

JONAH 1:17 - 2:10

Introduction:

1. This is Jonah reflecting back on how he had been in the whale's belly and the heart of the earth. Remember, Jonah is a picture of Christ's D.B.R. and Israel's deadness to God, to the land, and her resurrection to life again (Matt. 12:38-40; Ezekiel 37-dry bones). Jonah explains his circumstance as being in "affliction".
2. Jonah is identifying with his people - Israel. There are three times in Scripture where God pours out His undiluted wrath: One-hell, two-upon Christ on the cross, three-the great Tribulation. Jonah identifies himself as one in hell and as one in Tribulation.

*Remember what Christ said in Matthew 12:38-40 and Matthew 16:4 - [A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.]

3. So Christ says Jonah was a picture-sign that communicates some doctrine-teaching. Jonah pictures Christ's D.B.R., but Jonah also shows Israel. In Chapter 1, the Gentiles were ready to hear. The problem wasn't the Gentiles, but the problem was Israel who couldn't take the message to them - thus not fulfilling her mission that God had called her to do (same as in Matt.-John and early Acts).

A.

Jonah 2:2 - 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.

1. This verse indicates that Jonah actually died. God heard his prayer at the beginning, but does not answer for 3 days. Now it seems Jonah's soul was in hell. In the O.T., hell is the word sheol.

*The word "grave" refers to the departed spirit-soul of man. Both refer to the death of a person and their going to the underworld (their soul).
2. Remember, at Jonah's time, hell-death-grave had two sides in the heart of the earth. One was for unbelievers (torment) and the other side was for believers (paradise). They were separated by a great gulf fixed so no one could go from one side to the other.

Luke 16:19-26 - There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: Luke 16:20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, Luke 16:21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. Luke 16:22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; Luke 16:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Luke 16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. Luke 16:25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. Luke 16:26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence.

3. In the O.T. all who died went to hell (*sheol*), even Christ!

Psalm 16:10 - For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Acts 2:27, 30-31 - Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Acts 2:30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; Acts 2:31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

***Context** usually lets you know if one had faith or not, determining which side of hell they would go to.

- B. Jonah 2:3-5 - 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. Jonah 2:4 Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. Jonah 2:5 The waters compassed me about, *even* to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.

Jonah's Psalm - Psalms 18:4-5 - The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. Psalm 18:5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.

1. Jonah later **re**counts what had happened to him and what he was thinking when he was thrown overboard and swallowed by the fish.
2. Jonah knew it wasn't the fault of the sailors, the storm, or the great fish. Behind it all, as Jonah acknowledges, was the **Lord** - Who had him thrown into the sea.

Lesson: God does not take sin in stride, or say "Boys will be boys", because He loves holiness and obedience. He will **not** allow us to go on in sin.

*Jonah found out the hard way.

3. Can you imagine what it was like **inside** the whale? It is dark, you cannot move much. The fish swims continuously, saltwater washes over you, and seaweed wraps around your body. Unidentified objects knock against you and it really **stinks**. Plus, it is greasy, slippery, and the fish is trying to digest you!

*Jonah is getting his request, of not wanting to be in God's presence, fulfilled.

- C. 1. Now Jonah cries out of the belly of hell (I believe he died!). Jonah's soul fainted: [yet hast thou

Jonah 2:6-7 - 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. Jonah 2:7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.

brought up my life from corruption].

What corruption? The **body is what corrupts. Jonah's body began **de**composing in the belly of the fish. The gastric juices and other stuff began doing their work.

2. Remember in Acts 2 (a reference to Psalm 16), it says Jesus' body saw no corruption in those 3 days. Why? Unlike Jonah and all others, He had no sin nature that would cause His body to corrupt. Jonah's did. After 3 days, Jonah's body had to be brought out of the corrupting process. His soul had been in sheol-hell-death, the place of departing souls in the underworld.
3. Again for the Israelites, who were believers, their souls went to Abraham's bosom - a place of comfort. Since Christ has ascended on high, He has moved Paradise to heaven. After that, all believers who died went to heaven.

Hebrews 12:18, 22-24 - For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, Heb. 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, Heb. 12:23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, Heb. 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel.

4. Verse 6 - [the earth with her bars *was* about me for ever:]
 - a. Note: Job 38:16-17 - Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth? Job 38:17 Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?

Revelation 1:18 - *I am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

*If death has a gate to it, what would the keys of hell and death be used for? To open or lock!

- b. Again in Matthew 16:18 - And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

*Death is not a euphemism, but something really happens when people die. Jesus says the gates of hell shall not prevail against any believer from Adam on, because when Jesus Christ came out, He had the keys to death and hell.

*Jonah's language isn't just figurative, but it is reality of truth.

- c. Note:
Psalm 63:9 - But those *that* seek my soul, to destroy *it*, shall go into the lower parts of the earth.

Matthew 11:23 - And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

Matthew 25:41 - Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

5. The context shows Jonah was hopeless without God, so He calls on God. Jonah started to change as to what his purpose and ministry was all about.

*God hears and answers by resurrecting Jonah to life again.

D. Jonah 2:8-9 - They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. Jonah 2:9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay *that* that I have vowed. Salvation *is* of the LORD.

1. This sounds out of place, but it is the conclusion Jonah comes to after Chapter 1 and his journey in Chapter 2. Jonah says that running from God was vain, futile, idle, worthless, and with no mercy.

*God will stop at nothing and use whatever it takes to get one on one's knees. But, that is when He hears and helps!

2. Jonah promises God that he will praise Him, thank Him, and fulfill all his promises. So Jonah has acknowledged that it was God Who put him in this awful position. He accepts it was for his own sin and agrees to God's discipline. He believed he would die and he called to mind his God. It was only then that Jonah vowed to serve the Lord.

*Jonah's greatest conclusion was : [Salvation *is* of the LORD.]

Lesson: There is no salvation, no deliverance, no getting better until we realize that If God does not save us - we will never be saved. Salvation starts and ends with God.

3. In that whale's belly, in the belly of hell, in the darkness of the moment that Jonah woke up in Abraham's bosom - it was the Word of God that sustained him.

Psalm 119:50, 71, 67 - This *is* my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

Psalm 119:71 *It is* good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes. Psalm 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

E.

Jonah 2:10 - And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry *land*.

Someone said, "Jonah graduated from the university with a degree in vomiting!"

*More on this verse next week.

Some Reasons Why We Run From God's Will For Our Life:

1. Sometimes His way is in conflict with our feelings or tradition.
2. At times, we are immature - perhaps still developing what is right and wrong scripturally.
3. Often God's working is halted because it is an inconvenience to our schedules.
4. Our old nature-flesh always battles our spiritual growth.
5. Sometimes what God asks of us seems too difficult.
6. There are times we are just carnal or backslidden, where disobedience is easy.
7. There are times we are just enjoying our sins too much to obey God.
8. We are afraid that if we follow God, we will lose most of our friends.
9. We haven't yet comprehended what Christ has truly sacrificed for us.
10. We have not yet committed to the spiritual (eternal things) over the carnal (temporal things).

****But remember, as with Jonah, God will not quit on you.**