



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## JONAH 2:1-10

### LESSON: GOD'S PROTECTIVE LOVE —May 14, 2017

#### INTRODUCTION:

In spite of what Jonah telling the men to throw him overboard into the sea, 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 be responsible for innocent blood, though this storm was done to please the Him (the Lord). So, at that time, the men cast Jonah into the sea, and the sea ceased raging. They then saw things differently, for the sea was calm. They feared the Lord and offered a sacrifice and made vows. The Lord prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah stayed in the belly of the fish three days and three nights (**1:13-17**).

#### LESSON I. ACCEPTING THE SITUATION Jonah 2:1-4

**2:1 Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish's belly,**— Well, there's no time like now to pray. It seemed to be the last resort— *"Then Jonah prayed."* He is now in the belly of the great fish. There is no running from God now; there is nowhere to turn, and no other ship to board. This is where we submit to God when our backs are backed up against the wall. This is where we accept the situation. God – 1, Jonah—0. This is the place Jonah needed to get to first, not last! This is where we recognize who God is and who we are!

**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.** Many scholars tend to differ as to whether he died when Jonah describes his condition as being in the depth of Sheol, his grave or when Christ used Jonah as a sign of His death and resurrection (Matt.12:40). But, then there are those that say Jonah did not die during his three day imprisonment. **1)** *"...the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah"* implies the fish's mission was to preserve Jonah alive, not to kill him. **2)** *"...the belly of hell"* is used as David in speaking of the bands of death when in experience, David did not die (Ps.18:5; 30:3). **3)** The language of Christ in Matt.12:40 does not require Jonah's death and resurrection. Christ's emphasis is upon the time element involved (3days and 3nights), not in the death involved. **4)** All indicate continuous living. I tend to agree with the latter. Jonah makes a solid connection with the Lord: **I cried... ...he heard me.** How did Jonah know the Lord heard him? Well, all of this is conveyed to us after Jonah has gotten out of the belly of the fish. No one could have helped at that time but God in his affliction. Jonah then describes his location, **the belly of hell**. Ps. 139:8 says *"If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there."* So, surely he's saying that there was nowhere he could that God could not hear his cry. Even there in the belly of hell God

# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

would know about it as he cried. He was alive to cry out because of his affliction he was in. He was alive for God to hear him. Are you amazed that God would still give Jonah time to cry out to Him? Well, this was God's prophet and Jonah needed to know how important this task was for him and the people he was to go to. God keeps giving us chance after chance. Why not Jonah!

**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.** Well, I think God already knows what He's done, but it looks like Jonah wants to bring it up. He's describing what he sees and what he feels. Being cast overboard into the midst of that great sea was a scary thing, but it's like God is showing him how He is able to use nature and still preserve him. Jonah is still preserved as the seas and the floods and the waves compass and pass over him. This reminds me of the song: **Peace Be Still**. The words, *"Master the tempest is raging, the billows are tossing high... ..a grave in the angry deep..."* And in that angry deep Jonah lives.

**2:4 Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.** Well, we know that Jonah was never out of God's sight or out of God's presence. He thought he was, but he was confident to know that he would look upon the holy temple again.

## II. CHANGING HIS THINKING 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.** As Jonah continues in prayer, he describes in detail after he's thrown overboard and declares that *"the waters are swirling around him, even to his soul with seaweed wrapped about his head."* He's probably in the fish's stomach

**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.** It sounds as if Jonah has descended to the depths of the sea where he says everything has found its way into the fish's stomach also entwined itself about him. Even being locked out of life and imprisoned in the land of death by the earth's bars, God brought his life up from destruction. Jonah recognizes that Jehovah delivered him safely from corruption; the corruption his body would have experienced had Jehovah not delivered him—drowning or death.

**2:7 When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.** Jonah recognizes that when his soul fainted within him; his soul was being plunged into the darkness of death, he remembered the Lord; he remembered God's past faithfulness; he remembered to pray. The fact that he prayed to Jehovah implies submission and repentance, and thereby changing his thinking and changing his heart. The prayer reached Jehovah in His holy temple where He is enthroned as God and King of His people. It seems there was a peace and calmness that had come over him in his darkest hour that still caused him to reflect upon the Lord.

# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

Think about this the next time you decide to choose your own will over God's.

- Think about Jonah when God calls you to give and you decide to keep.
- Remember Jonah when God sends you to minister to the sick or the imprisoned and you sit on your couch and watch TV.
- Don't forget Jonah when God calls you to teach or to work in the nursery or to scrub toilets and you decide that's not what you really want to do.

It's not worth running from God. It's not worth demanding our own will when we know God has shown us His "WILL". God will indeed have His way and His sovereign "WILL", will be done! We can choose to do it His way the first time and be blessed or do it our way and share in Jonah's experience. Remember, delay in responding to God's "WILL" is no different than disobedience.

When God calls, go, do, and enjoy His incredible blessings! When our will conflicts with God's "WILL", it is not a question of who will win. It's just a question of how long we're going to fight the outcome. May our repentance demonstrate that our faith is real! It's His community we are to influence and it's His to change! Be the best messenger ever!

## III. KNOWING GOD'S LOVE Jonah 2:8-10

**2:8 They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.** Jonah is now reflecting upon those that observe and keep lying vanities; vain idols, for they are known to forsake their own mercy (Jehovah). Thus, the worship of an idol or anything that takes the place of Jehovah is a deliberate act of turning from Jehovah. Jonah had done just this. He had substituted his own will and desires forward over Jehovah's Will.

**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.** Jonah has come to his senses because he says, "**But, I will sacrifice...**" with the voice of thanksgiving; a resounding praise unto Jehovah, and not with vain idols. He will pay the vow he had vowed. He recognizes that "*Salvation is of the Lord.*" He is the One who saves! He knows to be obedient to God call. He will preach to the people of Nineveh as the Lord commissioned him to do. What a way to end his prayer!

**2:10 And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.** God spoke and commanded the fish to spit Jonah up upon the dry land (beach). Unlike Jonah from the beginning, the fish did as God commanded and vomited him out.

## SUMMARY:

Jonah accepted the situation that he should be thrown overboard. He now begins to **pray** to the Lord his



## PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

God while in the fish's belly. The Lord had prepared this fish to swallow Jonah, and not let him drown. It seemed like the belly of hell to him where he cried due to his affliction. And the Lord heard his voice out of all the sounds in the sea—the Lord heard **his**! Jonah describes where he is and what he sees after being cast into the deep. He's able to see nature and is still preserved as the seas and the floods and the waves compass and pass over him. However, feeling as if he is cast out of the Lord's presence, he has hope of laying his eyes upon the holy temple again (**2:1-4**).

Jonah can see the waters have encompassed him even to his soul. The deepness of the sea has enclosed all around him, even the seaweeds has wrapped around his head. He knows he has gone to the bottom of the mountains, probably the fish's stomach that's big enough to swallow him. It looks like bars all around him yet his life is brought up from destruction; out of the grave that seemed to embody him. His soul fainted; the time when he was about to give up; the time when he was about to pass from this life, he remembered the Lord and a prayer came up out of him to God in God's holy temple. In his hour of weakness God came to him (**2:5-7**).

Now, Jonah reflects upon those that observe and keep lying vanities; vain idols, for they are known to forsake their own mercy (Jehovah). He realizes that he had substituted his own will and desires forward over Jehovah's Will. He recognizes God's love and now wants to sacrifice unto God with the voice of thanksgiving and pay his vow unto God because salvation is of the Lord. Then the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land (**2:8-10**).