

Jonah 2 - Jonah's Prayer for Deliverance

I. Jonah disobeys his divine commission to preach to Nineveh (Jonah 1:1—2:10)

(2) Praying prophet (2:1-10)

(A) Introduction (2:1)

(B) Jonah's psalm of deliverance (2:2-9)

(a) Jonah calls out to God (2:2)

(b) Jonah recounts his adversities (2:3-6)

(c) Report of Jonah's prayer to God (2:7)

(d) Jonah praises God (2:8-9)

(C) Jonah is delivered from the belly of the fish (2:10)

Jonah 2

(2) Praying prophet (2:1-10)

(A) Introduction (2:1)

1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the stomach of the fish,

1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the stomach of the fish,

1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from inside the sea creature.

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

- This is the first mention of Jonah praying...

(B) Jonah's psalm of deliverance (2:2-9)

(a) Jonah calls out to God (2:2)

2 and he said, "I called out of my distress to the LORD, And He answered me. I called for help from the **depth** of **Sheol**; You heard my voice.

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; You heard my voice.

2 He said: "I called out to the LORD from the midst of affliction directed at me, and he answered me. From the depths of death I cried out for help; and you heard my cry.

2 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.

- "...depth" - literally the "belly" of Sheol, the place of departed souls that the Hebrews conceived of as under the earth's surface

— Jonah thought that he had gone to join the dead (Cf. Ps 18:4-5; 30:3)

— Jonah previously "went down" (Heb. *yarad*) to Joppa (1:3), then he "boarded" (lit. "went down") into the ship (1:3), and then he had "gone below" deck (1:5). Now he went down

into "the depth of Sheol."

— Since he was bent on going "down," God brought him "down." When you turn your back on God, the only direction you can go is down.

- "...Sheol" - not the grave (which is the destination of the body); rather, the place of departed souls or the abode of the dead (both good and bad). You can argue from this text that Jonah died.

(b) Jonah recounts his adversities (2:3-6)

3 "For **You** threw me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the current flowed around me. All **Your** breakers and waves passed over me.

3 "For You had cast me into the deep, Into the heart of the seas, And the current engulfed me. All Your breakers and billows passed over me.

3 You cast me into the deep— into the heart of the sea. Flood waters engulfed me. All your breakers and your waves swirled over me.

3 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.

- "...You...Your" - Jonah saw God's disciplinary hand behind the sailors tossing him overboard

— Jonah acknowledged that the sea belonged to God ("*Your* breakers")

4 "So I said, 'I have been cast out of Your sight. Nevertheless I will **look again toward Your holy temple.**'

4 "So I said, 'I have been expelled from Your sight. Nevertheless I will look again toward Your holy temple.'

4 So I told myself, 'I have been driven away from you. How will I again gaze on your holy Temple?'

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

- Jonah believed God had turned His back on him; nevertheless he determined to seek God in prayer (Cf. Ps 5:7)

— Jonah felt he was cast out from the special regard and care which God exercises over His own. Now he realized how dire a thing it is to be apart from the presence of the Lord.

- "...look again toward Your holy temple" - a synonym for praying

A Man of the Word

In Jonah 2, Jonah offers seven specific allusions to seven specific Psalms:

- 2:2 - Ps 120:1
- 2:3 - Ps 42:7
- 2:4 - Ps 31:22

- 2:5 - Ps 69:1
- 2:7 - Ps 142:3; 18:6
- 2:8 - Ps 31:6
- 2:9 - Ps 116:17-18; 3:8

5 "Water encompassed me to the point of death. The deep flowed around me, Seaweed was wrapped around my head.

5 "Water encompassed me to the point of death. The great deep engulfed me, Weeds were wrapped around my head.

5 Flood waters encompassed me, the deep surrounded me while seaweed wrapped around my head.

5 The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.

- Jonah sensed hopelessness as he continued his downward plunge into the deep

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

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.

6 I sank to the roots of the mountains; the earth's prison bars closed around me forever. Yet you resurrect the dead from the Pit, LORD my God!

6 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.

(c) Report of Jonah's prayer to God (2:7)

7 "While I was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, And my prayer came to You, Into Your holy temple.

7 "While I was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, And my prayer came to You, Into Your holy temple.

7 "As my life was fading away, I remembered the LORD; and my prayer came to you in your holy Temple.

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

- As Jonah felt his life was ebbing away, his thoughts turned to God (Cf. Ps 107:5-6; 142:3,5-7)

— Even though he felt far from God, his prayer reached the Lord in His heavenly dwelling place

(d) Jonah praises God (2:8-9)

- 8 "Those who are followers of worthless idols Abandon their **faithfulness**,
- 8 "Those who regard vain idols Forsake their faithfulness,
- 8 Those who cling to vain idols leave behind the gracious love that could have been theirs.
- 8 They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.
- "...faithfulness" - *hesed*, God's loving kindness
- Everyone who makes an idol their god abandons the source of their faithfulness
- The only source of faithfulness is *Yahweh*

9 But I will sacrifice to You

With a voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the LORD."

9 But I will sacrifice to You With the voice of thanksgiving. That which I have vowed I will pay. Salvation is from the LORD."

9 But as for me, with a voice of thanksgiving I will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance is the LORD's!"

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.

- Jonah's desperate condition brought him to his senses. He would return to the source of faithfulness and express his worship of Yahweh with a sacrifice.

(C) Jonah is delivered from the belly of the fish (2:10)

- 10 Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.
- 10 Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land.
- 10 Then the LORD spoke to the sea creature, and it spewed Jonah onto the dry land.
- 10 And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.