

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 437 – Jonah Prayed Through Jonah On Dry Land (Jonah 2:1-10)

1. What did Jonah do from the fish's belly?

He prayed: *"Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly"* (**Jonah 2:1**).

- In trouble, people often look to God (**II Chronicles 15:1-4** and **Psalms 77:1-2**).
- This was even true in the ups and downs of faithfulness in Israel and God was merciful to them (**II Chronicles 33:1-13** and **Psalms 107:1-15**).
- God has promised His children that He could be called upon in times of trouble, but what if the person calling is continually rebellious to His will (**Psalms 50:15-22**)?
- At the same time, God punished His people directly to bring them to a point of humility and repentance (**II Chronicles 12:1-8**).
- When they refused to be humbled though, God set His face against them (**Jeremiah 44:1-11**).
- God promised to hear if the people humbly came before Him in times of their apostasy (**II Chronicles 7:11-14**).

2. What did Jonah liken the belly of the fish to?

Hell [sheol, hades; the abode of the dead Strong's # 7585]: *"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"* (**Jonah 2:2**).

- Crying out to God in affliction (**Psalms 18:4-6**, **Psalms 142:1-3**, and **Luke 22:39-44**).
- God can be merciful to His people when they are without any options (**II Kings 14:23-27**).
- "He heard me" speaks loudly. Consider who God doesn't hear and what that implies about Jonah (**Psalms 34:15-17**, **Proverbs 15:29**, **Proverbs 28:9**, **Jeremiah 11:10-11**, **John 9:31**, and **I Peter 3:12**).
- He felt like he was in sheol (**Psalms 88:1-7**).

3. What was Jonah's experience like from within the fish's belly?

"(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. (4) Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. (5) The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. (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" (**Jonah 2:3-6**).

- Jonah accredited God for his being cast into the sea (**Jonah 1:12-16**).

- He recognized that was God casting him away, figuratively speaking, out of His sight (**I Kings 9:6-7**, **II Kings 17:20**, **Jeremiah 7:13-15**, and **Jeremiah 15:1-9**). The idea is to be cast off as God warned (**I Chronicles 28:9**). I wrote “figuratively speaking” because there is not way to actually be out of the sight of God (**Psalms 139:1-13**, **Proverbs 5:21**, **Proverbs 15:11**, **Isaiah 29:15-16**, and **Jeremiah 23:23-24**).
- He then states he would look toward the holy temple of God for a reason that Israel had to do so (**I Kings 8:38-50**). Think about what his statement was invoking (**Psalms 5:7**).
- He was in the belly of the great fish. He was not drowning or physically experiencing the things described. Thus, again, he is figuratively describing what he was going through (i.e. **Psalms 69:1-3**). Again, it was a living hell to him (**Jonah 2:2**).

4. At what point did Jonah remember the Lord?

When his soul fainted within him: *“When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple”* (**Jonah 2:7**).

- The word translated “soul” is broad. It means anything from the soul, to life, to the mind, body, creature, etc. (Strong’s # 5315). The idea is the suffering in the flesh (**Psalms 107:5**).
- As we briefly addressed in the notes on verse 1, in times of trouble people often turn to God and even repent (**Lamentations 3:14-40**).
- Though Jonah was not in the temple, he was in the belly of the great fish at the time he is referencing, he was looking to the temple for a reason (**Daniel 6:10**; cf. **I Kings 8:44**).

5. Rather than observing lying vanities, what did Jonah come to realize?

Salvation is of the Lord: *“(8) They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. (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 2:8-9**).

- The point is, Job wasn’t going to trust in idolatry (**Jeremiah 10:14-15** and **Jeremiah 16:19**) or those that promoted such (**Zechariah 10:1-2**).
- To trust in false gods/ways is to forsake mercy. That had already been proven in the context (**Jonah 1:4-6**).
- He said he would sacrifice to the Lord for that reason (**Exodus 22:20**), but he wasn’t speaking in the immediate because he was still in the belly of the great fish at this point.
- He also recognized, with what he had faced in correction from the Lord, that he needed to pay what he had vowed (**Deuteronomy 23:21-23**, **Judges 11:1-40**, and **Ecclesiastes 5:4-5**).
- Whether then or now, salvation is of the Lord (**Exodus 14:13**, **Psalms 3:8**, **Psalms 68:19**, **Acts 4:10-12**, and **II Peter 3:9-15**) for the righteous (**Psalms 37:39-40** and **I Peter 4:17-19**).

6. How did Jonah get back on dry land?

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

- The Lord spake unto the fish and the fish obeyed (**Psalms 33:6-9**).
- This is likened to when God pointed out to Job His [God's] power of great creatures of the earth such as the behemoth and the leviathan (**Job 40:1-41:34**).