

Week 3 – Jonah 1:17-2:10

Jonah Prays From the Belly of a Fish



Key Verse:

Title:

Four Point Summary:

1. What is God Doing?
2. How is Jonah responding?
3. What do we learn about the character of God?
4. Any other thoughts ...

1. Re-read 2:1-6. What is Jonah describing in this part of his prayer (ie. where is he)? At this point in the story, do you think God's provision of a fish would be seen as salvation or further judgment to Jonah?

2. The psalm of chapter 2 is said to have been prayed by Jonah while he was inside the fish. Why do you think the psalm is a thanksgiving for deliverance and not a prayer of lament and repentance (ie. "Lord, I am sorry, get me out of this fish and I will do as you asked!")?

3. In 2:1, Jonah speaks for the first time to the Lord. He had hoped to "flee from the presence of the Lord" in 1:1. Next, we see him sleep through a storm and casually say "throw me into the sea". Why do you think he cries out now? What do you think he has finally achieved (again, "where" is he in 2:1b-6a, or rather where is he "going")?

4. Read Ps 22:27. What do you think, "I remembered the Lord" in 2:7 means?

5. In 1:10 it is Jonah who is fleeing the presence of the Lord, but in 2:4 Jonah says he is “driven from God’s sight”. In 1:15 it is the sailors who threw Jonah into the sea, yet in 2:3 Jonah says God did it. How would you explain these apparent inconsistencies? (For help consider Gen. 45:4-8).

6. For the second time in Jonah we have seen a crisis followed by humility, prayer and repentance. Why do you think God uses trials and suffering to bring about repentance?

7. How does 1:14-16 parallel 2:7-9? What is it that the sailors and Jonah have learned about the Lord? If Jonah is right in vv.8-9, what might we say about the sailors in 1:16?

8. Sheol (2:1) has been interpreted as the place of the dead and also the place where the wicked remain until their final judgment. Is it surprising to hear one of God’s people on their way there?

9. Read MT 12:39-41. What do you think the “sign of Jonah” is? How far does the Lord’s ability to save his people reach?