

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.