

# THEN JONAH PRAYED

## JONAH 2

Text: Jonah 2:1

### Jonah 2:1

<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>17</sup> Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, <sup>18</sup> And knowest *his* will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law; <sup>19</sup> And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, <sup>20</sup> An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law. <sup>21</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup> Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, <sup>2</sup> And 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. <sup>3</sup> For 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. <sup>4</sup> Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. <sup>5</sup> The waters compassed me about, *even* to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. <sup>6</sup> I 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

<sup>7</sup> When 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**

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known *me*. <sup>2</sup> Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. <sup>3</sup> Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted *with* all my ways. <sup>4</sup> For *there is* not a word in my tongue, *but*, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. <sup>5</sup> Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. <sup>6</sup> *Such knowledge is* too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot *attain* unto it. <sup>7</sup> Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? <sup>8</sup> If I ascend up into heaven, thou *art* there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou *art there*. <sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning, *and* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; <sup>10</sup> Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. <sup>11</sup> If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. <sup>12</sup> Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light *are* both alike *to thee*. <sup>13</sup> For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well. <sup>15</sup> My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, *and* curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. <sup>16</sup> Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all *my members* were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned, when *as yet there was* none of them. <sup>17</sup> How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup> If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee. <sup>19</sup> Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. <sup>20</sup> For they speak against thee wickedly, *and* thine enemies take *thy name* in vain. <sup>21</sup> Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? <sup>22</sup> I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies. <sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my

thoughts: <sup>24</sup> 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**

<sup>8</sup> 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**

<sup>9</sup> But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay *that* that I have vowed. Salvation *is* of the LORD. <sup>10</sup> 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**

<sup>8</sup> Salvation *belongeth* unto the LORD: thy blessing *is* upon thy people. Selah.