

Jonah Chapter 2 – Out of the Belly of Hell

Jonah's Prayer: The only first person narrative in the Book of Jonah.

New King James Version

- 1 Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,
- 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 you heard my voice.**
- 3 For you had cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all your billows and your waves passed over me.
- 4 Then I said, *I am cast out of your sight; yet I will look again toward your 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 you have brought **up my life from corruption**, O LORD my God.
- 7 **When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD**: and my prayer came in unto you, into your holy temple.
- 8 *They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.*
- 9 But I will sacrifice unto you with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.
- 10 And the LORD spoke unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Strong's Numbering of Key Words (Strong gives a number to each individual word of the Bible so that those who do not know the original languages of Hebrew and Greek can see behind the English translation what word the author used. This is very helpful. Look them up by number in a concordance or in an online Bible program)

- 1 Then Jonah prayed <06419> unto the LORD his God out of the **fish's** <01710> **belly** <04578>>,
- 2 And said **I cried** <07121> by reason of **mine affliction** <06869> unto the LORD and he heard me; out of the **belly** <0990> of **hell** <07585> cried I, *and you heard* <08085> **my voice** <06963>.
- 3 For you had cast <07993> me into the **deep** <04688>, in the midst of the **seas**; and the **floods** <05104> compassed <05437> me about: all your **billows** <04867> and your **waves** <01530> passed over me.
- 4 *Then I said, I am cast out* <01644> *of your sight* <05869>; *yet I will look* <05027> *again* <03254> *toward your holy* **temple** <01964>.
- 5 The **waters** compassed <0661> me about *even to the* **soul** <05315>: the **depth** <08415> closed me round about <05437>, the **weeds** <05488> were wrapped about my **head**.
- 6 I went down <03381> to the **bottoms** <07095> of the **mountains** <02022>; the **earth** <0776> with her **bars** <01280> *was* **about me for ever** <05769>: yet you have **brought up** <05927> my **life** <02416> **from corruption** <07845>, O LORD my God.
- 7 When my **soul** <05315> **fainted** <05848> within me I remembered <02142> the LORD: and my **prayer** <08605> came in <0935> unto you, into your holy **temple** <01964>.
- 8 *They that observe* <08104> *lying* <07723> *vanities* <01892> *forsake* <05800> *their own mercy* <02617>.
- 9 But I will **sacrifice** <02076> unto you with the **voice** <06963> of **thanksgiving** <08426>; I will **pay** <07999> *that that I have* **vowed** <05087>. **Salvation** <03444> *is* of the LORD.
- 10 And the LORD <03068> spake <0559> (8799) unto the fish <01709>, and it vomited out <06958> (8686) Jonah <03124> upon the dry <03004> **land**.

Nouns: belly of fish, belly of hell, affliction, soul, depths, waters, seas, floods, billows, waves, weeds, depths, mountains, earth, bars, temple, corruption, voice, life, voice, thanksgiving

Verbs: prayed, cried, heard, compassed, cast out, fainted, remembered, sacrifice, vow, pay,

The Belly of Hell (Sheol)

Did Jonah Die? -- J. Vernon Magee – says Jonah died and was resurrected

McGee's Argument for Dead and Resurrected

- 1) v 4 – “I was cast out of your sight”
- 2) v 4 – “Yet I will again look toward your holy temple
- 3) v 6 – “the bars of hell”
- 4) v 6 – “brought my life up from corruption”
- 5) v 7 – “when my soul fainted”

My Argument for Almost Dead (mostly dead)

- 1) v 2 – “I cried to the Lord out of the fish's belly” (does God hear the prayer of dead people?)
- 2) v 2 – “out of the belly of hell I cried” (the whale is his hell, by reason of my affliction)
- 3) v 3 – “the deep, seas, floods, waves, billows” (still alive in the sea)
- 4) v 4 – “then I said, I am cast out of your presence” (if he were dead he'd be in God's presence)
- 5) v 5 – “waters, my soul, depths closed, weeds wrapped” (still alive in the sea)
- 6) v 6 – “bottom of mountains, earth bars still holding him [forever]” (still alive in the fish)
- 7) v 6 – “brought me up from corruption” (still saved from corruption)
- 8) v 7 – “when my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord” (still in depths, remembering)
- 9) v 8 – “only those who arrogantly refuse the discipline of the Lord forsake His mercy”
- 10) v 9 – “Salvation is of the Lord” (he was saved from death, not dead)

The Parallels between Jesus and Jonah

- Jonah was disobedient – he sinned --- Jesus did not
- Jonah was punished for his own sin --- Jesus was not
- Jonah saw corruption --- Jesus did not (no resurrected person returned damaged)
- Jonah was in the fish 3 day and nights --- Jesus was dead 3 days and nights
- Jesus descended into hell/grave --- Jonah did not (*Ephesians 4:8 lead captivity captive*)

Parallel in Hosea 6:1-3

*1 Come, let us return to the LORD. **He has torn us to pieces** but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. 2 After two days he will **revive us**; on the third day he will **restore us**, that we may live in his presence. 3 Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.*”

1. He Ruined us – He wound us
2. He Revived us – He restore us
3. He Restore us – He returns us

Jewish View of Hell (Sheol)

- Sheol = hell, the place of the all dead, or the grave
- New Testament words for hell – Gehenna, Hades, Tartaros
- Two Compartments – Hades for wicked, bosom of Abraham/paradise for godly

Jesus Expression of Death and Hell

- Rich man and Lazarus story – Luke 16:19-31 (Read the story in its entirety)

The Disciplines of the Lord

1. The Chastisement of the Lord – Hebrews 12:6-11
2. The Disciplines of the Lord – 1 Corinthians 11:23-32
3. The Afflictions from the Lord – Psalm 119:67 and Psalm 103:13

Hebrews 12:6-11 *For whom the Lord loves he chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives. 7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father does not chasten? 8 But if you were without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then you would be bastards, and not sons. 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. 11 Now no chastening for the present seems to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24 And when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do you, as oft as you drink it, in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, you do show the Lord's death till he come. 27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. 29 For he that eats and drinks unworthily, eats and drinks damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep (died). 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

Psalms 103:8-14 *“The Lord is plenteous in mercy...like as a father pities his children, so the LORD pities them that fear hi...as far as east from west so far he removes our transgressions from us..”*

Psalms 119:67 *Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept your word.*

Conclusion:

Jonah was being disciplined/corrected by God because of His great love and mercy.

- Crisis brings us to our knees
- Sickness becomes our altar of repentance
- Disaster makes us run to God
- Our extremity is God's opportunity

Real Life Stories

- * Frank's Story
- * John Newton's Story

Jesus is a Type of Jonah

A “type” in the Scriptures is a shadow of things to come. It is not an exact image but a mere reflection that reminds us of the real. Melchizedek was a type, foreshadowing Christ. Jonah was a “type” of Christ, reminding us in a limited way what Christ would do for us.

Matthew 12:39-41 Jonah

39 But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah: 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and, behold, a greater than Jonah is here.

Matthew 16:4 sign of Jonah

A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah.

Luke 11:29-32 sign of Jonah

*29 And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonah the prophet.
30 For as Jonah was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.
31 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.
32 The men of Nineveh shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and, behold, a greater than Jonah is here.*

John 7:52 - out of Galilee no prophet

“They answered and said unto him, Are you also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee arises no prophet.”— They didn’t believe Jonah was a true prophet. Yet today all Jews read from Jonah on the Day of Atonement – Yom Kippur. The sign is given in the reading of Jonah.

How David Used the Term “HELL”

- 2 Samuel 22:4 *I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. 5 When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid; 6 **The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me;** 7 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried to my God: and he did hear my voice out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears.*
- Psalms 16:10 *For you will not leave my soul in hell; neither will you suffer your Holy One to see corruption.*
- Psalms 18:5 *The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death confronted me.*
- Psalms 55:15 *Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.*
- Psalms 86:13 *For great is your mercy toward me: and you have delivered my soul from the lowest hell.*
- Psalms 116:3 *The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow.*