

The Book of Jonah
Class Notes
Session 6

Jonah 2.3-6 In *v.3* we see Jonah's acknowledgment of God's sovereignty.

Jonah's increasing awareness of God's relentless commitment to His people and plan for Jonah, leads Jonah to awe and hope.

In these verses we can see the rather emotional back and forth reflections of Jonah upon his circumstances. His divine rescue by the great fish highlights his disobedience and deserving of God's condemnation.

All of the language used in these verses is descriptions of utter pain and hopelessness.

Jonah is describing being under water...the "weeds" constricting him...Sea Weed?...Plant life that grows only at the bottom of the sea.

The description of the "roots of the mountains" reflects the idea that the mountains are "rooted" in the bottom of the sea. These images reflect the feeling of being as far removed from the world as one can be!

Yet, God will not let Jonah go and continues to gracefully provide for Jonah's salvation...which brings Jonah hope!

"[Jonah] not only recognized God's hand in his being thrown into the sea, but he also saw the "waves and breakers" that swept over him as belonging to God, tools in his hand. He finally came to grips with the author of his life. Martin Luther said: "Jonah does not say the waves and the billows of the sea went over me; but thy waves and thy billows, because he felt in his conscience that the sea with its waves and billows was the servant of God and of His wrath, to punish sin."¹

Jonah 2.7-10 Jonah's confident faith expressed in the latter part of *v.4*, that he shall again "look upon your holy temple," may be alluding to the actual temple in Jerusalem, or, more likely, heaven itself...

Psalm 11.4.

In many ways, Jonah is an Old Testament example of the younger son in Jesus' prodigal parable.

Jonah's prayer reflects the worldview of the ancients...God "lived" in the temple...Jonah directs his prayer there.

Even though he has been disobedient...Jonah has not participate in idol worship.

(v.9): Jonah now makes a vow and promises to make sacrifices.

This is similar to the sailors in ch.1. who celebrated their deliverance through by offering sacrifices.

Jonah's prayer does not specify the vow... However...Jonah's declaration of thanksgiving could point to a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

Jonah's words... "Salvation comes from the LORD" is both universally as well as personally true!

¹B.K. Smith and F.S. Page. *Amos, Obadiah, Jonah* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995).

(v.10): This verse continues the narrative begun at 1.17.

God responds to Jonah's prayer by addressing the fish. God "speaks" to the great fish and Jonah is vomited out! נִמְצָא ('ā-mā) ... "Tell" "Claim"

Again...It is God who is in complete control! God is the One who saves and delivers...Not Jonah and not the fish!

Where was Jonah "deposited" on land?

"Jonah's expulsion from the ship may have landed him in the coastal area near Joppa, his 'starting place.' At least one writer makes this assertion based on a probable translation of 1:13, where the seamen rowed hard to bring the ship "back" to the land. This indicated their nearness to the starting port of Joppa. The point of emphasis here is that Jonah was returned to dry land, thus completing God's rescue."²

In this brief narrative...We witness seven miracles affirming God's sovereignty...

- God "hurled" the storm... (1.4)...
- The "lot" indicted Jonah (1:7)...
- The sea calmed when Jonah was thrown overboard (1.15)...
- The "appointed" great fish swallowed Jonah (1.17)...
- The fish "held" Jonah alive... (2.1ff)
- Vomited Jonah out (Where he was running from?)... (2.10)
- Jonah's heart is being changed and he acknowledges YHWH sovereignty.... (2.2-2.9)³

Going Forward: "Jonah's song of thanksgiving demonstrates the power of praise and thanksgiving in any circumstance for the one who turns to Yahweh (2:4, 7). It is far more than a poetic interlude in the narrative. Although Jonah's song is not full of repentance, it is enough in this situation that he turns toward Yahweh in worship. Jonah, like all believers called by Yahweh, must be reborn by God's grace."⁴

² Ibid.

³ Adapted from, J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, Eds. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Victor Books, 1985).

⁴ C.A. Beetham and N.L. Erickson, Eds. *The NIV Application Commentary on the Bible* (Zondervan Academic, 2024).