



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

JONAH 2:1-10

LESSON: JONAH REPENTS —November 3, 2024

BACKGROUND:

Nineveh was Assyria's capital city. Assyria was a world power located where northern Iraq is today. The Assyrians and Israel were never friends. The Assyrian army attacked and raided Israel's cities for hundreds of years. The Assyrian army was cruel. They killed people in the cities by the hundreds. Sometimes they skinned their prisoners alive. They cut off hands or feet. They practiced child sacrifice. All of this may explain why Jonah hated Nineveh and its people. History in the Bible (II Kings, chapters 17, 18 and 19) tells about some of Israel's wars with Assyria. Jonah's warning changed Assyria for only a short time. The Assyrians soon began raiding, killing and burning Israel's cities again. Jonah's story is a very old one, but Jonah may not have written it. It was probably written in 600 BC, 200 years after Jonah lived. Nevertheless, Jonah's story is important. It shows God's love for people, even enemies, if they repent. This was new in Jonah's time. Nineveh was destroyed in 612 to 607 BC by the Medes' and Persians' armies coming from the east.

INTRODUCTION:

JONAH 1:13-17 Jonah is on a ship headed to Tarshish. However, in spite of this storm and what Jonah had just said to these men on board, the men continued to row even harder to bring the ship to land, but they could not because the sea continued to be increasingly violent. The men cried unto the Lord begging Him to not let them perish for this man's life or even be responsible for innocent blood, though the storm was done to please the Lord. So, at that time, the men cast Jonah into the sea, and the sea ceased raging. Seeing the result of the sea being calm, they feared the Lord, and offered a sacrifice, and made vows. At this time the Lord prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah stayed in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

I. JONAH 2:1-4


2:1 Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's belly,— Prayer is always the first recourse when you've gotten yourself into some trouble. However, Jonah wouldn't pray to his God when the captain of the ship told him to. He knew his prayer wouldn't work because of his disobedience, rejections, and unfaithfulness to God in the first place. He just said throw me overboard. Now, he's buried inside the belly of a fish God had prepared just for him, and now he has no other choice but to submit to the Will of God in prayer. Was this sincere? It better be.

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. It was Jonah's affliction that made him cry out. Jonah can't get out of the fish, so his only recourse is to cry out to God, who is the only One who can hear him, and knows where he is. He cried for help out in his distress, his trouble, his affliction, and the Lord heard him from the depth of the belly of Sheol (Hell; the dead). It felt like Hell! Only God can do that; hear his servant's voice while disciplining him! He knows where we are every second, every minute, and every hour, and so forth.

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE



2:3 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. Jonah is telling God his plight as if God didn't know. It was God who sent the wrath of floods, and billows of waves that tossed him about. The sailors threw him overboard the ship, and Jonah knows he's to blame. He's under the wrath of God! He's being hurled, thrown, and cast into the deep, in the midst of the sea, where the mighty waters engulfed him. But through all this, Jonah is talking to God, and aware he's still alive!

2:4 Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. Jonah realizes that God's presence is not what it has usually been. He's banished; driven away; cast out of God's sight. But all he can now think about is looking again toward God's holy temple. That's a testimony of faith in itself! He had one mental recourse in his prayer: to look again in expectancy toward God's Holy Temple! Sometimes it'll take one word or thought to bring you back to God.

II. JONAH 2:5-7

2:5 The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. In verse 3, the **floods** compassed Jonah, and here the **waters** compassed him. Jonah is so eloquently reflecting on this experience with God. It was almost like God had snuggled Jonah in this water and weeds, but Jonah really felt like he was about to drown. He felt it in his soul (choking him). The deep (sea) covered him completely, and the seaweed was wrapped around his head. The reflection brings a vivid picture toward the last moments of life.

2:6 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 sank down to the very base (ocean floor) of the mountains where he felt the earth had imprisoned and barred him in forever. But Jonah is apparently in the wall of the fish's belly. And the fish's belly looks and is perceived as a grave to him. Somehow he recognizes that God had rescued him; brought his life up from corruption; back from the depths alive. This is another fragment of faith in Jonah.

2:7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. When Jonah's soul was fainting (getting weak) within him, he remembered the Lord! My, My, My! You're almost to the point of death, and you remember the Lord, that means something. God is there in your darkest moments, and makes you aware of Him! And Jonah says his prayer came in unto God, into His Holy Temple. Another fragment of faith! That means God availed Himself; made Himself touchable!

III. JONAH 2:8-10

2:8 They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. Those that worship worthless or lying vanities will forsake their own mercy. Thus the worship of an idol or anything that takes the place of Jehovah is a deliberate act in which one turns from Jehovah to a false and worthless idol. Jonah had done just this, and he acknowledges this very thing. He had substituted Jehovah's Will for his will and desires.

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. The experience in the fish's belly brought Jonah to his senses, for he cannot box or bargain with God, so, he repents by saying unto God: *"I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice*
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sunday-school.html>



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

of thanksgiving—he will offer sacrifices with songs of praise unto God; I will pay that that I have vowed—he will fulfill his vow unto God. Salvation is of the Lord—(Why?) Salvation comes from the Lord alone.” Jonah showed a deep sensitivity to God’s mercy in his behalf! God has the right to bring salvation to whom He pleases! Jonah yields to God’s Will alone!

2:10 And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land. And we see what God does next. He speaks to the fish, who at God’s command vomited Jonah out of his belly upon dry land!

SUMMARY:

1 Jonah accepts the situation and prays unto the Lord his God out of the belly of the fish that God had prepared for Jonah. **2** It was Jonah’s affliction that made him cry out, and God heard him from the belly of hell, and God heard his voice. **3** Jonah is telling God his plight, that God casted him into the deep, in the midst of the seas. And the floods covered him; engulfed him: all God’s billows and waves passed over him. **4** Jonah realizes that God's presence is not what it has usually been, for now he is cast out of God’s sight, yet he will look again toward God’s holy temple (**2:1-4**).

5 Jonah is changing his thinking, while waters covered him, even to his soul. The deep (sea) covered him completely, and the seaweed was wrapped around his head. **6** Jonah sank down to the very base (ocean floor) of the mountains where he felt the earth had imprisoned and barred him in forever. Somehow he recognizes that God had rescued him; brought him back from the depths alive; brought his life up from corruption. **7** When Jonah’s soul was fainting (getting weaker) within him, he remembered the Lord! And Jonah says his prayer came in unto God, into His Holy Temple. And God availed Himself, and made Himself touchable! (**2:5-7**).

Jonah recognizes knowing God’s love, for he says, **8** *“Those that worship worthless or lying vanities forsake their own mercy.”* **9** The experience in the fish’s belly brought Jonah to his senses, for he cannot box or bargain with God, so, he repents by saying unto God: *“I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.”* **10** *“And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land”* (**2:8-10**).