³ For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well. ¹⁵ My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, *and* curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all *my members* were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned, when *as yet there was* none of them. ¹⁷ How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! ¹⁸ *If* I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee. ¹⁹ Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. ²⁰ For they speak against thee wickedly, *and* thine enemies take *thy name* in vain. ²¹ Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee?

²² I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.
²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴ And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

C. What Jonah Realized (2:8)

Jonah 2:8

⁸ They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

1. His self will
2. He realized where his pride had brought him.

2. Jonah's Dying Promise (2:9-10)

Jonah 2:9-10

⁹ But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay *that* that I have vowed. Salvation *is* of the LORD. ¹⁰ And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry *land*.

A. His surrender (9)

B. His sparing

Psalms 3:8

⁸ Salvation *belongeth* unto the LORD: thy blessing *is* upon thy people. Selah.